

REPORT FROM: Director of Place
TO: Colne and District Committee
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For Information

Colne Levelling Up Fund Programme Update for Period November 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on Colne Levelling Up Fund projects.

ISSUE

The Colne Levelling Up Fund (LUF) projects consist of the Heritage Quarter and Colne Market, this report provides an update on the status of both projects:

Heritage Quarter

Liberata have reported further issues and variations at the Municipal Theatre, with around another £100,000 of costs coming through following confirmation of the bill for the ceiling repairs. There are still some further issues to be assessed. 'Nice to have' elements have therefore been stopped and further steps are being taken to look at previously approved items that could be removed to keep the final outcome of the project in line with, or as close to, the original budget of c£1,563,000 as possible.

Liberata are looking at options to minimise any further delays to the programme over and above the 6-8 weeks reported in October. Currently an April re-opening is envisaged. A revised confirmed construction programme is awaited.

Works are proceeding to schedule and budget at the Hippodrome Theatre. Some productions are continuing to take place during this time (including the pantomime, relocated from the Municipal Theatre), while works are concentrated in the former public house building.

Works are underway at The Little Theatre and are proceeding within the anticipated cost envelope. Challenges with drainage may mean completion shortly after Christmas rather than shortly before. There are no cost implications to this slight delay.

Market Hall

The Planning Application for the Market Hall was previously considered by the Area Committee with a resulting request for a meeting to discuss some details relating to the design. As a result some changes have been made and the plan has been resubmitted for consideration.

This is required to allow for a January start to construction works ahead of a 15 month build programme.

As reported in October Quarterbridge Consultants have started work to advise on options for the future operation of the market, the new foodhall and the internal layout of the new market stalls. A progress review meeting has been arranged which will also agree the brief for consultation with stakeholders.

Preparatory works for the fit-out to allow for temporary accommodation of Market Stalls in Poundland have commenced and are on course for completion before Christmas. The construction crew are due to move across to Richmonds Court to provide temporary accommodation for the Butcher and Greengrocer.

A temporary fix to the boilers in the Market Hall has been found to provide some warmth in the building for the Christmas Shopping period and a programme of festive events has been worked up in support of this important period for traders.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.