

**REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE**

**TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024**

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**COLNE LEVELLING UP FUND PROGRAMME UPDATE  
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2024**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide an update on Colne Levelling Up Fund projects.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) The Committee notes the update.
- (2) The Outdoor Market stays in its current location during market hall works.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) For information.
- (2) Various issues detailed in report.

**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**

LUF funded work is complete and handed over on the Hippodrome Theatre.

Works at the Municipal Theatre continue with completion scheduled by the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, in time for the Blues Festival.

**Market Hall**

Works on site are continuing. Internal and external strip out works are continuing.

Options for the internal layout to accommodate the low ceilings at the front of the market hall are being reviewed for cost compliance and construction feasibility.

Proposals for future phases to satisfy more fully the original LUF bid for more accommodation and a Cinema have been endorsed by the national Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Levelling Up Team. The Project Team are now ensuring that the LCC Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) for Colne in respect of alterations to the bus station align with the proposals in terms of site layout.

The Project Team have looked at the feasibility of relocating the outdoor market to Hartley Square during the works period. A number of issues were identified:

- The operation of the market in its current position has not been adversely affected to any great extent by the works at the Market Hall.
- There is no overwhelming appetite to move position from the existing outdoor market traders.
- Some traders operate from vans and the Hartley Square public realm area is not designed for vehicular access and therefore there is a high risk of damage to the surface.
- If the car parking spaces on the highway were used for the trading vans, this would close off disabled spaces, affect parking for existing Hartley Square businesses and create public safety issues.
- There would be considerable expense of removing bollards in favour of a collapsable one and relocating the large stone balls. Moving the stone balls would also interfere with a Colne Town Council art project in development.
- There would be marketing costs for signs, posters and banners to re-direct people to the new location.

In consideration of these issues it is recommended that the outdoor market continues in its current location.

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.