

REPORT FROM: Director of Place

TO: Colne and District Committee

DATE: 9th May 2024

Report Author: Richard Savory

Tel. No:

E-mail: richardsavory@raisepartnership.co.uk

For Information

Colne Levelling Up Fund Programme Update for Period April 2024

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

Works have been completed at the Little Theatre where Practical Completion has been achieved within the contracted sum.

Works continue ahead of programme and under budget at the Hippodrome Theatre where works are due to complete by June 2024 a little ahead of the original programme.

Scheduled productions at the Hippodrome and Little Theatre have proceeded as planned.

In the March update report it stated:

Works on the Municipal Theatre continue in line with the revised construction programme for completion around July 2024. No further 'unknowns' are anticipated, and works are projected to be completed within the C£1,563,000 LUF funding envelope.

While works do continue in line with the revised construction programme for completion around July 2024 and no further 'unknowns' within the building have come to light, a new report from Liberata has shown that works will not be completed within the c£1,563,000 LUF funding envelope.

Liberata are in the process of detailing the additional spend that they report has been required to address; structural issues with the Tower, Balcony and Auditorium Ceiling, as well as the need to replace roofs and implement recommended fire safety measures. This will inform a report which is being formulated by PBC's Finance Department for Executive Committee to quantify the extent of the overspend.

Market Hall

All Market Hall tenants and traders have now been relocated except for Boots Opticians, which remains in-situ. Agreement has been reached in principle between Boots Estates team and PEARL in the heads of terms for a lease for the vacant PEARL unit opposite the Market Hall. However, agreement on the relocation costs remains open and PEARL are still endeavouring to confirm fit out requirements with the Boots Estates team.

Works on site are gathering momentum, with further internal strip out, the demolition of the garages to the rear of the Market Hall, hoarding being erected around the site and Asbestos removal due to start within the next couple of weeks.

The internal strip out has exposed very low ceilings to the front of the ground floor of the market hall, which do not provide for sufficient headroom for necessary extraction and ventilation for all food preparation operations. The Project Team are currently reviewing ways to resolve this issue while finalising the internal layout.

Quarterbridge Consultants are in the process of finalising their report on the future operation of the Market.

The Project Team continue to review proposals for future phases to satisfy more fully the original LUF bid for more accommodation and a Cinema:

- It may be possible, on a self-funding basis, to build 7 new homes facing Craddock Road where the garages stood. These proposals are under review by the Project Team.
- A delegation from the UK Government's Levelling Up Places Services are due to meet with the Project Team on site on Tuesday 7 May to review the concept proposals for the Cinema.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.