



## SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

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**Meeting to be held remotely on  
Monday 1 March 2021 at 12.00 pm**

*Participants are asked to join the meeting 10 minutes early to ensure any technical issues can be resolved ahead of the public meeting starting at 12pm.*

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

N Buckley	- Alwoodley
L Cunningham	- Armley
N Dawson	- Morley South
K Dye	- Killingbeck & Seacroft
J Goddard	- Roundhay
A Hussain	- Gipton and Harehills
K Maqsood	- Gipton and Harehills
M Shahzad	- Moortown
J Taylor	- Horsforth
P Truswell (Chair)	- Middleton Park
P Wadsworth	- Guiseley and Rawdon
Vacancy	

**Note to observers of the meeting:** To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'View the Meeting Recording' link which will feature on the meeting's webpage (linked below) ahead of the meeting. The webcast will become available at the commencement of the meeting.

[Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board 1 March 2021](#)

# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p>	
2			<p><b>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>1 To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.</p> <p>2 To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.</p> <p>3 If so, to formally pass the following resolution:-</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b> That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:-</p>	
3			<p><b>LATE ITEMS</b></p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)</p>	

4

**DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE  
PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

To disclose or draw attention to any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and paragraphs 13-16 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND  
NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES**

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

6

**CALL IN BRIEFING PAPER**

To consider a report from the Head of Democratic Services advising the Scrutiny Board on the procedural aspects of calling in the decision.

5 - 10

7

**LOCAL CENTRES PROGRAMME**

To consider a report from the Head of Democratic Services presenting the background papers to an Executive Board decision, which has been called in in accordance with the Council's constitution.

11 -  
42

The call in relates to resolution 123 as recorded in the draft minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2021 and relates to **Local Centres Programme**.

8

**OUTCOME OF THE CALL IN**

To consider the Scrutiny Board's formal conclusions and recommendations arising from the consideration of the called-in decision.

9

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Board's next meeting will take place on 7 April 2021 at 10.30am. There will be a pre-meet for all Board members at 10.15am.

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Report author: Rebecca Atherton  
Tel: 0113 37 88642

## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

### Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

Date: 1 March 2021

### Subject: Call In Briefing Paper

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of main issues

1. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, an Executive Board decision has been Called In. The background papers to this particular decision are set out as a separate agenda item and appropriate witnesses have been invited to give supporting evidence.
2. This report advises the Scrutiny Board on the procedural aspects of Calling In the decision.
3. The Board is advised that the Call In is specific to the report considered by the Executive Board and issues outside of this decision, including other related decisions, may not be considered as part of the Board's decision regarding the outcome of the Call In.

### Recommendations

4. The Scrutiny Board is asked to note the contents of this report and to adopt the procedure as detailed within it.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, an Executive Board decision has been Called In. The background papers to this particular decision are set out as a separate agenda item and appropriate witnesses have been invited to give supporting evidence.
- 1.2 This report advises the Scrutiny Board on the procedural aspects of Calling In the decision.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The Call In process provides the facility for the Scrutiny Board to require a decision taker to reconsider a decision within a specified time period. This is a separate function from the Scrutiny Board's ability to review decisions already taken and implemented. The eligibility of an Executive Board decision for Call In is indicated in the minutes.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The Board is advised that the Call In is specific to the report considered by the Executive Board and issues outside of this decision, including other related decisions, may not be considered as part of the Board's decision regarding the outcome of the Call In.

### Reviewing the decision

- 3.2 Because of the unique nature of Call In, particularly with regard to the requirement to conclude the meeting with a recommendation in one sitting, it is important that the meeting has a managed framework. The Scrutiny Board is therefore recommended to adopt the following process:
  - The Members who signed the Call In request will outline their reasons for calling in the decision, defining their concerns and explaining what remedial action they wish to see. If the Chair has agreed in advance that they may be accompanied by other witnesses, these witnesses will also be given the opportunity to briefly outline their concerns in relation to the decision in question.
  - Members of the Scrutiny Board will ask any questions and points of clarification.
  - The Executive Member(s) and/or officer(s) who are representing the decision maker will then be invited to introduce themselves and respond to the issues raised by the Call In request.
  - Members of the Scrutiny Board will ask any questions and points of clarification.
  - If necessary, this stage may involve further questioning by Board members of the witnesses in support of the Call In request.
  - For the avoidance of doubt, there is no provision for the witnesses to cross-question one another.
  - A representative on behalf of each of the parties to the Call In will be invited to sum up. The representative of the decision maker will be invited to sum up first if they wish to do so. Following this, the representative of the signatories to the Call In request will be invited to sum up having heard the discussion.
  - The Scrutiny Board will then proceed to make its decision in relation to the Call In.

### Options available to the Board

- 3.3 Having reviewed the decision, the Scrutiny Board will need to agree what action it wishes to take. In doing so, it may pursue one of two courses of action as set out below:

#### *Option 1- Release the decision for implementation*

- 3.4 Having reviewed this decision, the Scrutiny Board may decide to release it for implementation. If the Scrutiny Board chooses this option, the decision will be immediately released for implementation and the decision may not be Called In again.

#### *Option 2 - Recommend that the decision be reconsidered.*

- 3.5 The Scrutiny Board may decide to recommend to the decision maker that the decision be reconsidered. If the Scrutiny Board chooses this option a report will be submitted to the decision maker.
- 3.6 In the case of an Executive Board decision, the report of the Scrutiny Board will be prepared within three working days of the Scrutiny Board meeting and submitted to the Executive Board. Any report of the Scrutiny Board will be referred to the next Executive Board meeting for consideration.
- 3.7 In reconsidering the decision and associated Scrutiny Board report, the Executive Board may vary the decision or confirm its original decision. In either case, this will form the basis of the final decision and will not be subject to any further call-in.

### Failure to agree one of the above options

- 3.8 If the Scrutiny Board, for any reason, does not agree one of the above courses of action at this meeting, then Option 1 will be adopted by default, i.e. the decision will be released for implementation with no further recourse to Call In.

### Formulating the Board's report

- 3.9 If the Scrutiny Board decides to release the decision for implementation (i.e. Option 1), then the Scrutiny Support Unit will process the necessary notifications and no further action is required by the Board.
- 3.10 If the Scrutiny Board wishes to recommend that the decision be reconsidered (i.e. Option 2), then it will be necessary for the Scrutiny Board to agree a report setting out its recommendation together with any supporting commentary.
- 3.11 Due to the tight timescales within which a decision Call In must operate, it is important that the Scrutiny Board's report be agreed at the meeting.
- 3.12 If the Scrutiny Board decides to pursue Option 2, it is proposed that there be a short adjournment during which the Chair, in conjunction with the Scrutiny Support Unit, should prepare a brief statement proposing the Scrutiny Board's draft recommendations and supporting commentary. Upon reconvening, the Scrutiny Board will be invited to amend/agree this statement as appropriate (a separate item has been included on the agenda for this purpose).

- 3.13 This statement will then form the basis of the Scrutiny Board's report (together with factual information as to details of the Called In decision, lists of witnesses, evidence considered, Members involved in the Call In process etc).
- 3.14 The Scrutiny Board is advised that there is no provision within the Call In procedure for the submission of a Minority Report.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Prior to submitting a Call In, a nominated signatory must first contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to call in the decision. Part of this discussion must include the Member ascertaining the financial implications of requesting a Call In. The details of this discussion should be referenced on the Call In Request Form.
- 4.1.2 The background papers to this particular decision will make reference to any internal or external consultation processes that have been undertaken in relation to the decision.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 The background papers to this particular decision will make reference to any impact on equality areas, as defined in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 The background papers to this particular decision will make reference to any Council Policies and City Priorities relevant to the decision.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

- 4.4.1 The background papers to this particular decision will make reference to any significant resource and financial implications linked to the decision.

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.
- 4.5.2 The background papers to this particular decision will make reference to any legal implications linked to the decision.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 The background papers to this particular decision will make reference to any risk management issues linked to the decision.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, an Executive Board decision has been Called In. This report advises the Scrutiny Board on the procedural aspects of Calling In the decision.

5.2 In particular, the Board is advised that the Call In is specific to the report considered by Executive Board at its meeting on 10 February 2021 and issues outside of this decision, including other related decisions, may not be considered as part of the Board's decision regarding the outcome of the Call In.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to note the contents of this report and to adopt the procedure as detailed within it.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 none

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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**Report of the Head of Democratic Services**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth)**

**Date: 1 March 2021**

**Subject: Call In – Review of the Local Centres Programme (minute 123)**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This paper presents the background papers to a decision which has been Called In in accordance with the Council’s Constitution.
2. Papers are attached as follows:
  - Copy of the completed Call In request form
  - Report of Director of City Development presented to Executive Board at its meeting on 10 February 2021.
  - Extract from the draft minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 10 February 2021.
3. Appropriate Members and officers have been invited to attend the meeting in order to explain the decision and respond to questions.

**Recommendations**

4. The Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) is asked to review this decision and to determine what further action it wishes to take.

**Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

5. None used

<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council’s website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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**CALL IN REQUEST**

Date of decision publication: **12<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Delegated decision ref: N/A.....or

Executive Board Minute no: **Minute 123**

Decision description: **Review of the Local Centres Programme**

**Discussion with Decision Maker:**

Prior to submitting a Call In, a nominated signatory must first contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to call in the decision. Part of this discussion must include the Member ascertaining the financial implications of requesting a Call In.

Please identify contact and provide detail.

- Director/author of delegated decision report.
- Executive Board Member

Detail of discussion (to include financial implications)

Cllr Robinson had a conversation with Cllr Mulherin (Executive Board Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) and Martin Farrington (Director of City Development) on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021, during which he outlined his concerns regarding the decision. Concerns centred around the impact of reduced investment in the city's high streets particularly for the wards only receiving £30k where the impact of the cut may be disproportionate, and the slower pace that some schemes developed, arguably leading to them now being penalised unfairly under the criteria for scheme progression.

Cllr Robinson asked about the financial implications of calling in the above decision and was referred to the Executive Board report, and it was also noted that the decision formed part of the council's budget proposals.

The Executive Board report notes at paragraph 4.4 that the revised LCP programme would represent a reduction of £2.7m on the existing injection in the capital programme, and that "the release of funding is actioned through the Council's Design and Cost Report process under the delegated powers of the Director of City Development following completion of the LCP application and approval process."

**Reasons for Call In:**

All requests for Call In must detail why, in the opinion of the signatories, the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 of the Council constitution (decision making) (principles of decision making) or where relevant issues do not appear to be taken into consideration. *Please tick the relevant box(es) and give an explanation.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proportionality (ie the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Respect for human rights
<input type="checkbox"/>	A presumption in favour of openness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
<input type="checkbox"/>	An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive promotion of equal opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural justice

**Explanation**

In the opinion of the signatories, the £2.7 million cut to the Local Centres Programme (LCP) is self-defeating, as it removes much needed investment from high streets and town and district centres at precisely the moment when they need more support due to the pandemic. Once restrictions are eased, boosting the local economy will require making high streets as attractive as possible, in order to encourage people to shop in local stores and support local businesses. Even acknowledging the financial challenge faced by the council, we regard the decision to make cuts to the LCP as flawed, since the resultant lower investment will, in our view, have a disproportionately negative impact on the ability of the local economy to recover and may also result in reduced business rates for the council. Further, the report itself says that there is a “clear need to support these centres as a means of ensuring access to high quality local shops and services, tackling inequality and furthering well-being.” We would question how the timing of this decision to reduce funding is compatible with, or proportionate to, this aim, since this acknowledged need has only increased since Covid-19.

We also question the criteria used to arrive at the revised programme, the weight attached to the “level of development” that a scheme has, and the variation across wards in developing schemes. The criteria arguably includes an underlying assumption that further advanced schemes are of a higher quality and will make a greater impact than schemes that are less developed, but this is not necessarily the case. It also suggests that wards are now being penalised for not having a more advanced scheme, even if the actual need for a scheme in certain areas may be greater. Schemes also appear to have progressed at different paces, with considerable variation across wards. Pre-pandemic, a number of schemes were ready to be developed more quickly, but faced obstacles to progression and appear now to be unfairly facing cuts as a result.

Finally, we have concerns that in some cases consultation with local ward members may not have been at the level it should have been, leading to a lack of awareness about the availability of the funding pre-pandemic and again resulting in some schemes moving more slowly and now being targeted for cuts.

We believe that more scrutiny is needed to establish if the cuts are proportionate, really offer the most appropriate way of making savings post-pandemic, and whether the criteria used to identify savings has resulted in a fair outcome across the city.

**Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support**

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A Call In request may be made by a **minimum** of:

**5 non-executive Members** of council from the **same political group**;

or;

**2 non-executive Members** of council if **they are not from the same political group**.

This Call In request should be submitted to Scrutiny Support, 1st Floor West, Civic Hall by 5.00pm by no later than the fifth working day after the decision publication date. The following signatories (**original signatures only**) request that the above decision be called in.

Nominated Signatory



Print name Councillor Matthew Robinson  
Political Group Conservative Group



Signature

Print name Councillor Simon Seary  
Political Group Conservative Group



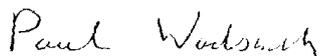
Signature

Print name Councillor Jonathon Taylor  
Political Group Conservative Group



Signature

Print name Councillor Trish Smith  
Political Group Conservative Group



Signature

Print name Councillor Paul Wadsworth  
Political Group Conservative Group

Signature.....

Print name .....

Political Group.....

**For office use only:** (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Democratic Services by:

Rebecca Atherton    Date: 19.02.21    Time: 08:55    SSU ref: 2020/21-57/74

**For office use only:** (box B)

Exemption status  
checked:

 Y

Call In authorised: Yes

Date checked:

 Y

Signed: Rebecca Atherton

Signatures checked:

 Y

Date: 19/02/21

Receipts given:

 Y

Validity re article 13

 Y

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**Report of Director of City Development**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: 10 February 2021**

**Subject: Review of the Local Centres Programme**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

- Town, neighbourhood and local centres across the Leeds district are distinct and unique places that are highly valued by the people who live there and the businesses and organisations that serve them. There is a clear need to support these centres as a means of ensuring access to high quality local shops and services, tackling inequality and furthering well-being.
- In recognition of the important role the Council can play in this, in recent years there have been significant moves from it and partners to develop and improve the vitality and viability of local centres. A number of initiatives have been implemented with external funds secured and Council capital committed to deliver Townscape Heritage Initiatives, Business Improvement Districts and the Town and District Centres Improvement Programme, which have all brought local passion, public funding and leveraged private investment together to deliver improvements supporting the sustainability of local centres.
- The Local Centres Programme was established as a further £5m programme of Capital works to support the regeneration of local centres across Leeds, alongside existing injections in the capital programme to support delivery of legacy projects

related to the programmes set out above. Within the programme £483k has been spent to date on design and delivery of schemes. However as a consequence of the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, in September 2020 the Council's Executive Board agreed to a review of the remaining capital allocations for local centres work, with a view to making savings of up to £4.457m to contribute to the overall savings required in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

- Accordingly, a review of those legacy commitments has been undertaken and the schemes within the Local Centres Programme have also been reviewed against a range of criteria to determine the scope for savings. These criteria comprise the current level of detail that the project has reached, the amount of match funding leveraged through the scheme, the extent to which projects are self-funding and whether they are located in Priority Neighbourhoods.
- Based on these criteria a revised Local Centres Programme is put forward, which reduces it in scale to £1.862m of further investment, including continued commitment to the completion of legacy Town & District Centre Programme work of £33.5k. Together with savings identified in relation to legacy local centres work, there is a total proposed saving of £2.7m against all such funds previously injected to the capital programme.

## **2. Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The recommendations within this report support the Best Council Plan 2020-25 objectives as they promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and support the city's economic recovery from COVID-19 and building longer-term economic resilience.

## **3. Resource Implications**

- The Local Centres Programme has previously been funded to the value of £5m as an injection in the Capital Programme through which the schemes identified for approval were being financed. Where projects have been proposed for shopping parades within Council housing estate areas interventions are funded through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The paper sets out the scope of proposed reductions against this previous capital injection and related local centres work in support of the wider Capital Programme Review.

## **Recommendations**

Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Note the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the deliverability and progress of the Council's Local Centres Programme;
- b) Agree the approach taken to assessing a revised scope for the Local Centres Programme and the criteria-based approach to retention or continuation of schemes set out in paras 3.4 – 3.12;

- c) Agree the list of schemes to be take forward to completion as set out in para 3.13 and Appendix 1 and note that the commensurate figure of £1.862m is to be retained in the Capital Programme as set out in the separate report on the agenda for this meeting.
- d) Note that the Head of Regeneration will be responsible for implementing the revised scope of local centres work set out in this report.

## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the review of the of the Local Centres Programme that has been undertaken following the Capital Programme review agreed by Executive Board in September 2020 and the proposals for reduction in the budget and range of projects to be delivered within this.

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 Town, neighbourhood and local centres across the Leeds district are distinct and unique places that are highly valued by the people who live there and the businesses and organisations that serve them. The people of Leeds are passionate about their high streets, which provide the basis for a wide range of activities, shopping facilities, local community networks, public services, employment and the opportunity to participate in activities that reduce isolation and enhance cohesion. Extensive research has highlighted the need to support these centres as a means of tackling inequality and furthering well-being. Local centres can also provide opportunities for enterprise by providing accessible space for new businesses to start and grow.
- 2.2 The Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy (2018-2023) includes the commitment to make the economy work for everyone and one of 12 big ideas is the need to support places and communities to respond to economic change. Transforming the role of town centres as economic and service hubs is recognised as one the key related interventions.
- 2.3 The role of local authorities in promoting and supporting centres can be vital as Council assets in local centres provide for the delivery of community, housing, retail and cultural services, promote cohesion and additional vitality. Public and community buildings act as hubs for service delivery across many sectors and improve efficiency and enable cost savings. High quality public realm and highway improvements can create business confidence and prompt private investment which multiplies the original public funding, helping to improve viability, enterprise and confidence within these communities.
- 2.4 In spite of the economic success of the city centre and years of targeted capital based regeneration there remain challenges where our local centres have not been able to draw on past funding opportunities and they have struggled to maintain relevance given the multiple pressures seen in the huge growth in online shopping, out of town superstores and the concentration of some services such as banks within larger centres. For centres serving Priority Neighbourhoods identified by the Council, where income inequality and limited disposable income is most evident, the challenges have been even more pressing, often despite past investments.

- 2.5 The Covid pandemic has brought very significant new challenges to our local centres not just where these were already under stress but to others across the city through the economic impact on staff and businesses of the associated lockdowns and restrictions.
- 2.6 The Council's Economic Recovery Framework has set out how it is responding to Covid through a tiered approach to *Respond* to the immediate impacts and needs of businesses and the economy; to *Reset & Renew* by understanding the challenges and opportunities that we face in recovery so that we have a clear focus and direction on the projects and partnerships that will address them and; to *Build Resilience* by maintaining a long term view of our aspirations to deliver inclusive growth, address the climate emergency and be the best city for health and wellbeing.
- 2.7 In the context of this Framework, the Council's initial response in Town and Local Centres has been on keeping high streets and centres safe and on ensuring as many businesses as possible access government funded support. In moving forward to reset and renew it is likely that there may be some fundamental shifts in the uses, mix and extent of investment and activity in many of our centres once the economy recovers from the pandemic and work is being commissioned to understand the health of our centres, how emerging trends are likely to play out and to help us understand how to adapt our policies and interventions. Although it is likely the economic impacts on centres remain to be fully realised, the Council will use this evidence, ongoing monitoring of data and engagement with businesses and partners to determine the appropriate targeted interventions and opportunities to draw in the funding and resources that will support economic renewal.
- 2.8 In recognition of the important role the Council can play, in recent years there have been significant moves from it and partners to develop and improve the vitality and viability of local centres. A number of initiatives have been implemented and external funds secured to deliver Townscape Heritage Initiatives, Business Improvement Districts together with the Town and District Centres Improvement Programme have all brought local passion, public funding and leveraged private investment together to deliver improvements supporting the sustainability of local centres.
- 2.9 The Local Centres Programme was launched as a further £5m commitment to high street support and capital investment. The LCP came with an offer to all wards in the district to bring forward proposals that could improve the vitality and viability of any of the 60 defined local centres. There were clear criteria set out and agreed by Executive Board for the programme to focus on improvements that would be located within (or have strong relationship to) the city's designated shopping parades, local centres, district centres or town centres.
- 2.10 This in effect created a provisional allocation of £150k per ward and there has been a focus on ensuring the most impactful and well developed proposals are brought forward in the first instance. LCP schemes have been delivered to date at Rodley, Crossgates, Seacroft and Holbeck. Each of these schemes has in their own way brought positive economic, social and environmental benefits and addressed particular local challenges or opportunities to support the vitality of the centres concerned.
- 2.11 It had been intended that 2020 would see significant acceleration of the LCP and a call for further projects to be brought forward from wards yet to develop proposals beyond the Expression of Interest stage but the Covid pandemic has created

significant practical constraints and reprioritisation of staff resources that have severely limited progress.

- 2.12 As a further consequence of Covid, the Council has also needed to respond to its economic and financial impacts and a Capital Programme review was reported to Executive Board in September 2020, where it was agreed that a substantial review of the Local Centre Programme would be required to identify significant savings in support of the Council's overall Medium Term Financial Plan position. This has resulted in a pause to the LCP whilst this review has been carried out.
- 2.13 An update on the Capital Programme is included elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting. The main part of this paper sets out the outcome of the LCP review and the proposals for taking this forward to completion on a reduced budget, which has been considered against the backdrop and intentions of the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy and the Economic Recovery Framework.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1 The Capital Programme review set the need for a substantial review of the Local Centre Programme and related legacy budgets for the Town & District Centre programme (TDC) and Townscape Heritage Initiative programmes, where there is £4.6m of uncommitted funds in these budget lines.
- 3.2 This figure includes a reduction of £300k against a provisional match funding amount of £500k for the New Briggate Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) and £30.3k of legacy TDC and THI project funding that is also no longer required, which taken together created a provisional £330.3k reduction in forecast capital spend that can be realised prior to any consideration of the main Local Centres Programme.
- 3.3 This leaves £4.12m of uncommitted LCP funds.
- 3.4 In assessing how much of the uncommitted capital can be put forward as savings and therefore what the contribution of the LCP would be to the Council's wider budget savings exercise, consideration has been given to a set of clear and fair questions to be considered of each scheme in the project pipeline to assist in determining how these may proceed under a reduced LCP scope and budget, whilst ensuring a fair approach to such investment across the city.
- 3.5 Each project in the LCP pipeline has been considered against headline criteria or tests as a sifting exercise to assess the potential for savings. These tests, set out in more detail below are level of project detail/development; match funding and additionality; whether a project can be self-funding; serving a Priority Neighbourhood.
- 3.6 It should be noted that schemes that have been brought forward through the programme to be funded by Housing Revenue Account are not required to generate savings as part of this review. This applies to projects where in consultation with Ward Members housing estate parades and local centres have been prioritised for investment, and which as HRA commercial assets cannot have general fund expenditure committed to them.
- 3.7 However the scale of HRA investment that is also coming forward in each ward has also been taken into account in seeking to reach a balanced and fair approach to overall investment in centres across the district.

### 3.8 Level of Project Detail

- 3.8.1 The LCP has three broad stages of project development and approval, requiring Expressions of Interest (EOI), Outline Business Case (OBC) and Full Business Case (FBC), which is referred to as the LCP pipeline. This approach has enabled assessment of schemes against the criteria agreed by Executive Board and the development of robust design and costings, in accordance with good practice in the specification and delivery of capital projects.
- 3.8.2 Although there are significant uncommitted LCP funds in the capital programme, there are a number of schemes in the pipeline that have had significant investments in officer, member and partners' time and which have been designed to a point where they have passed or are close to Full Business sign off and close to delivery and may otherwise have come forward but for delays and resource constraints brought about by Covid over 2020. Progression of these schemes would play an important role in helping those centres recover from the impacts of the pandemic.
- 3.8.3 Schemes at this stage of maturity are the most impactful in the LCP pipeline, having been prioritised for officer support and brought forward as business cases from initial Expressions of Interest under assessment against the LCP criteria. It is proposed that schemes at or close to FBC sign off continue to be progressed to delivery and budget provision remains in the capital programme accordingly. This includes completion works for two legacy TDC schemes at Beeston and Harehills.
- 3.8.4 A number of other schemes have moved beyond EOI and have been the subject of work between officers, ward members and businesses to develop into more detail at OBC stage. The remainder of proposals are either at EOI stage or have not progressed beyond broad ideas.
- 3.8.5 It is proposed that these schemes in outline development are progressed where they continue to deliver against the original purposes of the LCP and there is a fit with the sifting criteria set out below, but that a reduced ward allocation of £75k is made available, to reflect the importance of continuing with work to support those centres, whilst delivering a saving to the capital programme.

### 3.9 Match Funding and Additionality

- 3.9.1 Schemes in development may have the potential to generate match-funding in accordance with the LCP scheme criteria, which would not otherwise be realised as investment in those local centres and it is proposed that this is given due weight in determining those which are taken forward. It is recognised that such match funding may be a major commitment in the current economic circumstances where this is to be sought from businesses.
- 3.9.2 Where funding is already available for the project, which means it can already be delivered without LCP support albeit to a lower standard, it is proposed LCP funding is not offered.
- 3.9.3 Where a project may create investment in a Council-owned asset which has the dual benefit of creating sustainability in public infrastructure or buildings and supporting a local centre, this should also be given positive weight.

### 3.10 Self-funding Projects

- 3.10.1 It is proposed that schemes that have moved into outline development and would be cost-neutral (or better) to the Council's financial position through generation of income should continue towards funding approval. Such projects would not have a cost impact on the Council's budget position and would continue in delivering the original purpose of the LCP in those centres.

### 3.11 Priority Neighbourhoods and Inclusive Growth

The impact of Covid has been felt hardest in the Council's Priority Neighbourhoods and as such it is proposed that a part of the original LCP capital programme is set aside for projects that will support resilience and recovery in local centres within those areas. Budget allocations would be set based on proposals that have previously come through the LCP application process at EOI stage.

### 3.12 Wards with Schemes at EOI

- 3.12.1 For those schemes in wards where there is no continued TDC investment proposed, where LCP project proposals have not yet come forward or have not progressed past the EOI stage it is proposed that a further reduced ward allocation of £30k is made available for small scale projects (or topped up to that level where smaller amounts had been expended on feasibility). This again reflects the importance of supporting local centres whilst recognising there is a need to deliver savings to the capital programme.
- 3.12.2 It is proposed that such projects are identified in consultation with ward members to meet the intended purpose of the LCP and brought forward accordingly within this budget.

### 3.13 Summary of Proposals for LCP

- 3.13.1 The LCP pipeline has been assessed against the above headline criteria. The tables set out in Appendix 1 set out of all the schemes that have been brought forward by members and other stakeholders for consideration into the LCP (along with completion of two legacy TDC schemes) and the assessment of those, with recommendations in each case.
- 3.13.2 Table 1 shows those projects already delivered and shows that £483,300 of LCC capital and £50,000 of HRA capital has been expended to date, with £355,000 of additional funding leveraged from other sources.
- 3.13.3 Table 2 sets out remaining TDC works and pipeline LCP schemes where there is a clear case for continuation through to delivery due to the advanced stage of project development or readiness for delivery. This shows a continued capital programme commitment of **£925,000** and £368,200 from the HRA Capital Programme, leveraging **£1,421,000** from other sources.
- 3.13.4 Table 3 sets out those schemes that are not as advanced but which in consideration of the further criteria set out in this report are considered to meet the test for continuation through the application process to delivery, with a reduced allocation of between £50K and £75k. Where there may be more than one scheme in a ward at this stage, it is proposed that in discussion with Ward Members funding is prioritised towards the preferred and most impactful project and as such a notional funding allocation is made against these based on the reduced amount. Subject to Member agreement it is proposed that Ward Members are able to inform the final prioritisation in their Ward, should they wish to substitute one scheme for another, at the same value, should they feel locally it is of greater priority.
- 3.13.5 Table 3 shows schemes that would require a further **£600,000** to be committed from the general fund capital programme to the LCP, leveraging up to £380,000 from other sources.
- 3.13.6 Table 4 shows a list of those wards where there has been no recent TDC investment and where LCP schemes have either not yet been submitted or have

not moved beyond EOI stage. These wards would take the proposed allocation of £30k, or top up against previous feasibility spend for prioritisation of smaller schemes in consultation with Ward Members. This would require a further **£337,400** to be committed from the general fund capital programme to the LCP.

- 3.13.7 Taken all together this would entail a continued commitment in the capital programme of **£1.862m**.
- 3.13.8 This approach ensures that across all investment routes available to local centres – HRA, TDC and LCP – each ward would continue to receive funding towards capital projects, with a minimum available of £30k and in many cases substantially more.
- 3.13.9 Whilst it is recognised that this is a reduction in previous expectations and commitments in the capital programme it does preserve a substantial allocation for Local Centres work across the city in very challenging financial circumstances.
- 3.13.10 Overall, against the proposal for £4.6m saving reported to September 2020 Executive Board for local centres related capital schemes, this revised position would result in a total saving of £2.7m, just over half the previous proposed savings figure. For clarity, this is comprised of £100k reduction in legacy TDC spend(which is more than was originally assumed), £300k reduction in provisional match funding to the HAZ and £2.29m reduction in the LCP as per the approach set out in this report. The table below summarises.

<b>Capital Programme scheme</b>	<b>Savings</b>
Grand Quarter Heritage Action Zone	£300k
Town & District Centre Scheme	£100k
Local Centres Programme	£2.29m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2.7m</b>

- 3.14 Executive Board is asked to endorse the approach taken to rescoping the LCP, agree the revised list of projects and to note that the proposed final budget envelope is reflected in the Capital Programme Report included as a separate paper on the agenda for this meeting.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 The Executive Member (for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development) has been consulted on the LCP review and the proposals set out in this report.
- 4.1.2 Consultation and engagement with Ward Members and a range of local stakeholders who have projects within their wards has taken place and will be ongoing.

### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration assessment has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 2. This recognises that in undertaking a review of capital programme local centres activity there is a risk that the impacts of removing funding support to centres that are in or which closely serve Priority Neighbourhoods may

have a disproportionate impact on those neighbourhoods. The assessment set out in this report has been informed by this and due weight has been given where such centres have not already received capital support.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

4.3.1 The recommendations within this report support the Best Council Plan 2020-25 objectives as they promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and although representing a reduction in intended delivery, represent continued support to the city's economic recovery from COVID-19 and to building longer-term economic resilience.

4.3.2 Capital expenditure will continue to be deployed to help address market failure and issues that are challenging the performance of some local centres. Without this intervention it is possible that some centres will not be as well-positioned to recover from the effects of the pandemic, losing opportunities to provide essential local shopping and services and to create a distinctive independent commercial offer in the city's localities to complement existing city centre businesses.

#### Climate Emergency

4.3.3 There are no issues within this report that are likely to have a major impact on the Council's climate emergency, however continued support to local centres will support the viability and sustainability of local provision and contribute to its attractiveness, reducing the need for residents to travel to access shops and services by unsustainable means.

### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.4.1 The LCP was originally funded through a £5m injection in the Capital Programme, with the intention to commit expenditure as schemes moved through the pipeline. The proposals presented here, with completion of legacy TDC schemes reflect a proposed £1.862m future programme in addition to spend on completed projects of £483k. The revised programme would represent a total investment in local centres of over £2.3m, with a reduction of £2.7m on the existing injection in the capital programme.

4.4.2 Where projects are proposed for shopping parades within Council housing estate areas the interventions are funded through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Director of Resources and Housing has confirmed availability of this funding for the HRA Round 1 schemes (Ramshead Hill parade and Charing Cross centre) with further funding on the remaining HRA schemes in table 2 subject to funding approval from Housing Finance. The LCP has the potential to add value to existing local initiatives and to support priorities agreed by local people and businesses.

4.4.3 There are no direct revenue implications in the rescoping of the LCP as proposed that cannot be accommodated within existing budgets. The release of funding is actioned through the Council's Design and Cost Report process under the delegated powers of the Director of City Development following completion of the LCP application and approval process.

## **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

- 4.5.1 Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows local authorities to “do that which individuals generally may do”, unless explicitly prohibited elsewhere in law the Council has powers to undertake works on its own land and some departments such as Highways have powers to undertake works on private land. Other powers for works on land not within our ownership are also available but these, along with any State Aid implications, will be assessed once the bidding process has concluded.
- 4.5.2 The report is eligible for call-in.

## **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 For projects that continue through the LCP process to delivery, project management and governance of the programme is based on the Council’s Project Management methodology with a project manager and an officer Programme Board providing management oversight for the LCP as a whole. Monitoring reports will be presented regularly to the Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development, in addition to the relevant Community Committee and / or Neighbourhood Priority Board.
- 4.6.2 A separate programme risk log is regularly updated. Each project supported will also have a risk management plan monitored by the project manager / team and overseen by the project board.
- 4.6.3 Design and cost risks will be managed by producing fully costed plans before capital is committed and ensuring that projects have contingency built in to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 Members will be aware of the unprecedented financial pressures faced by the Council as a result of the Covid pandemic, and the need to identify spending reductions across a wide range of Council activities and budgets in response to this. This pressure has also applied to the capital programme and further to the Executive Board request to review the scale of the Local Centres Programme and related work to local centres, this report proposes a level of meaningful savings through consideration of a range of criteria applied to current and proposed activities, whilst also maintaining an allocation of funds to every ward in the city.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to:
- a) Note the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the deliverability and progress of the Council’s Local Centres Programme;
  - b) Agree the approach taken to assessing a revised scope for the Local Centres Programme and the criteria-based approach to retention or continuation of schemes set out in paras 3.4 – 3.12;

- c) Agree the list of schemes to be take forward to completion as set out in para 3.13 and Appendix 1 and note that the commensurate figure of £1.862m is to be retained in the Capital Programme as set out in the separate report on the agenda for this meeting.
- d) Note that the Head of Regeneration will be responsible for implementing the revised scope of local centres work set out in this report.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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# APPENDIX 1 – LCP Project Tables

**Table 1: LCP/TDC Completed Schemes & Spend**

Scheme Description	Ward	LCP/TDC Spend £000's	HRA Spend £000's	Other Funding £000's	Total Cost £000's	Comments
<b>Rodley Town Street:</b> Improvements to on-street parking, provision of pedestrian crossing points and bus stops.	Calverley & Farsley	150	0	0.0	150	Scheme delivered
<b>Cross Gates Roundabout:</b> repairs and landscaping to roundabout, new street banners	Crossgates & Whinmoor	52.2	0	0.0	52.2	Scheme partly delivered
<b>Seacroft, Boggart Hill Drive:</b> Public realm improvements around council owned shopping parade.	Killingbeck & Seacroft	0	50	30	80	Scheme delivered Match funding through LCC Communities
<b>Holbeck:</b> installation of CCTV camera and additional project feasibility	Beeston & Holbeck	43.2	0	0	43.2	Scheme partly delivered
<b>Seacroft Chapel FM:</b> Purchase and refurbishment of adjoining Church Hall building for joint project with Heads Together.	Killingbeck & Seacroft	25	0	325	350	Scheme delivered Match funding £250K (Arts Council), £50K (Heads Together), £11K (Well Being Fund), £14K (CRIS Fund)
<b>Morley:</b> new public realm artspace for performance, events and informal use in Town Centre, new digital screen	Morley North & Morley South	22.6	0	0	22.6	Feasibility undertaken to outline design stage, but project now to be taken forward through £25m Town Deal programme.
<b>Kirkstall:</b> Legacy TDC scheme; Artwork, signage and landscaping to Kirkstall Leisure Centre, wall mural, street furniture, banners, and Interpretation panel	Kirkstall	190.3 (TDC)	0	0	190.3	Scheme delivered
<b>Totals</b>		<b>483.3</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>888.3</b>	

# APPENDIX 1 – LCP Project Tables

## Table 2: Advanced Pipeline Schemes Proposed To Progress

Scheme Description	Ward	LCP/TDC Proposed £000's	HRA Proposed £000's	Other Funding £000's	Total Cost £000's	Comments
<b>Dewsbury Rd:</b> legacy TDC scheme with comprehensive highways, landscaping and street furniture improvements	Beeston & Holbeck	30.5 (TDC)	0	0	30.5	Serves Priority Neighbourhood, final works to enable live scheme completion
<b>Harehills Lane:</b> legacy TDC scheme with comprehensive highways, landscaping and street furniture improvements	Gipton & Harehills	3 (TDC)	0	0	3	Serves Priority Neighbourhood, final works to enable live scheme completion
<b>Cross Gates District Centre:</b> Community banners and floral installations	Cross Gates & Whinmoor	18	0	0	18	Scheme designed, complements other completed works and enables scheme completion
<b>Chapel Allerton:</b> Public realm scheme converting one arm of a triangle traffic junction to pedestrian use with landscaping and additional parking.	Chapel Allerton	150	0	20	170	Scheme designed and ready for delivery. Match funding from s106.
<b>Seacroft, Ramshead Hill:</b> Public realm and shop front improvements at shopping parade	Killingbeck & Seacroft	0	43.7	0	43.7	Serves Priority Neighbourhood, HRA project is complementary to investment through Council Housing New Build Project to redevelop adjacent land.
<b>Meanwood District Centre:</b> Development of shared space on the Meanwood Road/Stonegate Road/ Green Road junction to improve pedestrian connectivity and enhance the formal streetscape	Moortown/ Weetwood	300	0	500	800	Outline scheme agreed. Match funding £300k (S106), £200K (Local Transport Programme).
<b>Harehills Road:</b> planting and landscaping within local centre	Gipton & Harehills	150	0	565	715	Additional investment to complement and add value to committed highway scheme.

## APPENDIX 1 – LCP Project Tables

Scheme Description	Ward	LCP/TDC Proposed £000's	HRA Proposed £000's	Other Funding £000's	Total Cost £000's	Comments
<b>Charing Cross Centre:</b> Enhancement of shopping parade forecourt to include improved pedestrian access, new planting and power supply for hosting events	Headingley & Hyde Park	0	145.5	36	181.5	HRA scheme on Housing Leeds assets Match funding of £36k (WBI)
<b>Garforth, Main Street:</b> New pay and display car park on land to be acquired, laid out and managed by LCC under lease from private landowner to meet the demand for parking from Main Street traders and customers	Garforth & Swillington	55	0	0	55	Council in advanced negotiations on lease. The scheme cost would be offset by the parking revenue making it a positive financial return for the Council.
<b>Bramley shopping parades:</b> Forecourt improvements at Summerfield Parade and Gannors Hill	Bramley & Stanningley	0	100	0	100	HRA schemes on Housing Leeds assets.
<b>Middleton:</b> Signage and landscaping within green space adjacent to Middleton Park Circus; improvements to HRA assets at Belle Isle and Sissons Ave	Middleton Park	25	79	0	104	Scheme designed and ready to be delivered. HRA commitment for Housing Leeds commercial assets.
<b>Kippax:</b> Creation of Roger Millward Memorial Park	Kippax & Methley	43.5	0	0	43.5	Design completed and is ready to be delivered on site.
<b>Holt Park shopping centre:</b> Improving derelict area of land to create open space linking shopping area to new build Extra Care and affordable housing sites	Adel & Wharfedale	150	0	300	450	Design at detailed stage and can be moved forward to delivery.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>925</b>	<b>368.2</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>2,714</b>	

# APPENDIX 1 – LCP Project Tables

**Table 3: Other Schemes Proposed for Progression or Ward Prioritisation**

Scheme Description	Ward	LCP Proposed £000's	Other Funding £000's	Total Cost £000's	Comments
<b>Armley Town Street</b> allocation	Armley	75	0	75	Detailed scheme to be developed further to support Armley Town Street which serves one of the Council's Priority Neighbourhoods. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Holbeck Local Centre</b> allocation	Beeston & Holbeck	50	0	50	Detailed scheme to be developed further to support Holbeck Local Centre which falls within one of the Council's Priority Neighbourhoods. Note that some funding already expended on CCTV and feasibility. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Lincoln Green Local Centre</b> –allocation	Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	50	0	50	Detailed scheme to be developed further for highways and public realm investment to support HRA-lead improvements at Lincoln Green Local Centre which falls within one of the Council's Priority Neighbourhoods. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Upper Town Street, Bramley</b> - forecourt improvements to shopping parade	Bramley & Stanningley	50	10	60	Scheme developed to outline stage based on contribution from adjoining private owners. Note HRA investments elsewhere in ward. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Boston Spa High Street</b> – highway improvements to deliver public realm benefits	Wetherby	75	350	425	The highway scheme is an important phase of works to support Boston Spa High Street and has £130k (S278) and £220k (S106) contributions already committed to it. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.

## APPENDIX 1 – LCP Project Tables

Scheme Description	Ward	LCP Proposed £000's	Other Funding £000's	Total Cost £000's	Comments
<b>Church Lane &amp; Mercury Row, Otley</b> – pedestrian improvements/crossings <b>Yeadon High Street</b> – highway and pedestrian improvements	Otley & Yeadon	75	0	75	Initial plans drawn up for each scheme. Further detailed design work still to be undertaken and prioritisation to be discussed. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Rothwell former council offices</b> – Community Asset Transfer and building refurbishment <b>Rothwell Marsh Street</b> - car park improvements	Rothwell	75	0	75	CAT project is subject to progression of a business case for Community Asset Transfer of the building, which is at outline development stage. Prioritisation to be discussed. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Sandhill Parade</b> - forecourt improvements to private land at shopping parade <b>Shad Hill</b> – forecourt improvements to private land at shopping parade	Alwoodley	75	10	85	Both schemes at outline development stage, subject to further development and match funding contributions. Prioritisation to be discussed. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Hastings Court, Collingham</b> – privately owned forecourt improvements <b>Shadwell Main Street</b> - shop front and property improvements <b>Barwick Main Street</b> – forecourt improvements including disabled ramp to Post Office	Harewood	75	10	85	Schemes at different stages of design development, subject to match funding contributions and prioritisation to be discussed. Reduced ward allocation to generate saving.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>600</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>980</b>	

# APPENDIX 1 – LCP Project Tables

**Table 4 – Wards with Smaller Allocation to Progress New Proposals**

Ward	LCP Allocation £000's
Hunslet & Riverside	30
Ardsley & Robin Hood	30
Kirkstall	30
Guiselley & Rawdon	30
Horsforth	30
Little London & Woodhouse	30
Pudsey	30
Roundhay	30
Temple Newsam	30
Farnley & Wortley	30
Morley North	18.7
Morley South	18.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>337.4</b>

**APPENDIX 2: Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening**



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate: City Development</b>	<b>Service area: Regeneration</b>
<b>Lead person: Adrian Dean</b>	<b>Contact number: 0113 37 87704</b>

**1. Title: Local Centres Programme**

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

**If other, please specify**

**2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening**

The impacts of the Local Centres Programme review as a consequence of the significant financial pressures faced by the Council to make savings to the Capital Programme.

**3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration**

All the Council’s strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant

characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).		
Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	✓	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		✓
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		✓
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>		✓

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

<b>4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration</b>
If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.
Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?</b> (think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected.</li> </ul> <p>The LCP is a spatial programme that focuses on capital investment across a diverse range of town and local centres with funding originally allocated evenly on a ward basis to bring forward schemes that aim to enhance the economic and social position of those centres.</p> <p>Against the background of the capital programme review in September 2020 and the need to make significant savings, as a consequence of financial pressures faced by the Council, the LCP review recognises the particular and disproportionate impact of</p>

removing funding allocated to Priority Wards and Priority Neighbourhoods that have been impacted the most from the Covid pandemic.

Some of our town and local centres are situated within our Priority Neighbourhoods where there is a greater representation of some diversity characteristics than in other parts of the city, particularly BAME groups, and these neighbourhoods have significantly higher levels of deprivation and where support and investment is needed the most.

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

Intelligence gathered in our most deprived communities shows that the impact of the Covid pandemic has been felt hardest in the Council's Priority Neighbourhoods. Reduced investment in town and local centres in these areas would have a greater economic and social impact than other parts of the city. The LCP review proposes a criteria to retain funding for centres within or serving Priority Neighbourhoods ensuring that investment continues to support these deprived communities.

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

The review of the LCP programme will continue to support resilience and recovery of our local centres in particularly those that fall within the Council's Priority Neighbourhoods which have higher representation of BAME residents that have disproportionately been affected by the Covid pandemic. The LCP review has taken account of this impact by ensuring that these areas retain a funding allocation that will aid their economic recovery and help to build longer-term economic resilience.

**5.** If you are **not** already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you **will need to carry out an impact assessment.**

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	N/A
Date to complete your impact assessment	N/A
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	N/A

**6. Governance, ownership and approval**

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adam Brannen	Head of Regeneration	19 January 2021

**7. Publishing**

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.

Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

<b>Date screening completed</b>	19 January 2021
<b>Date sent to Equality Team</b>	19 January 2021
<b>Date published</b> (To be completed by the Equality Team)	

### **Appendix 3: Extract from draft Executive Board minutes 10/02/21**

[Link to Executive Board minutes 10 February 2021](#)

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#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

**PRESENT: Councillor J Blake in the Chair**

**Councillors A Carter, D Coupar, S Golton, J Lewis, L Mulherin,  
J Pryor, M Rafique and F Venner**

#### **123 Review of the Local Centres Programme**

Further to Minute No. 44, 24th September 2020, the Director of City Development submitted a report which set out the review of the Local Centres Programme and which sought agreement to the proposals for the revised scope of the programme.

Whilst acknowledging the financial situation being faced by the Council, the key importance of continuing to invest in local centres was emphasised.

#### **RESOLVED –**

(a) That the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the deliverability and progress of the Council's Local Centres Programme, be noted;

(b) That the approach taken to assessing a revised scope for the Local Centres Programme and the criteria-based approach towards retention

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 17th March, 2021 or continuation of schemes, as set out in paragraphs 3.4 – 3.12 of the submitted report, be agreed;

(c) That the list of schemes to be taken forward to completion, as set out in paragraph 3.13 and Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be agreed, with it being noted that the commensurate figure of £1.862m is to be retained in the Capital Programme, as set out in the separate report on the agenda for this meeting;

(d) That it be noted that the Head of Regeneration will be responsible for the implementation of the revised scope of local centres work, as set out within the submitted report.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors A Carter and S Golton both required it to be recorded that they respectively abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

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