

REPORT FROM: HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

TO: EXECUTIVE

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COLNE, EARBY AND BARNOLDSWICK MASTERPLANS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is re-presented to the Executive for formal adoption

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive to approve the Colne, Earby and Barnoldswick masterplans for adoption without the need to go to full council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- (1) To provide Colne, Earby and Barnoldswick with a vision for development over the coming years.
- (2) To enable the Masterplans to be considered complete and adopted.

Background

1. The original report presented to the Executive on 1st August 2024 recommended that the masterplans be agreed before going forward to Full Council for adoption..
2. However, having taken further internal advice and clarification, it is clear that there is no requirement for agreement by Full Council, hence the presentation back to Executive for formal adoption.
3. In 2022 consultants were appointed to develop mini Masterplans for Colne and the West Craven towns of Earby and Barnoldswick. The work has been funded by the One Public Estate fund, as a grant to Pendle Council, for this purpose.
4. A tender was advertised and the winning consultants were OPEN Environments. Over the past two years they have utilized their expertise to develop these plans, in partnership with officers of the council, and in line with existing council policies and corporate priorities.
5. The public were given opportunity to help shape the plans through public consultation sessions throughout the stages of the development for the plans, and drafts have been

shared with town and borough councilors of these communities also to request their feedback and input into the process and ultimate shaping of the plans. Late stage drafts were reviewed by Colne and West Craven Area Committees and where feedback was given, this has been taken on board.

6. The plans presented with this report represent the final draft copies which are now considered complete.

Purpose of Masterplans

7. Within the context of regeneration and continual investment within communities, masterplans are important strategic documents which help to provide structure for a long term vision for a community, helping to identify investment priorities and coordinate where these ought to be directed. Without a vision, there will be no structured focus for where public funds should be directed, resulting in less joined up development or perhaps missing out on investment funds completely.
8. Having a masterplan can help to secure funding for a community by showing that the council has identified projects which are supported by a degree of evidenced thought, some initial consultation, and which have the support of the local authority and community already, through the formal adoption of such a document.
9. Nelson already has its own masterplan (developed in 2021), which is helping to guide investment decisions there. Brierfield has had a Vision document since 2016, which has helped to focus investment priorities there over the previous 8 years. The plans for these new areas would help to provide a coordinated approach to regeneration and investment across more of the borough.
10. The Colne, Earby and Barnoldswick Masterplans have been developed in partnership with Pendle Council, by consultants OPEN Environments over the past two years. The development has been based on an evidenced analysis of need within these areas, the identification of projects and sites which will allow for growth, enhancement of the community and sustainability, and complemented by an insight of best practice and what has worked well elsewhere. The plans were developed in consultation with the public and with input from elected members at town and borough level.

Implementation

11. Whilst Pendle Council commissioned the masterplans and should take a lead role in their delivery, realising each plan will ultimately be a collaborative approach with other partners, which might include the County or Town Councils, the private sector, or community organisations getting involved to realise parts of the vision. It is through these that detailed action plans for each of the proposed projects can be determined. An Action Plan section is contained within each report to start the thinking on this.
12. The masterplans, acting as a toolkit for shaping regeneration in each town, can be used by these key stakeholders, including Elected Members and Council Officers, to put forward viable projects which help to meet the adopted vision, and which are supported by local people and can provide local benefits.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: the Masterplans meet with the Corporate Plan vision for Proud and Connected Communities and Places

Financial: None as a result of this report.

Legal: None as a result of this report.

Risk Management: None as a result of this report.

Health and Safety: None as a result of this report.

Sustainability: None as a result of this report, although the masterplans themselves include potential projects which, if developed, would contribute to increased sustainability and low carbon measures within these towns including enhancements to cycling provision and increased adoption of EV charge points.

Community Safety: None as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity: None as a result of this report.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Colne Masterplan
- Earby town centre masterplan
- Barnoldswick town centre masterplan