

Westhoughton Town Centre MASTERPLAN Draft Proposals

Six Key Development Proposals (KDPs) have been identified that could transform the town centre

KDP1: Street remodelling along Market Street

Market Street is the heart of Westhoughton and is a focus for the community and visitors to the town centre. This project will retain two-way traffic but include selective road narrowing to create larger areas of public realm (pedestrian areas), particularly on town hall / market side which would enable businesses to take advantage of the sunny aspect and spill out onto the street. Possible locations include in front of the indoor market, between Queen Street and King Street and in front of the shops to the east of the Co-op foodstore.

When thinking about this proposal consider if it's a good idea to introduce a street remodelling scheme along Market Street to create wider areas for pedestrians and whether this would encourage more people to use the town centre. Also think about what other areas of the town centre could benefit more from this work

KDP2: Upgrading key pedestrian links

The proposed project would involve improving the public realm (pedestrian areas) of Library Street, Marsden Street and the pedestrian link to the town centre market car park from Market Street and from Library Street to Central Park. These routes would be made pedestrian friendly, through pavement improvements, lighting and shop frontage improvements.

When thinking about this proposal consider if you think that Library Street, Marsden Street and the pedestrian link to the town centre market car park from Market Street should be priority for upgrading pedestrian links and whether these improvements would encourage more people who shop at Pavilion Square to come to Market Street. Also think about whether other parts of the town centre would benefit more from this work and if so, where?

KDP3: Redevelopment of the Town Hall

The Town Hall is a key landmark in the town centre and there is a strong local community association with the combined Town Hall, Library and Carnegie Hall complex. At the same time the Council's usage of the Town Hall is reducing as part of a wider reorganisation of premises. This project proposes the conversion of surplus space into a managed workspace development, providing space for small business and 'start-up' space for new businesses. A ground floor café would serve the businesses and also be open to the public.

When thinking about this proposal have a think about whether the Town Hall should be used for managed work space and whether the new use should include a commercial/café offer. Also consider any other ideas for this landmark building that would ensure it will be in the best use possible.

KDP4: Promotion of new homes on council and privately owned land

Sites for consideration include i) vacant land in-between the Wheatsheaf car park and the Beer School (known as the Gaiety site), ii) land east of Mill Street and iii) land west of Sainsbury's car park. New homes will help increase the residential population of the town centre and therefore levels of activity particularly in the evenings and meet demands for housing types and tenures not readily available in the local market e.g. for older people and apartments for young professionals.

When thinking about this proposal consider if it's a good idea to build more housing in and around the town centre and if so, what type of new homes do you think are needed to meet local demand as well as attracting new residents to the area?

KDP5: Improving access to the Library and Carnegie Hall

Current access to Carnegie Hall is shared with the library. Under this proposal separate access to the upstairs of the library would be created to improve safety, security and visitor experience improvements to access arrangements at both the library and Carnegie Hall will increase the use of the hall, together with simpler booking arrangements.

When thinking about this proposal consider whether it's a good idea to create a separate access to the Carnegie Hall and what other arrangements do you think would help better utilise the building.

KDP6: Developing a car parking strategy

This could include improvements to the quality of the car parks, as well as the control over long stay car parking in the area. The council car parks at Library Street and the market car park are the possible locations for some long stay car parking, ensuring a better supply of short stay parking to encourage visitors to the town centre.

When thinking about this proposal consider whether it's a good idea to develop a car parking strategy to limit long stay car parking in the town centre and if so, where should long stay car parking be provided.

Next Steps

Please complete and return the questionnaires provided so we can use your feedback and suggestions to further improve the proposals for the town centre.

- Bolton Council and its consultants will review the proposals in the light of your comments.
- The team will also look in more detail at the deliverability of the proposals – can funding be identified and how will other landowners be encouraged to invest?
- Once all of the comments have been considered, a final masterplan for the town centre will be produced for formal approval by the Council.
- After this we hope to work with our partners to get the masterplan moving.

For more information go to www.investinbolton.com/westhoughton