
Meeting of the Future Council Scrutiny Committee – 15th March 2023

Report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise

Major Regeneration and Town Centre Projects (including Funding Agreements, Future Projects and Borough Wide Vision)

Purpose of report

1. To provide an update on the major regeneration projects in Dudley town centre, Brierley Hill and other town centre proposals/projects in development.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended:-
 - That the contents of this report are noted.

Background

3. In the last few years there have been major regeneration projects developed and completed including the Very Light Rail National Innovation Centre (VLRNIC), the Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre, the Black Country, and Marshes Institute of Technology (IOT) and the Forging Ahead project at the Black Country Living Museum.
4. This report gives an update on the status on next phase of projects both in Dudley town centre and around the borough. This report does not give an update on the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension as that is the subject of a separate presentation to the Scrutiny Committee in March 2023, by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).

Dudley – projects on site/with consent

5. Towns Fund- Health Innovation Dudley (HID)

In July 2021 DMBC secured £25million to build a new higher education facility at the bottom of Castle Hill. A full business case was submitted in April 2022 and the first tranche of funding was received in Summer this year.

Dudley's proposed Towns Fund Project is The Health Innovation Dudley ('HID') project which will deliver a new 3,618 sqm University Centre at Castle Hill focused on Health and Life Sciences. HID is a key part of Dudley's regeneration vision and levelling-up journey which will complete the range of learning provision in the town by providing Dudley borough's first dedicated Higher Education Institution. The HID will be constructed by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) and leased to Dudley College of Technology and the curriculum delivered by the University of Worcester.

The project aims to attract new students to Dudley, provide new technical skills and degree programmes which align with local employment opportunities, and to improve progression rates for local people into higher-skilled employment opportunities.

Most of the proposed site for the new University Centre is already in Council ownership, however the project will require the assembly of third-party interests at 13 and 15 Castle Hill. The Council is currently in negotiation with the owners of these properties regarding acquisition, however if these discussions do not result in the mutually agreed sale of the properties, the Council will, where appropriate and if needed, use its Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers (as agreed at Cabinet in March 2022).

Planning consent was issued on 16th December 2021.

In partnership with Dudley College, DMBC will progress the delivery of the HID building using an insurance-backed alliance contract. To that end a contract provider (IPI) has been procured and working with IPI and our in-house procurement team, the design team and the contracting team have recently been appointed.

Asbestos removal has started inside the Hippodrome and will be completed in Spring 2023. After which the demolition can commence.

Programme:

Activity	Outputs	Timescales
Construction of HID	3,618 sq m	By November 2024
Public realm improvements	6,500 sq m	By November 2024
Learning opportunities (FTE)	1,030 p.a.	By September 2028
New Jobs created in the HID (FTE)	107	By Nov 2024-28
Collaboration with employers	50 p.a.	By Sept 2028

The full business case submitted to DLUHC proposed a smaller building than the one that has planning permission. This was to mitigate the cost increases to construction projects since the original submission in January 2021. The larger building is currently costed at £28.3 million. Officers are working with the other funding partners to bridge the gap. This will be known Spring/Summer 2023.

6. Dudley Interchange

The existing Dudley Bus Station is over 30 years old and is dated in its design and construction and failing to maximise the use of the land upon which it sits. The planned Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension under construction by the Midlands Metro Alliance (MMA), will run through the existing bus station making it inoperable in its current format. The current bus station accommodates nearly half a million bus departures a year with an annual footfall of 5.2m people. With new customers being brought into the town centre through the new metro, redevelopment of the current facility is, therefore, vital for the success of the town centre and public transport customers.

Designs and highway layouts have been developed in partnership with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and TfWM, to provide a new Interchange facility to accommodate both bus and Metro. Full planning consent was approved by Planning Committee on 13th September 2022.

The aim is to provide an exceptional facility that will help to retain and grow our current offer in Dudley and attract new customers being brought into the town centre via the Metro.

The council have designed the public realm around the new Interchange to create high quality pedestrian routes and spaces. This work will be built by TfWM and funded by City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) monies.

The council have assisted TfWM by using its CPO powers to acquire Farmfoods and some properties in St Joseph Street. The CPO was made on 9th November 2022. The inquiry is expected in Summer 2023 and works will start on site at the end of 2023.

The construction programme is approximately 12 months and while the works are being carried out all the bus stops will be relocated to Tower Street and Coronation Gardens.

7. **Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative (TH2)**

The Townscape Heritage (TH 2) programme is funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund and offers grant assistance to carry out repair, reinstatement and refurbishment works to historic buildings in the historic core of the Dudley Town Centre Conservation Area as well as a programme of complementary education and community engagement activities. The TH2 programme is building upon the success of projects delivered through TH1 delivered between 2008 -2015.

TH2 is operating with a grant budget of £1.178m from the NLHF and £300,000 match funding from the Council. Achievements to date include:

- 202/204 Wolverhampton Street - repair and architectural reinstatement and bringing vacant floor space back into use – (building had been vacant/derelict for over 20 years) – complete
- 204a Wolverhampton Street - repair, architectural reinstatement and new shopfront – complete
- 216 Wolverhampton Street – repair, architectural reinstatement and new shopfront – complete
- Plaza Malls – repair and architectural reinstatement work to first and second floor – complete
- Plaza Malls – new shopfront to ground floor – pending
- Fountain Arcade – repair and architectural reinstatement work to Market Street elevation (first and second floor) and installation of 4 new shopfronts (2 external and 2 internal) – ongoing
- 14 New Street – repair and architectural reinstatement work to first and second floor elevations (front and back) and roof, installation of new shopfront and bringing vacant floor space back into use – complete.
- 207, 208 and 209 Wolverhampton Street - repair and architectural reinstatement works and installation of new shopfronts – ongoing.
- Delivery of community engagement projects ‘Growing up in Dudley’ and ‘Dudley Days’
- Installation of the Percy Shakespeare Plaque on the former Museum and Art Gallery
- Delivery of Teaching Resource Packs for Key Stage 1 in local Geography and local History

- Publication of a number of self-guided trails for Dudley Town Centre (Architectural Heritage, Geology, Time Trail) and printing and distribution of the Dudley Visitor Map.
- Successful delivery of Heritage Open Days annually every September from the Coroners Court and virtual tours.

Over the next 3 months the priority is to complete the snagging on Fountain Arcade, install a new shopfront at Plaza Malls and complete the repair and architectural works on 207, 208 and 209 Wolverhampton Street.

8. **Castle Hill Vision - Phase Two – Dudley Castle Repair Grant**

The Castle Hill vision (Phase Two) is a master plan document prepared with the express intention of building upon the success of what was delivered under Phase One, e.g. restoration of 5 Tecton Structures, repair of the 1950's chair lift and the substantial infrastructure improvements including the creation of the new car park and public realm along Zoological Way. The focus of Phase Two is on a series of improvements and investments to the Castle Hill Conservation Area with particular emphasis on Dudley Castle, 4 Tecton structures and the Castle Hill Woodland. Thanks to the Castle Hill Vision (Phase 2) document, development funding of £82,000 has been successfully levered in from Historic England for Dudley Castle in the form of the 'Dudley Castle Repair Grant'. The funding has been used to:

- undertake extensive vegetation clearance to expose all the elevations of the Castle
- undertake a full measured survey of the Castle and
- compile a detailed condition survey and costed management and maintenance plan of the Castle.

85% of the grant has already been claimed from Historic England for successful completion of the vegetation clearance and measured survey, the last 15% of the grant will be claimed at the end of March 2023 when the final condition survey and costed management and maintenance plan is submitted. Once done, the information gathered will be used to inform the contents of further bids for external funding for Dudley Castle.

9. **Black Country Blue Network 2**

Black Country Blue Network 2 aims to improve the biodiversity and conservation status of 121.84 hectares of green space linked by the canal and river network.

The funding is from ERDF for a 3 year programme ending in June 2023 with the match funding from CIL, Section 106, capital monies, contribution from Metro and The Wildlife Trust of Birmingham & the Black Country. Proposed total spend is £648,400

There are 7 individual projects in the Dudley Borough:

1. Castle Hill – Perimeter barrier improvements, removal of dead and dying Ash trees, path improvements and new tree and wildflower planting.
2. Peggy's Meadow- restoration of existing pastureland and fencing area to allow for future grazing.
3. Sedgley Beacon – new footpath from Wolverhampton Road, water retention swales, tree thinning works, hedge laying, grassland improved to create more biodiversity and work to expose limestone outcrops.
4. Holloway St. – converting existing pedestrian routes to formal compacted stone footpaths, tackling drainage issues and forming a low grassland meadow area.
5. Coseley Open Spaces – park improvements to increase biodiversity, woodland planting.
6. Turls Hill – restoration of meadow for grazing and boundary improvements.

All schemes are either nearing completion or will be completed in Spring 2023.

10. **Dudley – projects in development/pipeline**

These following sites have been identified in the Dudley Area Action Plan (AAP) (adopted 2017) as located within designated Development Opportunity Sites and consequently subject to site allocations and design parameters. The Dudley AAP is in the process of being reviewed to form part of the Dudley Local Plan (DLP).

11. **Portersfield**

The Portersfield site is a gateway location, elevated about the surrounding area and with uninterrupted views of the Castle making it an exciting and key development opportunity to create a new neighbourhood and quarter

The revitalisation of the town centre and this new quarter will support our aspirations to increase town centre living, supporting the tourism and visitor offer, and increase the footfall to support town centre businesses and welcome people back to our town centre.

At Cabinet September 2021 approval was given to the launch a process that would lead to the appointment of a development partner.

In October 2021 Property Development Consultancy Advisers - Avison Young (AY) and CPO/Surveying Adviser Gateley Hamer (GH) were appointed to deliver, or support the council on delivering, several key elements including soft market testing (AY), a Procurement Delivery & Strategy (AY) and the production of a CPO justification report (GH).

The council continues to work on a collaboration agreement with the other substantive landowner with the intention of these negotiations having concluded, and an agreed set of Heads of Terms having been agreed by the end of March. If successful we would work with the other substantive landowner to seek a partner to bring forward a scheme for development.

A report was presented to Cabinet on 16th February 2023 updating on progress around the above reports, the proposal to consult in May on the development brief with a view to going to the market in Summer/Autumn 2023.

12. **Eton College**

In March this year it was announced as part of the Levelling Up Agenda that Star Academies and Eton College would be bidding for funds for potentially three academic sixth form colleges, one of which was to be located in Dudley.

The Council has worked with Star Academies to identify a preferred site which is in Council ownership. To accommodate the new college, several relocations will be required each with its own issues and risks and Corporate Landlord Services are working on gaining vacant possession and working with occupiers to relocate where required and possible.

Star Academies submitted the bid for funding to DfE at the end of November and anticipate a decision to be made on whether it has been successful in March/April 2023.

Star Academy's programme assumes a start on site in December 2024 with an opening date to new students in September 2026.

13. **Flood Street**

This is a key gateway site, opposite the new Duncan Edwards leisure centre is predominantly in council ownership. Located close to the town centre and the soon to be redeveloped Interchange, and with a Metro stop adjacent, it provides an opportunity to enhance the leisure offer and create a new quarter. Officers are in discussions with a Leisure Provider on this site for a multi-use scheme focused on a key leisure facility, with negotiations are underway on an exclusivity agreement.

14. **Wellington Road**

The site of the former Dudley Leisure centre has been vacant since the new leisure centre opened in 2022. Officers have prepared a development brief for a medium density housing scheme which is has been shared with several prospective developers. The site has been under an exclusivity agreement (EA) for the last 3 months to allow the developer to undertake due diligence checks. The EA expires at the end of February/early March 2023. Following this a decision will be made on whether to market the site for disposal.

Brierley Hill - Projects on site/with consent

15. Brierley Hill Future High Street Fund Programme

Brierley Hill High Street was awarded funding from the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) in December 2020. This confirmed investment of £9.985m to support a mixed package of interventions. These include:

- Highway junction enhancements to improve traffic flows and air quality.
- Public realm works to improve connectivity and integration of the High Street to the new Metro terminus.
- Refurbishment of the High Street public library and re-opening of the town centre public toilets.
- Redevelopment by DMBC of the long-term vacant Daniels Land and High Plateau sites; and the rear car park of the Moor Centre for new homes.

The Future High Streets (FHS) grant funding needs to be spent by 2023/24 to align with the programme rules. Delivery on the larger projects will continue to 2025/26 to allow the remaining match funding to be spent.

16. Highway Works

Highway improvement works have been undertaken at two junctions on Venture Way. This is to improve traffic flows by creating right hand vehicular turn lanes; reduce queuing traffic to improve air quality; and to re-align pedestrian crossing points. The highway works completed in June 2022.

17. Public Realm Improvements

An extensive programme of improvement works is proposed to connect the High Street to key buildings and the new Metro tram terminus (see **Appendix A**). Public consultation was undertaken on the proposals over the summer of 2022 and between 28th October 28th November 2022. The High Street works commenced on site on 8th January 2023 and will continue until March 2024. Further public consultation on proposals for

the High Street Link, Cottage Street and Little Cottage Street will be undertaken in the summer with works programmed to start on site in the autumn of 2023. The public realm improvements are scheduled to be completed by March 2024.

West Midlands Combined Authority's decision to delay the Midlands Metro extension to Brierley Hill mean the public square improvements around the Metro Terminus cannot be fully delivered at the current time. The design team is currently reviewing the extent of works that can be undertaken in this area and has a schedule of alternative projects if required.

18. Library and Public Toilets Refurbishment Works

Preliminary designs have been prepared and consultation has been undertaken with user groups. Tenders have been returned and these are significantly above budget. This is the result of higher-than-expected material costs due to supply difficulties, materials shortages and inflation. The Council submitted a formal Project Adjustment Request to the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) in September 2022 to vire funding within the programme to support the works. This was approved in January 2023, with works on both projects are expected to commence in March 2023 and complete by June 2023.

19. Daniels Land and the High Plateau

Daniels Land and the High Plateau are long-term vacant sites, which were formerly part of the Merry Hill Steelworks. The Council has secured FHS funding to remediate the sites and provide new infrastructure and construct approximately 220 mixed tenure homes. The total value of the scheme is £30m.

West Midlands Combined Authority's decision in July 2022 to delay implementation of the Midland Metro to Brierley Hill has had a serious impact on the redevelopment programme and the ability to spend FHS monies by March 2024. This is because of the need to construct the tram viaduct and undertake works on the Embankment to create the Merry Hill tram stop before full redevelopment works can commence on the sites.

The Council is undertaking a review of the delivery and spend options with the intention is to secure replacement site remediation funding that can be spent within a different delivery timescale. Discussions have been held with Homes England and West Midlands Combined Authority over strategic acquisition of the sites. There is interest in-principle from both to review the acquisitions and assemble a regeneration funding package. This will introduce replacement funding for the projects. With respect to

the remaining programme headroom there is scope to extend the current public realm programme, re-allocate funding to historic building improvement projects and other interventions on the High Street. This will deal with a large part of the underspend and will be the subject of a further Project Adjustment Request to the DLUHC. It is understood that Ministers and the Department are currently reviewing a possible extension of the FHSF Programme, although no commitment has been given at this stage. Clarification has therefore been sought from the Department over the extension of the deadline past March 2024, which will help with the programme spend.

20. **Moor Centre**

The owner, Evolve Estates, wishes to retain the precinct as a going concern and sub-divide the retail floorspace into smaller unit sizes to improve let-ability and attract smaller independent businesses. This will be combined with a reconfigured car parking, bringing this closer to the shops to reflect the 'collect and go' approach that has been successfully adopted at other struggling retail precincts within its portfolio. The planning application was refused by the Planning Committee in June 2022. An appeal has since been registered with the Planning Inspectorate. The FHSF project will therefore not be proceeding, and a Project Adjustment Request has been approved to transfer the funding to the library, public toilets, and public realm projects.

21. **Brierley Hill High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)**

The Brierley Hill High Street HAZ is a 4-year programme, due for completion by March 2024, it is Government funded and run by Historic England. At the start of the programme a grant budget of £1.8m. At the end of September 2021, following a successful Expression of Interest from the Council, Historic England increased the grant award to the Council by an additional £242,171, increasing the overall budget to just under £2.5m when council match is added.

The programme provides grant assistance to third parties to carry out repair, reinstatement and refurbishment works to historic buildings as well as grant assistance towards bringing vacant floorspace back into use. It also provides grant towards public realm improvements, plus there is a programme of complementary education and community engagement activities.

Brierley Hill War Memorial and its associated gardens has been one of the main priorities for the public realm part of the programme, with Phase 1 of the works on it being completed in-time for the centenary of the memorial in 2021 and Phase 2 of the works being completed in-time for the Commonwealth Games in May 2022. The public realm proposals for the Civic Hall Green and St Mary's Church are being delivered in conjunction

with the wider public realm proposals for the Future High Street programme (see **Appendix A**).

In terms of building projects, grant offers have been offered and accepted on 2 projects (2A Albion Street and 68 High Street) and 4 other building schemes are currently out to tender, grant offers will be made once the tenders reports have been received. In addition, there are several other priority projects where the owners are in the process of appointing a Conservation Accredited Architect and holding pre-application discussions with the local planning authority and drawing up tender documentation.

Community engagement and activities are also being positively progressed and developed in conjunction with Brierley Hill Community Forum, Friends of Marsh Park, Dudley Market, Black County Living Museum and with teams in Adult and Community Learning, Museums, Communications and Public Affairs, Dudley Business First and the Historic Environment Team. There is in-place an Activity Plan for the project with agreed milestones.

Another major element of the High Street Heritage HAZ is the development of a Cultural Programme. The Arts Council England, National Heritage Memorial Fund and Historic England are providing funding for the development and delivery of the HS HAZ Cultural Programme providing the total sum of £94,000. Work is now underway on delivering a programme of cultural events and activities which are to accord with the milestones and instalment schedule issued by Historic England.

Stourbridge - projects in development/pipeline

22. Stourbridge Masterplan

Following the removal of the temporary Covid Emergency Active Travel measures in Stourbridge Town Centre, officers were asked to consider what permanent improvements could be developed to improve pedestrian movement and safety together with wider sustainable connectivity enhancements supporting the town centre. Alongside this officers were also requested to identify potential funding streams to aid delivery of these improvements.

To support this work a master plan is being developed for the town centre, to include opportunities for improving access to and within the town centre for walking and cycling within an overall enhanced public realm environment.

In terms of funding the Council has secured an indicative allocation of £3M from the West Midlands City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) allocation towards a sustainable connectivity package for Stourbridge Town Centre. This funding is subject to the approval of the required Business Case submissions to the West Midlands Combined

Authority Single Assurance Framework, which requires compliance with strict criteria relating to the design of active travel measures.

A key component of the master plan is to review parking provision within and around the town centre and to support this detailed parking surveys are being undertaken.

Following an internal review, the next stage will be to develop the master plan ideas into a format such that they can be the subject of wider and comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation and engagement.

23. **Halesowen - projects in development/pipeline**

As part of the Halesowen Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid (see later section) significant design work undertaken focussing on the redevelopment of the Pool Road Car Park and enhancements to the public realm and associated active travel interventions as a key gateway site to the town. Whilst feedback is awaited from Government as to the reasons for the unsuccessful LUF bid officers will continue to review funding options to deliver on the aspirations of the bid given that Pool Road Car Park continues to require significant ongoing structural maintenance at a cost to the public purse.

24. **Lye - projects in development/pipeline**

To inform the Levelling Up Bid a high- level strategy was developed which considered the regeneration and investment opportunities across the district centre. A key aim was to identify potential interventions that could guide investment and identify development opportunities within the area. These development and regeneration opportunities include: -

- Land South of Lye Bypass – Regeneration of Council owned vacant land and underutilised car parks south of Lye By-Pass presenting mixed development opportunities.
- Stour Valley – Opportunities exist to consolidate the area as a location for housing growth and the exploitation of the excellent main-line rail links
- Strategic Connectivity Package - Improving connectivity within the town centre including integrating and connecting Lye Train Station to the town centre and enhancing public realm.
- Building Design Partnership (BDP) have been commissioned to develop a masterplan and design code for the Lye and Stour Valley area.

Officers will identify future funding and investment opportunities to progress regeneration opportunities.

25. **Lye & Stour Valley Design Code**

In 2021 the government introduced a requirement for all local planning authorities to develop local design codes. This is part of the government's agenda to improve design quality, particularly for new developments. On the back of this, the government (via the Office of Place) has established a National Design Code Pathfinder Pilot Programme whereby local authorities and other organisations have been selected as pilots to produce exemplar design codes for areas within their local authority boundary.

The Council submitted an expression of interest to be a Design Code Pilot and has been successful in securing monies (£120,000) from DLUHC to be part of the National Design Code Pathfinder Programme. The pilot project will focus on the Lye & Stour Valley area and will build on the masterplanning work that has already been undertaken to date and develop a design code in line with the government's recently published National Model Design Code.

Pipeline Projects/Bids

26. Levelling Up Bids

In the 2021 Budget the government announced the Levelling Up Fund which has been established to invest in local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities. This includes a range of high value local investment priorities, including local transport schemes, urban regeneration projects and cultural assets.

£4 billion is available for the Levelling Up Fund for England over the next four years (up to 2024-25). The amount of funding each area receives will be determined on a competitive basis to ensure value for money.

Members of Parliament, as democratically elected representatives of the area, to back one bid that they see as a priority. The number of bids that a local authority relates to the number of MPs in their area. Accordingly, local authorities can submit one bid for every MP whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary.

Initial guidance allowed DMBC submit a bid for each MP constituency as follows:

Dudley North – Marco Longhi MP

Dudley South – Mike Wood MP

Stourbridge – Suzanne Webb MP

Halesowen & Rowley Regis – James Morris MP

In August 2022 the council submitted four Levelling Up bids, details of which are below.

Dudley North – Public realm improvements, including Inhedge and Upper High Street. Historic buildings programme including the Old Post Office, repurposing the Trident Centre.

Dudley South – new 2,900m² three storey Transport Technologies Centre, for approx. 700 students to learn how to service electric and hydrogen vehicles operated by Dudley College. New wayfinding infrastructure, creation of pedestrian and cycle route over the canal linking Brierley Hill and Merry Hill.

Stourbridge – focused on Lye. Converting the by-pass for two-way traffic, improving the High Street, and creating improved pedestrian access to the station. Leveraging opportunity to bring forward 4 key parcels of land for housing development.

Halesowen - Using the Pool Road Car Park site to create a new college facility that will be operated by Halesowen College. The college will offer hair & beauty courses, catering & hospitality, and adult learning. The facility will also include a public-facing bistro restaurant and hair & beauty retail outlet. Improved infrastructure and public realm to support active travel.

Unfortunately, in January 2023 it was confirmed that none of these bids were selected for funding. The bids were oversubscribed, with 79% of the 529 bids submitted not receiving funds. After the process of scoring against the official published criteria a shortlist was made of those bids which scored highest. We believe that the Brierley Hill but made this shortlist.

Following this shortlist, a third stage of decision making took place where ministers had discretion to make funding decisions based on additional criteria. Ministers agreed to apply the additional criteria of ensuring a fair spread of projects across the country. To that end ministers took account of previous funding and capped bids to one per local authority.

Written feedback will be provided to all bids and verbal feedback will be provided on request. We will seek both. Whilst this is hugely disappointing the amount of work involved in preparing the bids none of this work is abortive, and it does mean that we have schemes where a significant level of due diligence and preparation works have been undertaken to make them bid ready. We will continue to pursue funding sources to deliver these projects. It has been confirmed that there will be a third round of Levelling Up Bids although at present no details of the criteria or timelines have been provided. Officers will work with MPs elected members and DLUHC to submit one or more of these bids in the next round.

Finance

27. Any budgetary implications for individual schemes detailed are contained within the body of the report.

Law

28. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate the discharge of any of its functions (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive, to the discharge of any of their functions.

Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides for the Council to obtain best consideration when disposing of land and property. The Council has adopted a Best Consideration Protocol which forms part of the Constitution.

Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, a Local Authority has the power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.

Risk Management

29. Each project has its own risk register managed as appropriate by the council or the delivery partner.

A overall risk register for the co-ordination of major projects is managed by Projects and Placemaking. The significant risks are included on the Corporate risk register and managed on Spectrum.

Equality Impact

30. All of these projects will have a positive impact on people with different protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).
31. As each project is being delivered in a different way and are at different stages there has been a variety of consultations as appropriate.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

32. Any staffing requirements resulting from this report will be accommodated within existing resources and therefore the report has no specific impact for HR/OD.

Commercial/Procurement

33. All contractual agreements associated with the delivery of these projects will be let in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Standing Orders.

Environment/Climate Change

34. All new buildings will be built to Net Zero standards.

Council Priorities and Projects

35. The project will contribute to the 2030 Borough Vision through;
- Full of vibrant towns and neighborhoods, offering regeneration of current disused sites
 - Better connected with high quality and affordable transport, combining road, tram, rail, and new cycling and walking infrastructure
 - A place to visit and enjoy that drives opportunity

These projects link to the Regeneration and Enterprise section of the Council Plan – particularly regenerating the borough and growing a stronger visitor economy and the wider regeneration of Dudley Town Centre



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Appendices

Appendix A – Public Realm Improvements Plan for Brierley Hill

List of Background Documents

Meeting of Cabinet – Joint Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Legal – Capital Monitoring Report – 22nd September 2022 - <https://cmis.dudley.gov.uk/cmis5/Meetings/tabid/116/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/543/Meeting/6443/Committee/468/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>