

Westhoughton Town Centre Action Plan Presentation to Area Forum (31/10/19)

WESTHOUGHTON TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Westhoughton Area Forum 3rd October 2019



BACKGROUND TO MASTERPLANNING/ TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIES

- The Council approved a new Town Centre Strategy for Farnworth in July 2019.
- This followed a master planning exercise and consultation with the public.
- The Strategy is about the People and the Place and makes links to cross cutting issues such as: Health; Employment; Community Events; Digital infrastructure and Connectivity.
- Future High Streets Fund – progression to next stage of the process due to strength of masterplan and consultation work.



TOWN CENTRES MASTERPLANNING

- The Council has agreed to develop strategies and Masterplans for three town centres: Horwich, Westhoughton and Little Lever.
- Strategies and masterplans will be developed in partnership with key stakeholders and public consultation.
- The Council has undertaken a procurement exercise and appointed BDP to do the masterplanning for each town centre. Work is due to complete March 2020.
- Linkages will be made to other workstreams such as the Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMP) and One Public Estate (OPE) work.



FUNDING

- The Council borrowed £100 million of prudential funds to invest in Bolton Town Centre.
- The success of the Bolton Town Centre Masterplan has seen a vast amount of private sector investment levered into the town. As a result of this and in recognition of their importance, the Council decided to invest some of the £100 million in the four towns of Horwich, Westhoughton, Farnworth & Little Lever.
- £16 million in total is available for the four district centres, which is a mix of £12m from Bolton Town Centre funding and an additional £4m from the Council's capital programme.
- This will be allocated based on the outcomes of the Masterplans.
- The Council will bid for external funding as and when it arises.

CONSULTATION PLAN

- To clearly explain the different elements of each proposed development options utilising print and online media (including social media).
- To enable all stakeholders to easily access maps and clear information around the development options
- To gather views of residents, businesses, visitors, shoppers and other interested parties on the proposed developments in three town centres; Horwich, Little Lever and Westhoughton
- Effectively manage communication and consultation so that local people and stakeholders are engaged, involved and able to participate in a timely way to influence the outcome.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Steering Group established and met – August 19
- Boundary of town centre discussed
- Comments/ideas being gathered and these will feed into the masterplan development
- Consultation/Communications Plan in place which will be led by the Council.
- Tenders evaluated and consultants appointed (BDP) end of September 19
- Inception Meeting 8th October 2019
- Inception Report – October 2019



TIMESCALES

- Final Baseline – late November 2019
- Draft Masterplan Strategy & key delivery opportunities presented – December 2019
- Draft Masterplan & Deliver Strategy (including consultation) complete February 2020
- Final & Delivery Strategy Presented March 2020
- Final sign off – March 2020
- Formal approval by Executive Cabinet Member – Summer 2020

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Use your Steering Group representatives
- Send your ideas and thoughts to us at:

WesthoughtonTownCentreFunding@bolton.gov.uk

- Stakeholder workshop - Dec 19
- Public consultation on proposals – Jan 19
 - Online survey (hard copies will also be available)
 - Drop in sessions for face to face discussions
 - Social media and press
 - Schools and other specific groups will be encouraged to take part

