

REPORT FROM: Director of Place

TO: Colne and District Committee

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For Information

Colne Levelling Up Fund Programme Update for Period May 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 continue ahead of programme and under budget at the Hippodrome Theatre where works are due to complete June 2024 a little ahead of the original programme.

The Pendle Borough Council Executive Committee approved additional funding for the works at the Municipal Theatre following cost overruns advised by Liberata 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.

Market Hall

As reported in the April update, 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. Negotiations with Boots are continuing.

The Project Team are looking at options for the relocation of the outdoor market to Hartley Square during the works period.

Works on site are continuing. Hoarding has been erected around the site and Asbestos removal is starting on the 10th June.

Options for the internal layout to accommodate the low ceilings at the front of the market hall are under development.

Quarterbridge Consultants are still 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 useful meeting was held by the Project Team with a delegation from the UK Government's Levelling Up Places Services on site on Tuesday 7 May to review the concept proposals for the Cinema. Some actions were agreed around developing the business case and a follow up meeting had been arranged for June.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.