

Heart of Holbeck: Levelling Up Round 3 Funding

Date: 24 July 2024

Report of: Director of City Development

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or Exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report outlines more detailed proposals for the Levelling Up funded 'Heart of Holbeck' programme – where £15.9m of funding was committed by the previous government. The investments aim to tackle deep rooted health, economic and social inequalities in a concentrated area of Holbeck (see Appendix 1), where deprivation and health outcomes are amongst the poorest in the city.

In accordance with 1) the Leeds Transformational Regeneration vision, 2) the Marmot City Approach agreed in July 2023 to deliver 'A fairer Leeds for everyone' and 3) the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan, there are three proposed projects:

- i) Refurbishment of the Grade II listed former **St Matthews Church** and the heritage building owned by Leeds Building Society, the '**Old Box Office**'. These will ultimately become the long-term homes for the charity Holbeck Together – who will diversify their operation, including the creation of a multi-use social and event space and a much enhanced health and wellbeing activity programme to support the local community. This will be delivered in partnership with Leeds Building Society: one of nine founding members of Leeds Business Anchors Network and this proposal forms part of their commitment to inclusive local economic growth, the environment, and quality of life for people in Leeds.
- ii) **Local Centre and Holbeck Moor Park** – a redesigned local centre streetscape to increase public realm and legibility by repurposing highway, and investments to enhance Holbeck Moor Park. These will aim to achieve ambitions to improve Holbeck as 1) a distinctive place with a strong community where people are proud to live, and 2) a connected place that allows people to travel healthily and safely to learn, work, shop and play.
- iii) **Energy Efficiency Improvements in back-to-back homes** – the project will improve the thermal efficiency of 240 homes making them easier to heat, reducing fuel poverty amongst the residents and reducing residents' susceptibility to cold related ill health.

This paper outlines the proposed delivery method – which comprises a mixture of direct Council delivery and the provision of grants to third parties. Given the health focus of each of the investments, this could be an exemplar in demonstrating our Marmot City commitments. It

is therefore proposed to integrate design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation with the longer term public health programme for the area.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Endorse the scope and delivery principles outlined for the Heart of Holbeck programme as set out at in the report and draft masterplan included at Appendix 3.
- b) Approve that the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Strategy and Resources, and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development, finalises detailed legal agreements with Central Government, Holbeck Together and Leeds Building Society in accordance with the terms set out in Exempt Appendix 2 subject to subsidy control assessments.
- c) Note that that the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Strategy and Resources, Director of Communities, Housing and Environment, and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development, will finalise designs and enter into construction contracts for the former St Matthews Church, Local Centre and Holbeck Moor improvements.

What is this report about?

Holbeck and inner city regeneration

- 1 In 2022, the Social Progress Index (<https://www.inclusivegrowthleeds.com/leeds-social-progress-index>) data shows that Holbeck and Beeston Ward ranked 25th out of 33 wards in Leeds, placing it in the bottom quarter of wards for providing access to meet basic human needs such as nourishment, safety, shelter, and medical care.
- 2 The data shows that Holbeck residents experience some of the highest rates of preventable premature deaths in the city, highlighting severe gaps in access to adequate nutrition and medical care. Housing conditions are poor, with many people lacking access to decent homes. Environmental quality is also substandard, with air quality very low due to a dominance of through traffic and crime rates show that personal safety is a significant issue.
- 3 Holbeck is one of a number of neighbourhoods adjacent to the city centre within the city rim. Spatially, these areas characterised by poor quality buildings and urban realm, low levels of green space and degraded environmental assets, significant legacy infrastructure such as roads or rail and a general sense of severance and disconnection, all of which contribute to a poor lived experience and limiting of life chances for residents.
- 4 Evidence, as highlighted in the Marmot City report of April 2023 (<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s243686/Marmot%20City%20Cover%20Report%20210323.pdf>), shows that people in Leeds who live in the poorest neighbourhoods, such as Holbeck, are dying earlier than people in the wealthiest areas – over 13 years earlier for women and 11 years earlier for men. They also spend more years of their lives in poor health. Such inequalities are shaped by the social, economic, and environmental conditions in which people live their lives.
- 5 These factors are why Holbeck remains a Priority Neighbourhood for the city. We know that successful regeneration cannot simply be about physical development and must have strong drive and ownership from the communities that will experience and benefit from changes to places, spaces and neighbourhoods. The role of local community anchors is considered key to this.

- 6 Across the city, collaborative and community led work is developing in the city rim. This includes Neighbourhood Planning work within Harehills, Chapeltown, Mabgate & Lincoln Green, and Little Woodhouse – where community representatives and local anchor institutions across sectors have come / are coming together to shape and define long term visions.
- 7 Within Holbeck, there has been an established Neighbourhood Plan since 2016. There is a mature community view and capacity with a strong vision for regeneration and change. There has been some progress, such as the major PFI housing investments in the Council's stock, housing retrofit and the Healthy Streets project delivered around part of the traditional terraced area and the emerging Holbeck Sports Hub (which will include new GP facilities). Financial and economic constraints have meant that key propositions of the Plan – such as major public realm enhancements, improvements to the Local Centre, or enhancements of key heritage buildings – have not been able to progress and deep-rooted inequality remains.
- 8 Investment in, and regeneration of, Holbeck is a priority within the emerging place regeneration strategy of the Leeds Transformational Regeneration (LTR) Partnership, with it is identified as one of six focus neighbourhoods.
- 9 This forms part of a wider network of regeneration initiatives across South Leeds, connecting the proposals for a new British Library North at Temple Works, the Sports Hub, Elland Road, White Rose Office Park, White Rose Shopping Centre and Capitol Park. Executive Board has previously endorsed the view that this 'corridor' forms a preferred route for the proposed West Yorkshire Mass Transit, to support the regeneration and growth prospects of the area. WYCA will consult over the summer on potential route options, which, subject to route selection, will enable further refinement of the opportunities to capture the regeneration opportunities afforded by the Holbeck Programme and Mass Transit. Combined, this regeneration activity across South Leeds is of national significance – with further proposals to be brought to a future Executive Board on the overarching regeneration vision for this whole area.
- 10 The focussed look at Holbeck in our emerging place strategy provides opportunities to leverage public/ private investment from a growing city centre and to design and deliver targeted investment in Holbeck that builds community resilience to help address the socio-economic and health inequalities that arise within it.

Holbeck and Levelling Up

- 11 In this context, in June 2022 Executive Board agreed a proposed package of investments into Holbeck (named 'Heart of Holbeck') to form one of six funding bids to Round 2 of the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF). At that time, all the city's bids were unsuccessful.
- 12 In November 2023, the Government announced a third round of LUF. Competitive bids were not sought, and the Council was informed that Government had directly selected a number of previously unsuccessful round 2 bids to receive funding, subject to validation requirements and delivery by March 2026.
- 13 The Holbeck LUF 2 bid of £15.9m was selected as a scheme to be funded. Having responded to clarifications from Government, in May 2024 the Council was informed that the bid had successfully passed through the validation stage, with final confirmation of funding anticipated in July/ August. This has however been delayed due to the calling of the General Election.
- 14 This report provides more detail on the proposed projects that form part of the bid, the proposed delivery routes and next steps to deliver meaningful regeneration in the area. This includes proposals on how we intend to integrate design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation with longer term public health services supporting Marmot City.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 15 Overall, the proposals for Heart of Holbeck present an opportunity to deliver regeneration that is a Marmot city exemplar, whilst securing: improvements across c25,000 sqm of Green Space; 200 sqm of new public realm; refurbishment of two heritage buildings; 455 sqm of new community space and green investments in over 240 properties.
- 16 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening has been completed and is attached at Appendix 4.

Holbeck Together at St Matthews and Old Box Office

- 17 A key local anchor institution in Holbeck for over 30 years, the registered charity Holbeck Together provides a range of services including health and wellbeing support including advocacy, digital health hubs, out of hours meal services, community events and transport, a social supermarket and provide community support on a range of issues including housing, welfare and benefits, financial concerns and mental health.
- 18 They are an integral part of the Holbeck community and the city's collective efforts on inclusive growth and health and wellbeing in what remains one of the most socio-economically disadvantaged wards in the country.
- 19 A long term, fit for purpose, physical presence within the heart of Holbeck is seen as essential to optimise the inclusive growth benefits of their operation. An enhanced physical presence would allow Holbeck Together to diversify their operation, including enhanced workspaces for small and emerging businesses, creation of multi-use social and event spaces and an increased health and wellbeing activity programme.
- 20 With support from Leeds Building Society, the proposed LUF project would see the renovation, restoration and redevelopment of two neighbouring heritage properties within the Holbeck Local Centre:
- i) The Council owned and Grade II Listed **St Matthews Church ('St Matthews')** – which previously operated as a community hub. The property requires significant investment.
 - ii) The non designated heritage building known as the **Old Box Office** previously occupied by the Leeds & Holbeck Building Society and currently owned by the Leeds Building Society

Leeds Building Society is one of nine founding members of Leeds Business Anchors Network, a network for larger businesses based in Leeds working together to increase the private sector contribution to the ambitions for Leeds. Business Anchors are organisations with a demonstrated commitment to contributing to inclusive local economic growth, the environment, and quality of life for people in Leeds.

As part of this commitment Leeds Building Society has completed the Business Anchors Progression Framework self-assessment to review its contribution to the city and has a particular interest in place-based impact in priority neighbourhoods. Leeds Building Society has historical links to Holbeck and a long-standing relationship with Holbeck Together. This has included providing current access to the Old Box Office as office space free of charge, and providing support to initiatives that Holbeck Together deliver for the benefit of the local community.

- 21 With investment secured into the properties Holbeck Together would operate a range of community focussed services across both properties, with uses that would harmonise with the Holbeck Sports Hub as part of the wider health and wellbeing ecosystem in Holbeck. It would also see much needed investments into two important heritage buildings within the Local Centre, supporting the aims of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan, whilst also demonstrating a

commitment to the city's Net Zero ambitions by prioritising investment in existing buildings versus a new build.

22 It is proposed that the delivery principles for the project are as follows.

St Matthews

- i) The Council, as building owner, will directly deliver refurbishment works at St Matthews utilising LUF funding;

Upon completion of works, the Council will enter into a 25 year lease with Holbeck Together, with principal terms detailed in Exempt Appendix 2 This will represent a community asset transfer. A report elsewhere on the agenda sets out the Council's refreshed community asset transfer policy. The refreshed policy establishes new criteria for community asset transfers, including a requirement that the principle of community asset transfer is supported by Executive Board. The principle of the community asset transfer of St Matthews centre to Holbeck Together was supported following a previous report to Executive Board in January 2020.

St Matthews has been determined as a community asset transfer in recognition of the strong historic community use of the building as a council-managed community centre with Holbeck Together as a long-standing anchor tenant, its location within a priority neighbourhood and the sum of external funding that has been drawn down to support an enhanced community project

- i) Leeds City Council, as freeholder and Holbeck Together's future Leaseholder, will design and commission the construction of shell and core works to bring the building up to modern standards – which will be to a defined maximum budget funded by the LUF funds. Use of these funds for fit out specific to the end user would be subject to subsidy control assessments based on an understanding of the proposed end uses.
- ii) The Council and Holbeck Together will enter into an Agreement for Lease upon the completion of a feasibility design – principal terms are included in Exempt Appendix 2.
- iii) Prior to detailed design commencing and funding being committed, Holbeck Together will provide a business plan outlining proposed uses and evidence to demonstrate financial viability.
- iv) Executive Board previously agreed to an arrangement whereby Holbeck Together would enter into a six year lease for the property. Contracts were not exchanged, and it is proposed that the proposed contractual arrangement detailed above supersedes this intent.

Old Box Office

- i) the building is a non-designated heritage asset, it is proposed that grant funding, funded from LUF funding, would be offered against a 'conservation deficit for heritage buildings'. The maximum grant available to a landowner, would be calculated using the standard conservation deficit method whereby the eligible costs of the works are deducted from the uplift in the property value once works are completed.
- ii) It is proposed that the Council enters into a Grant Funding Agreement with the property owner in accordance with the principal terms detailed at Exempt Appendix [2] and subject to a final subsidy control assessment.
- iii) In providing a grant, the recipient will be required to meet conditions such as funding any cost over-runs, providing necessary financial security and ensuring that there grant will

deliver against LUF outcomes.

- 23 To ensure co-ordination between the two elements of this project, it is proposed that the three parties (LCC, Holbeck Together and Leeds Building Society) enter into a collaboration agreement outlining roles and responsibilities, information sharing protocols.
- 24 Subject to funds being secured by Government and detailed designs, it is envisaged that works will commence in Q1/Q2 2025

Local Centre and Holbeck Moor Improvements

- 25 As highlighted above, poor quality public realm and severance are major barriers in Holbeck as identified by the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan, the LUF funding is allocated to help remedy this. The priority is on interventions to create high quality spaces for a range of uses to support the vitality of Holbeck and the local centre. This includes the enhancement pedestrian and cycling environments and tackle the impacts of car dominated through routes.
- 26 A draft masterplan, responding to and further developing proposals in the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan has been produced – see Appendix 3. This sets out a vision to improve public spaces and the streetscape in accordance with three principles:
- i) A distinctive place with a strong community where people are proud to live.
 - ii) A connected place that allows people to travel healthily and safely to learn, work, shop and play
 - iii) An inclusive place that represents and supports Holbeck's diverse population.
- 27 The LUF bid was made on the basis of the following investments being delivered:
- i) Local Centre: Domestic Street and St Matthews Street enhancements** – the focus is to improve the environment at the local centre to make it a more attractive place to visit and occupy. This would entail, subject to feasibility and wider transport assessments, moving to a one-way vehicular movement from the current two-way system, unlocking space along the main local centre street that could be repurposed to include new street trees with more space and a better setting for retailers to use along the local centre. This could include more street furniture, space for street cafes and improved signage. The project would deliver biodiversity and surface water drainage systems to better manage surface run off.
 - ii) Holbeck Moor Park** – to further make the space an inclusive, safe and multi-functional space for the whole community. This could include investments into the park to support play, exercise and community events, including new access points to the local centre and St Matthews Church. Options include improvements to the skate park, meadow planting, exercise equipment upgrading, as well as enhanced planting, public art and seating.
- 28 These projects will not only enhance the local centre, but improve the links and permeability to St Matthews and Old Box Office, as well as the nearby Holbeck Sports Hub.
- 29 These projects are included in the masterplan, but the masterplan also includes other currently unfunded projects. It is proposed that work takes place to consider how they could be delivered in the future.

- 30 It is proposed that approval is given to consult further on proposals contained in the masterplan and specifically on concepts for the LUF projects at Domestic Street, St Matthews Street and Holbeck Moor Park as to inform the development of designs.
- 31 The projects constitute public works and the Council would be the accountable delivery body, with contractors and specialists procured as and when required.
- 32 Subject to funds being received, it is envisaged that, further to detailed design, that construction works could commence in Q1/Q2 2025

Energy Efficiency Improvements in back-to-back homes.

- 33 The final component of the LUF funded works proposes investment in area-based energy efficiency improvements to back-to-back homes in Holbeck to provide £4.5m of investment in energy efficiency improvements to 240 back-to-back homes.
- 34 Following two previously successful phases of green retrofit housing repair, properties on the Rydall, Shafton, Crosby, Runswick and Pleasant streets have been selected for further expansion of Group Repair initiative. Previous phases of Group Repair have delivered improvements to over 299 homes of mixed tenure, providing improvements in external appearance, thermal efficiency, and housing decency.
- 35 The project is a natural extension of this, and will improve the thermal efficiency of a further 240 homes making them easier to heat and reducing fuel poverty amongst the residents, and by lowering household bills residents will receive much needed financial relief against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis. It will also reduce residents' susceptibility to cold related ill health. Low level engagement has already generated expressions of interest from 120 property owners in addition to the 52 HRA funded properties which will be improved as part of the scheme.
- 36 Executive Board previously considered recommendations on this proposal at its April 2024 meeting. Once funding is received, it is envisaged that works will commence this calendar year.

Socio-economic and Health inequalities

- 37 This investment programme has the potential to create positive equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impacts. An EDCI screening was initially undertaken as part of the development of the bids in Round 2 and to assess potential impacts from proposed projects. This assessment has been reviewed and updated through the process of finalising the projects and is attached at Appendix 4.
- 38 It is proposed that a bespoke monitoring and evaluation framework is established with longer term public health services to specifically consider how the design, development and implementation of the investments support our Marmot City commitment.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 39 The proposals for the LUF will achieve cross cutting objectives across each of the three pillars.
- 40 The project emphasizes improving the health and wellbeing of the Holbeck community through several targeted interventions. It plans to enhance local air quality, reduce traffic noise, and improve housing standards, all contributing to better physical health outcomes. The

development of green spaces and active travel infrastructure will promote physical activity, reducing risks associated with physical ill health. In addition, the project includes plans for social spaces at the St Matthews Community Centre, which will support mental health and community cohesion by providing a programme of social and support activities.

- 41 The Heart of Holbeck project aligns with Marmot City principles by addressing the social determinants of health to reduce inequalities and improve community well-being. By refurbishing and improving community and public spaces, it creates facilities and services that enhance educational, social, and economic opportunities for all residents. The project also aims to stimulate local economic activity and create job opportunities. Housing improvements through energy-efficient retrofitting reduce fuel poverty, ensuring healthier living conditions. Access to affordable services like a social supermarket further supports a healthy standard of living. Enhancing public spaces and green infrastructure promotes physical activity and mental well-being. Overall, the Heart of Holbeck project aims to reduce health inequalities and create a healthier, more sustainable, and equitable community in line with Marmot principles.
- 42 Inclusive Growth is at the core of the project, addressing employment and income derivation in Holbeck. The project aims to improve employability and skill levels by providing spaces for educational and training programmes to take place at the refurbished St Matthews. This will help residents gain qualifications and employability skills to enhancing their employment opportunities. Additionally, the project will create new workspaces at the Old Box Office and improve local infrastructure, making the areas more desirable and attracting investment to the area.
- 43 The project contributes significantly to Leeds' Net Zero ambitions through a number of interventions. It includes plans for green retrofitting of properties to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprints. The project also supports active travel by enhancing infrastructure for walking and cycling, reducing reliance on car travel, and lowering traffic emissions. In addition, the development of green spaces and the reuse of existing buildings align with the city's climate emergency goals.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Beeston and Holbeck

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 44 The Beeston and Holbeck ward members and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development have been consulted and are supportive of the proposals contained within this report. The MP was consulted in developing the bid and is supportive of the proposed investments.
- 45 A public online consultation exercise was undertaken in Holbeck in 2022 to inform the development of the bid for Round 2 Levelling Up Fund monies, which then determined the final projects for delivery.
- 46 There will be a more comprehensive consultation on the proposed local centre improvements as the designs are further developed and initial engagement has taken place earlier in July with business representatives within the area.
- 47 It is proposed that there is more specific and focussed engagement to ensure that the designs are inclusive. An Inclusive Design Panel which has worked well on other investment programmes (Morley Town Deal) will be established proactively seeking volunteers from across the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics within the Holbeck district. The Inclusive Design Panel will provide commentary, opinion, and input on proposed changes to buildings, streets,

parks, and public spaces; provide advice and information in relation to Inclusive Design Standards, as well as real-life experience of the accessibility and inclusivity in Holbeck; and help develop suitable solutions to access and inclusion issues.

48 There will be engagement on the design proposals for St Matthews Church and Old Box Office as part of the process to secure Listed Building and or Planning consent. Engagement with potential property owners has commenced on the Energy Efficiency improvements.

What are the resource implications?

49 £15.9m will be received from Government subject to the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding/ funding agreement. This is also subject to match funding, comprising of £3.8m – the majority of which relates to Housing Revenue Account Funding towards the energy efficiency works on the Council's own stock in the traditional terraced properties, and external match to contribute towards the energy efficiency improvements (which were subject to Executive Board approvals in April 2024). £19.78m was injected into the capital programme in February 2024.

50 Executive Board is asked to note that the projects do not represent further revenue budget commitments and some of the funding will be utilised to fund staff costs in managing and delivering the programmes.

51 There is a requirement that the capital funding from Government is spent by March 2026 and financial profiles have been provided to Government. Delays to the receipt of funding will impact upon the delivery timescales and dialogue will be maintained with Government on this.

52 Any viability gaps and pressures are being regularly monitored and reviewed and also discussed with the DLUHC regional representatives.

53 DLUHC has recently changed the Project Adjustment Request (PAR) process for Towns Fund and Levelling Up Funded grants. This provides the Local Authority grant recipient with more flexibility to change project outputs, outcomes and funding allocations if less than 30% of the original profile, through delegated powers. If changes are above 30% then this needs to go to DLUHC for approval.

Capital Funding and Cashflow

54 As part of the budget setting process, there was a capital injection made of £19.78m (the Levelling Up funding plus match funding) as per the capital programme approved by Full Council in February 2024.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

55 Primary risks through this programme relate to the delivery of the project outputs within the programme and the potential revenue implications for the Council. It will be critical to ensure that risks and liabilities to the Council are minimised, particularly where this may have an ongoing budget or maintenance implication for the authority. A programme risk register is continually reviewed and updated and each project also has a detailed risk register. Key risks also need to be reported to the DLUHC team as part of the monitoring and performance returns every six months.

56 The top programme risks are outlined below:

- **Cost inflation of wider supply chain and potential economic downturn leads to delays and cost increases and funding gaps.** – mitigating measures include early engagement with suppliers to understand timeframes and difficulties with supply chain. Also identifying where procurement packages could be joint together. Inflation has also been included in cost forecasting as well as risk/contingency budgets across each of the projects. Each project will be regularly monitored.
- **Risk relating to the inability to secure required match funding, particularly where this impacts on the deliverability of schemes** - Match funding is being explored at a project level and if identified match is unavailable, the team will seek to source alternative funding, move funding between project, or projects will be rescoped to be delivered within the available cost envelope.
- **Risk that projects may not be fully delivered to programme within the grant funding timescales (March 2026)** - feasibility work to be undertaken at risk, early engagement with designers and contractors to understand timeframes. Also identifying where procurement packages could be jointly delivered together. Discussion taking place with DLUHC on the timetable for contractual confirmation of funds and potential for extension of time for expenditure, due to the timing of the final funding award and MOU being signed.
- **Delays to receiving planning permission and listed building consent which in turn leads to delay to construction completion** – early engagement with Local Planning Authority and stakeholders.
- **Opposition to any of the elements included in the proposals could have an impact on the overall success of the package, impacting not only on overall benefits, but also the delivery of scheme elements** - Review feedback from the public consultation, and alongside stakeholder feedback ensure that issues/comments are addressed to mitigate future complications

What are the legal implications?

- 57 The information contained in Appendix 2 is Exempt under Access to Information Rule 10.4 (3) as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the content of Appendix 2 as Exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as doing so would prejudice the Council's commercial position and that of third parties should they be disclosed at this stage.
- 58 The Council will enter into legal agreements as set out in Exempt Appendix 2.
- 59 Subsidy control reviews were carried out at the time of bid submission and it is considered that the programme complies with the Subsidy Control principles; in particular, the works the programme seeks to fund have wider public benefit and are very unlikely to be carried out without public funding, and the limits on amount and use of the funding will mean grants are proportionate and unlikely to lead to any distortion of competition.
- 60 In providing grants to third parties, there will be subsidy provided. Accordingly, as designs and business plans are finalised, it is proposed to undertake more comprehensive subsidy control assessments where relevant – for example where grants are provided to third parties and prior to Grant Funding Agreements or other legal agreements being entered into. This will include legal review of the proposed uses and terms of legal agreements to consider subsidy implications.
- 61 Details of any subsidies governed by the Subsidy Control Act 2022 will be published on the national Subsidy Control database once it is finalised and approved by the Director of City Development. After publication, if any organisation or member of the public has any objection

to the creation of the subsidy scheme, they will have one month from the date of publication to make an application for judicial review. After that time any objections to the scheme will be statute barred from judicial review.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

62 The Levelling Up Fund is part of a national government emphasis on the importance to the national economy of towns and smaller communities and builds upon previous funding announcements focused on supporting these places under the 'levelling up' policy agenda. If Levelling Up Funding had not been secured for Holbeck then the investment it would have received for the ambitions would have been minimal as part of ongoing maintenance revenue budgets or on an ad hoc opportunistic basis and not to the scale of capital investment.

How will success be measured?

63 A programme wide monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed and will be reported on to the Levelling Up Fund team every six months as part of the ongoing governance and assurance checks. Each project has agreed outputs and outcome indicators which have been reported to DLUHC as part of the validation and onboarding process. If these outputs and outcomes subsequently change a project adjustment request must be implemented and approved by DLUHC.

64 All the project outputs and outcomes have been baselined in a data exercise and will then be reported to DLUHC as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. Satisfaction surveys, data monitoring, footfall counters are all being utilised as part of this process. A public annual satisfaction survey will be undertaken for the first year to provide a benchmark and baseline, this will then be repeated every year to 2026.

65 In order to demonstrate success to DLUHC and stakeholders, the projects will need to remain within the agreed cost envelopes, be delivered to programme and achieve the agreed outputs and outcomes.

66 As set out at in the report there will be a specific focus on Marmot City principles in measuring impacts and success.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

67 The Senior Responsible Officer responsible for delivery and implementation is the Director of City Development. All of the projects need to be contractually committed and delivered in the Levelling Up Fund timescales and before March 2026 in order to receive the full grant allocation. Where projects and timescales are potentially delayed due to the risks highlighted above the Council and its partners will put in mitigating measures to ensure no grant allocation is lost.

68 Delivery, project management and the ongoing reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the Levelling Up Fund programme (required every six months until March 2026) requires significant officer resource which has been allocated from the Asset Management and Regeneration service. Teams from across the Council are also involved in design and delivery including Climate and Greenspaces, Highways and Transportation as well as external design and delivery partners.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Location map of projects/masterplan
- *Appendix 2 – legal agreements principles – designated as being Exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3)*
- Appendix 3 – Draft Heart of Holbeck Masterplan
- Appendix 4 – EDCI Assessment

Background papers

None.