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| <b>REPORT TITLE:</b>           | <b>Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council</b> |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>          | <b>Councillor Jane Scullion</b>  |
| <b>AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:</b> | <b>Regeneration and Resources Deputy Leader of the Council</b>                       |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | November 2020  |

## Major Projects

- At the meeting of the Combined Authority's Investment Committee on Thursday 5 November, the A629 Phase 2, Halifax town centre project, received approval to move to the next stage of development. This means that Calderdale Council is now able to start the process of appointing a contractor to carry out the work. The £47.84million scheme is being fully funded by the Combined Authority. It aims to improve pedestrian and cycle access into and within Halifax town centre and improve highway efficiency with the remodelling of all 14 junctions around the town's perimeter. A revised bus network will also be implemented, better connecting the rail and bus stations and improving on-street bus stop facilities. In addition, the proposals introduce high quality improvements to the look and feel of the town centre, including the proposed pedestrianisation of Market Street. These combined measures all help to reduce emissions and improve air quality contributing to the Council's carbon neutral targets. Designs for the area between Halifax rail station and The Piece Hall, known as the 'Eastern Gateway' now retain the former Hughes Corporation building in the plans, enhancing the overall look of the scheme with minimal impact to the original highway proposals.
- Design development work is now advancing on the new Halifax Train Station following allocation of funding to the development from the government's Transforming Cities Fund. Options for the attractive sweeping footbridge providing level access to the new station building from Church Street are currently being worked up and will be available for consultation in the new year.
- The A629 Phase 1b (Calder & Hebble Junction) has progressed well over recent months. Land assembly is nearing completion and construction tenders have now been received and a preferred contractors appointed to design and build the

scheme. Initial construction monies have also been received from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Site preparatory work will begin early next year, and construction will begin in the Summer.

- The Northgate 6<sup>th</sup> Form was handed over to the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust in July and began operation in September. The facility is operating extremely well and providing excellent educational opportunities for young people. The development has brought in much needed footfall to the town centre in Halifax of c600 students plus staff. We hope that in addition to improving skills and educational attainment in Halifax, that the added footfall will assist in the recovery of local businesses from the impacts of the pandemic. Once the commercial development opens in 2021, c700 RSA staff will join 6<sup>th</sup> form students on the site, increasing footfall greatly in this key town centre location.
- Contractors will shortly be procured to finalise designs and construct the Mixenden Hub development. This project has taken significant work to bring forward, over many years, and the Council is pleased to see that progress has been achieved.

## Towns Development Fund

- A significant part of my time has been spent supporting the town boards, commissioning consultants and managing the development of Town Investment Plans for our £25 million bids. We are working to deadlines at the end of January in both cases. In Brighouse, the starting point has been the masterplan for the town centre commissioned by the Town Board last year, but we are currently trying to expand this in order to offer enterprise and skills projects.
- **Todmorden**  
projects are coalescing around a number of themes, skills and learning, arts and culture, healthy living and sports, but the big move will again be a town centre series of projects that are being master planned at the moment.
- **Halifax and Elland - Future High Streets Fund**  
Halifax MCHLG requested a series of clarification questions in relation to our bid, which were submitted in October. We envisage confirmation of our award, or otherwise, before the end of the calendar year. This £18million bid could be offered in full or in part and will support and enhance the work already being done in and around Halifax, with a very specific high street focus. In terms of Covid 19 impact, a considerable element of the work is around markets and outside space/public realm, so we will of course continue to review the projects, but currently they look to remain strong and appropriate in a pandemic/post-pandemic recovery perspective.
- **Elland**  
Similarly, to Halifax, we provided a series of clarification points to MCHLG back in October and will receive the decision before the end of the year. Again, the high street focus enables more space for spill-out, gathering and dwell time, and remain appropriate in relation to Covid 19 recovery.

- **Sowerby Bridge High Street Heritage Action Zone**

We have appointed a project officer, Sarah Neville who started on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, joining us from Leeds City Council. Highways colleagues have developed a public realm scheme for the market, and working with our cultural services team we have established a cultural consortium to collaborate and support that element of the project, and are currently developing bids for further funding and reviewing community engagement and cultural programming in light of Covid 19. The grants programme for improving properties will be launched in the next quarter.

- **Hebden Bridge**

I've also been supporting the Town Board in getting to a place where there is a strategic framework for attracting funding, either public sector or private investment.

## Planning

- The Local Plan hearings commenced again during November and will run for about 5 weeks. The hearings are virtual and are being streamed live on YouTube. The streaming has proved very popular, with the largest audience being at least 260 people. The hearings are currently going to plan, with all parties having a good opportunity to air their views

## Strategic Infrastructure

- In response to the pandemic we've successfully implemented emergency active travel measures to the tune of approximately £568k. As well as social distancing, the measures have enabled 12 school streets and improved cycle facilities in a number of schools. Alongside this we have also successfully bid for a further £100k of funding.
- We've made good progress on the corridor improvement programme schemes which will improve the main routes through Todmorden, Sowerby Bridge, Hebden Bridge and Rishworth. We've also reopened the A6033 (Hebden Bridge to Oxenhope Road) following major improvement works (circa £1.5M). Although these works were originally delayed because of nesting birds surveys and additional works were carried out due to the discovery of a collapsed culvert the works were successfully delivered within the original 20 weeks contract envelope.
- Structural work has been carried out to a variety of walls and culverts in Todmorden and Luddenden Food and consultants have been appointed to survey the post tensioned bridges across the borough. The Copley Canal footbridge has also been rebuilt.
- The A629 resurfacing works were completed on time and to budget. Resurfacing works have also been carried out at:
  - A681 Bacup Road
  - High Street, Luddenden

- Warley Wood Avenue, Friendly
- Shelf Moor Road, Shelf

A borough wide surface dressing programme has also been completed with other schemes now being planned.

- Mytholmroyd FAS is nearing completion and the Hebden Bridge enabling works have commenced. These include work to secure the Hebden Vale site, ground Investigations and some in-channel remedial work.
- The ESIF applications for funding at Hebden Bridge (£4m) and adjacent Erringden Hillside (£0.5m) have been submitted and are going through the approvals process. Approval expected Dec/Jan.
- Good progress on the backlog of investigations from the winter storms and wet summer are being reduced with 190 outstanding (from 300). (Progress has been impacted by staff absences and early impact of Covid-19 in Spring/early Summer.)
- The NFM Landowner Grant scheme is progressing well with 24 out of 27 schemes complete or substantially complete.

The S19 report of February events is being prepared. Reports have now been obtained from flood partners and hydrometric analysis commissioned

## South East Calderdale Works

- **A641 Corridor Improvement Scheme:** Following approval of the Strategic Outline Business Case for this £75.5M multi-modal transport scheme, a professional team has now been commissioned to prepare the scheme's Outline Business Case. This OBC work is now progressing 'at pace' and is key to supporting Calderdale's Local Plan and sustainable growth ambitions.
- **Clifton Business Park scheme / Enterprise Zone:** Following the completion of a programme of on-site ground investigations and site surveys in late summer, this crucial work has informed the preparation of the scheme's Full Business Case. The FBC work is now being finalised and will be submitted to the Combined Authority in early December. The Clifton Business Park scheme will provide upwards of 0.5million sq/ft of new business accommodation with the capacity to support 1300 jobs.
- **Brighouse Town Centre Masterplan:** Following a comprehensive consultation exercise during the summertime with residents, businesses and other stakeholders, a Vision Masterplan for Brighouse Town Centre was approved by the Brighouse Town Development Board in October. The Masterplan provides the firm foundation for the further development of a suite of town centre regeneration and improvement projects

and will support a bid for upwards of £25M funding through the Government's Town Deal programme to be submitted in January 2021.