

<b>Report to:</b>	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration		
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022		
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Place	<b>Report Number:</b>	41753
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Paul Whittingham, Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration	<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01204 336042
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Lamb - Principal Project Officer	<b>Telephone number</b>	01204 336136
<b>Report title:</b>	Implementation of Westhoughton District Centre Key Development Priority Proposals – Phase 2 works		
<b>Not Confidential</b>			
This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.			
<b>Purpose:</b>	This report gives details of a proposed public realm scheme for Market Street, Westhoughton and seeks approval of funding from the Town Centres Fund to deliver Phase 2 works.		
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>The Executive Cabinet Member is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Approve the public realm scheme for Market Street as set out in this report;</li> <li>2) Approve a capital spend of £2.3 million from the District Centres Fund to procure and deliver the scheme;</li> <li>3) Authorise the Directors of Place, in consultation with the Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration to finalise the design and costs; and</li> <li>4) Authorise the Borough Solicitor to carry out all necessary legal formalities where required.</li> </ol>		
<b>Decision:</b>			
<b>Background documents:</b>	<p>Report to ECMDL dated 15/03/21 entitled 'Implementation of District Centre Priority Key Development Proposals – Phase 1 works' (ECMDL4846)</p> <p>Report to Cabinet dated 21/01/19 entitled 'Town Centres Strategy Funding' (CAB508)</p> <p>Report to Council dated 20/02/19 entitled 'Budget Update and Options 2019-21 (CEX011)</p> <p>Report to Council dated 20/02/19 entitled 'Corporate Capital and One-off Funding 2019-2022' (CEX046)</p> <p>Report to ECMDL dated 17/02/20 entitled 'Westhoughton District Centre Strategy' (ECMDL764).</p>		
<b>Signed:</b>	Leader/Executive Cabinet Member	Monitoring Officer	
<b>Date:</b>			

<b>Consultation with other officers</b>			
Finance	Yes	10/02/22	Corinne Davoy-Wood
Legal	Yes	10/02/22	Elizabeth Cunningham-Doyle
HR	No		
Procurement	No		
Climate Change	Yes	10/02/22	Nicola Farrell
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes	10/02/22	Tammy Tatman
<b>(a) Pre-consultation reports</b> Is there a need to consult on the proposals?		No	
<b>(b) Post consultation reports</b> Please confirm that the consultation response has been taken into consideration in making the recommendations.		N/A	
<b>Vision outcomes</b>  Please identify the appropriate Vision outcome(s) that this report relates or contributes to by putting a cross in the relevant box.	1. Start Well		x
	2. Live Well		x
	3. Age Well		x
	4. Prosperous		x
	5. Clean and Green		x
	6. Strong and Distinctive		x

## **1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the Executive Cabinet Member, Deputy Leader's Portfolio, approved a report and funding of £415,459 from the District Centre Fund to implement a number of Phase 1 Key Development Priority projects (KDPs) contained within the masterplan for Westhoughton Town Centre. All Phase 1 schemes are now progressing.
- 1.2 The remodelling of Market Street was an agreed KDP as the streetscene is viewed as being dominated by car borne traffic to the detriment of pedestrians and cyclists. Reducing the dominance of vehicular traffic will make the street safer, help improve footfall and generally improve the overall attractiveness and feel of Market Street. TfGM agreed to fund initial design feasibility as it aligns the masterplan, No. 7 Quality Bus Transit Corridor and Neighbourhood Action Plan aspirations.
- 1.2 TfGM procured Aecom, a world renowned infrastructure consultancy who they work closely with on a number of projects, to carry out feasibility and produce the concept design which can be found at Appendix 1. A Streets for All approach was taken in reaching the proposed design.

## **2. ISSUES**

- 2.1 The Masterplan for Westhoughton town centre was the subject of a public consultation exercise. While consultation provided a range of issues and solutions from the general public and businesses, there was no support or Town Centre Steering Group approval for restricting vehicular traffic along Market Street, either by full or partial pedestrianisation. The designs by Aecom included a bus gate on Market Street that has the support of TFGM. However, this would have prohibited vehicular traffic and forced drivers to find an alternative route to using Market Street and it is likely that any alternative route would have increased traffic in the adjacent residential streets. Taking this and the outcomes of the public consultation into consideration, a request has been made for the proposed bus gate to be removed from the plans.

## **3. DESIGN APPROACH**

- 3.1 As mentioned previously the scheme has been designed to include Streets for All treatment and was based upon the requirement to provide improvements to Market Street through:
- Improved quality of the footway that is appropriate to the conservation area and the wider streetscape that will enhance the setting of the buildings
  - Provide a scheme that is more pedestrian and cycle friendly
  - Ease of use for cyclists negotiating the junction with Mill Street
  - Improved pedestrian crossings at either end of Market Street to be funded by TfGM
  - The promotion of Active Travel which seeks to switch more journeys to walking and cycling which are good for our physical and mental health and generally improves health, quality of life while at the same time reducing costs to the public purse
  - Footway widening where appropriate to slow traffic and prioritise pedestrians
  - Reduction of street furniture
- 3.2 A palette of materials has been selected that considers the current street scene and is in line with the Steering Groups wishes to see quality products used within the town where budget permits. This includes the following:
- Natural Yorkstone paving outside the Town Hall, Westhoughton Market and Ditchfield Gardens with a hard wearing and durable concrete paving elsewhere.

- Existing stone kerbs will be raised and reused. Where they are broken or cracked, they will be replaced to match
- Existing carriageway will be left as is with raised surface crossing areas to be coated using Hardicrete to a buff colour to tie in with the paving but as a contrast to the existing asphalt and red chipped surfacing
- Installation of new timber seats with arms that are Forestry Stewardship Council accredited to ensure they meet the highest environmental and social standards. The installation of new seating will increase opportunities for dwell time and increase spending
- Installation of new litter bins to match the seating
- New cycle stands adjacent to the Market and Town Hall
- Introduction of planting with seasonal interest that will be tolerant to temperature and rainfall variation

3.3 Further discussions are taking place with Greenspace and Highways to ensure that all changes are mutually acceptable without comprising the overall objectives of the proposed scheme.

3.4 Throughout the works disruption to traders and pedestrians will be kept to a minimum and in keeping with usual council procedures all traders will have access to their business with no break in continuity of trading.

#### 4. PROGRAMME OF WORKS

4.1 While the designs are still to be finalised, the anticipated programme is shown below. However, it should be noted that these timings are subject to change given current issues with the supply of materials:

Tender exercise	April 2022
Commencement on site	End July/early August 2022
Completion on site	March/April 2023

#### 5. OPTIONS

5.1 As part of the proposals 2 options were considered:

**Option 1: Like for Like renewal of all surface treatment** – While this option may have been cheaper it would not have overcome the main concern in relation to the dominance of car borne traffic using Market Street, nor would TfGM have agreed to fund the feasibility as it would not have taken account of the Quality Bus Corridor and Active Neighbourhoods aspirations

**Option 2 Implement the proposed scheme** – This option gives all parties the opportunity to realise mutual benefits in terms of a main road that makes it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to use that promotes Active Travel, the slowing down of car borne traffic and the potential to link the cycle network through the town centre and into Central Park

5.2 For the reasons set out above, Option 2 is recommended and the Executive Cabinet Member is therefore requested to approve the proposal and the funding as set out in this report.

## 6. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Financial

- 6.1.1 Aecom and our own Highways section have provided a budget estimate of £2.3 million for a mix of natural stone and concrete. The Executive Cabinet Member is requested to approve funding from the District Centres Fund.

### 6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 Given the level of investment required the works will need to be procured. It is proposed that the Council will undertake a mini competition under Lot 3 the existing Highways Framework Agreement. This will enable a contractor to be procured to undertake the highways and public realm improvement works to Market Street, Westhoughton. It will ensure that Value for Money is achieved, which has been demonstrated on other projects undertaken using the framework, and the Director of Place will oversee any amendments made to the works and budget.

### 6.3 HR

- 6.3.1 None.

### 6.4 Climate Change

- 6.4.1 Trees and vegetation have a natural cooling effect as they provide shade, potentially reducing surface temperature, by 5°C, to 20°C. Trees and vegetation can also make a contribute to managing surface water run-off and improving biodiversity.
- 6.4.2 In addition, including reusing the existing kerbs within the design will further contribute to tackling climate change as less energy is required in the quarrying of materials, and less waste is sent to landfills meaning a decrease in greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere.
- 6.4.3 Finally, creating a scheme that is more pedestrian and cycle friendly may encourage a shift to more sustainable transport modes (cycling and walking) rather than by private car

### 6.5 Other

- 6.5.1 None

## 7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010 the Council has a general duty to have due regards to the need to:
1. **eliminate unlawful discrimination**, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
  2. **advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
  3. **foster good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

7.2 Due to the nature of the proposals, it is possible that there could be some adverse impact for people with disabilities during works to Market Street due to the pavement being narrowed at times. However, the potential for differential impact will be mitigated or prevented through best practice/considerate construction techniques. This analysis is set out in more detail in the EIA.

7.3 Prior to formal approval, the Streets for All Strategy underwent an Equalities Impact Assessment critical review via the University of Salford and was also subject to feedback from accessibility groups during a GM Moving Big Active consultation.

## **8. VISION 2030**

8.1 The Bolton 2030 Vision is summarised as follows:

“Bolton will be a vibrant place, built on strong cohesive communities, successful businesses and healthy residents.”

8.2 The proposals contained within this report are focused on the delivery of the Bolton 2030 Vision and will contribute to the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Vision 2030.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

9.1 As mentioned in Section 2 the need to reduce the dominance of car borne traffic was a factor that resulted in this proposal becoming a KDP within the approved masterplan for Westhoughton town centre. The scheme shown at Appendix 1 is broadly in line with the comments received as part of the masterplan public consultation. In addition to this the approval of Ward Members has been sought with no adverse comments received to date.

9.2 The proposal has also been forwarded to all members of Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group for comment and approval and to date no adverse comments have been received.

## **10 RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 The Executive Cabinet Member is requested to:

- 1) Approve the public realm scheme for Market Street as set out in this report;
- 2) Approve a capital spend of £2.3 million from the District Centres Fund to procure and deliver the scheme;
- 3) Authorise the Directors of Place, in consultation with the Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration to finalise the design and costs; and
- 4) Authorise the Borough Solicitor to carry out all necessary legal formalities where required

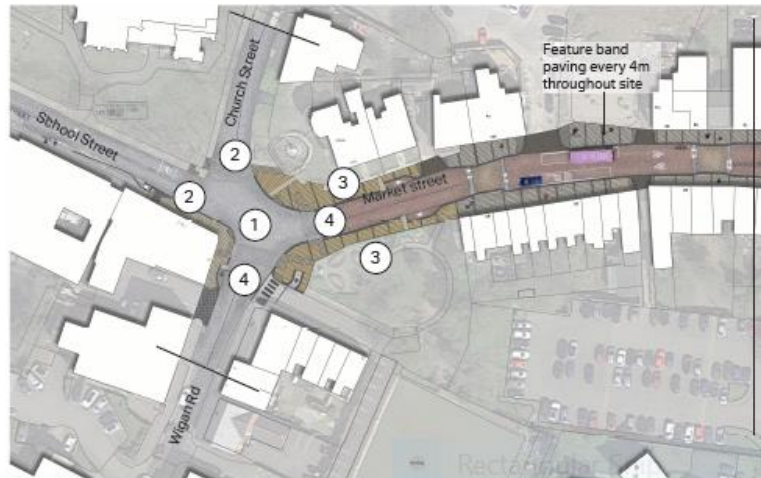
## Appendix 1

### Market Street Proposal

#### 02/03/2022 Design Approach

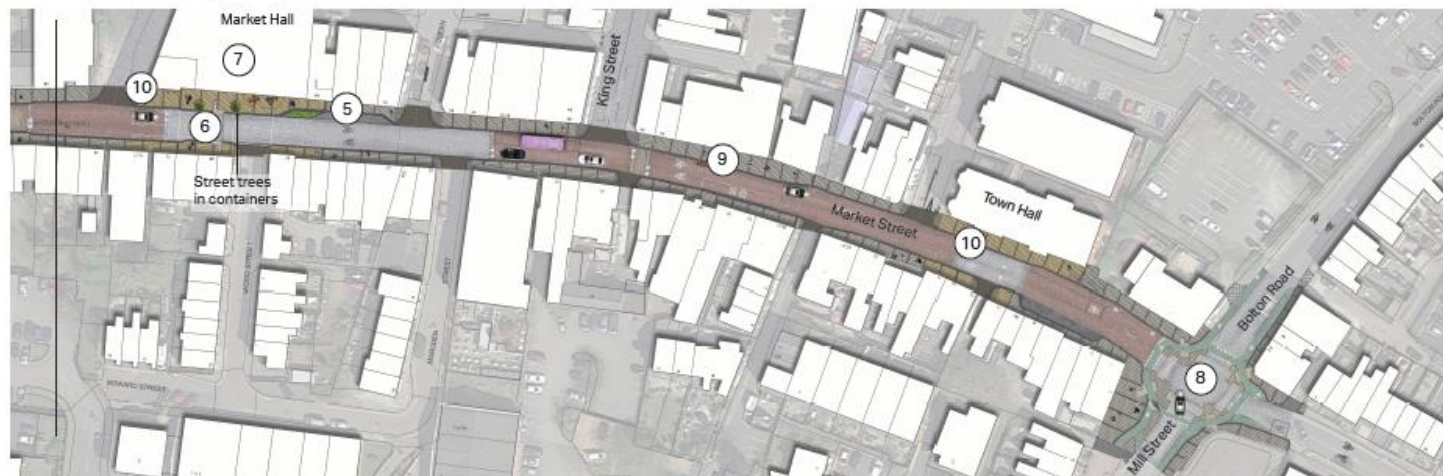
The scheme is based upon the requirement to provide improvements to Market Street through:

- Improved quality of the footway that is appropriate to the conservation area and the wider streetscape that will enhance the setting of the buildings
- Provide a scheme that is more pedestrian and cycle friendly
- Ease of use for cyclists negotiating the junction with Mill Street
- Reduction of street furniture to remove obstacles to movement



#### Key

- 1 Diagonal uncontrolled crossing for pedestrian access
- 2 Puffin crossing
- 3 Shared use area
- 4 Toucan crossing
- 5 Planting with seasonal interest
- 6 Existing puffin crossing
- 7 Market Hall
- 8 Proposed Signalised Cyclops junction with improved crossing facilities for pedestrian and cyclists
- 9 Footway widened to slow traffic and prioritise pedestrians
- 10 Bike stand





## Material palette

The stone kerbs will be rained and reused. Where they are broken/cracked they will be replaced to match.

Paving will comprise Yorkstone Crosland Hill (from Johnsons of Welfield, a quarry in Huddersfield).

-Diamond sawn finish to the footway – 400 x 400 x 80mm thk

-Shot sawn finish to the strip at back of kerb (200 x 100 x 100 mm thk) laid on concrete and bedded and pointed with Instarmac Ultrascap and to bands running perpendicular from the buildings to the kerbs to visually break up the paving (400 x 400 x 80mm thk).

Junction with side streets will be as the strip to back of kerb

Roadway -to be left as is with raised surface crossing areas to be coated using Hardicrete to a Buff colour to tie in with the paving but as a contrast to the existing asphalt and red chipped surfacing

Yorkstone- Diamond sawn



Concrete slabs for footway



Tactile Paving studs



Yorkstone for footway



Feature banding and strip at back of kerb



Hardicrete



## Street Furniture

Introduction of seats with arms that are made with timber with FSC certification. Litter bins to match



## Planting

Introduction of planting with seasonal interest that will be tolerant to temperature and rainfall variation.



Visualisation - Cyclops Junction



View from Mill street of proposed Cyclops looking north toward Bolton road

Visualisation - Market Hall



View of Market Hall from Market street facing west





View of the Town Hall on Market street facing west

WESTHOUGHTON  
MARKET STREET  
**AECOM**

# Equality Impact Assessment

<b>Title of report or proposal:</b>
Implementation of Westhoughton District Centre Key Development Priority Proposals – Phase 2 works

<b>Directorate:</b>	Place
<b>Section:</b>	Growth & Regeneration
<b>Date:</b>	10/02/22

Public sector bodies need to be able to evidence that they have given due regard to the impact and potential impact on all people with 'protected characteristics' in shaping policy, in delivering services, and in relation to their own employees.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the council has a general duty to have due regard to the need to:

1. **eliminate unlawful discrimination**, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
2. **advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
3. **foster good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

By completing the following questions the three parts of the equality duty will be consciously considered as part of the decision-making process.

Details of the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment must also be included in the main body of the report.

**1. Describe in summary the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes.**

The report gives details of and seeks approval for public realm proposals at Market Street, Westhoughton. The proposal is key Development Priority (KDP) with the approved masterplan for Westhoughton town centre

**2. Is this a new policy / function / service or review of existing one?**

The proposal is not new and merely seeks approval for the remodelling of the public realm along the street

**3. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?**

The main stakeholders are the council, businesses, residents and visitors who will have an enhanced town centre environment that lessens the dominance of vehicular traffic along market street in favour of pedestrians and cyclists.

**4. In summary, what are the anticipated (positive or negative) impacts of the proposal?**

The proposals will create a much improved main street in Westhoughton town centre that is safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

**5. What, if any, cumulative impact could the proposal have?**

It is likely that the proposal will have a positive impact on climate change through the increased level planting and a potential reduction in vehicular traffic. Additional seating and a quieter street scene offer relaxation and dwell time that is likely to aid mental wellbeing.

6. With regard to the stakeholders identified above and the diversity groups set out below:

	Is there any potential for (positive or negative) differential impact? Could this lead to adverse impact and if so what?  List any adverse impacts identified from data or engagement	Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason? Please state why	Please detail what actions you will take to remedy any identified adverse impact i.e. actions to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations
<b>Race</b> (this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality, and caste, and includes refugees and migrants; and gypsies and travellers)	There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.	N/A	N/A
<b>Religion or belief</b> (this includes any religion with a clear structure and belief system. Belief means any religious or philosophical belief. The Act also covers lack of religion or belief)	There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.	N/A	N/A

<p><b>Disability</b> (a person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)</p>	<p>There is great potential positive differential impact though level surfaces and safer road crossings. The pavements will be widened where appropriate</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The long terms risk of differential impact will be prevented through the implementation of a 'Street for All' design approach being taken We have studied the Disability Rights Commission's guidelines on highways and streets concerning the new Disability Equality Duty. Reference has been made to technical and design guidelines relating to physical access in preparing the scheme design. The design has drawn upon good practice and comments already made about other public realm and streetscape designs. Street furniture will be provided in line with the adopted Public Realm Strategy, which has been assessed by local disabled people.</p>
<p><b>Sex / Gender</b></p>	<p>There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<b>Gender reassignment / Gender identity</b> (a person who's deeply felt and individual experience of gender may not correspond to the sex assigned to them at birth, they may or may not propose to, start or complete a process to change their gender. A person does not need to be under medical supervision to be protected)	There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.	N/A	N/A
<b>Age</b> (people of all ages)	The creation of a 'Streets for All' treatment will have a positive impact for all age groups by providing a safe and accessible environment with appropriate seating allowing dwell time	N/A	The long terms risk of differential impact will be prevented as the 'Streets for All' design is considered good practice.
<b>Sexual orientation</b> - people who are lesbian, gay and bisexual.	There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.	N/A	N/A
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b> (Only in relation to due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)	There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.	N/A	N/A
<b>Caring status</b> (including pregnancy & maternity)	There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.	N/A	N/A



<b>Socio-economic</b>	There are no differential impacts to this diversity group.	N/A	N/A
<b>Other comments or issues.</b>	N/A		
<b>Please provide a list of the evidence used to inform this EIA, such as the results of consultation or other engagement, service take-up, service monitoring, surveys, stakeholder comments and complaints where appropriate.</b>	The masterplan proposals for Westhoughton town centre were the subject of a thorough public consultation process with drop in sessions arranged on different days of the week and at different times to ensure every opportunity for participation was given. Prior to receiving formal approval by the Executive Cabinet Member it was agreed by the Westhoughton Town Centre Steering Group made up of all Ward Members, Town Council members, local businesses, GMP and a range local organisations. The proposal is broadly in line with masterplan.		

**This EIA form and report has been checked and countersigned by the Directorate Equalities Officer before proceeding to Executive Cabinet Member(s)**

Please confirm the outcome of this EIA:

No major impact identified, therefore no major changes required – proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjustments to remove barriers / promote equality (mitigate impact) have been identified – proceed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Positive impact for one or more groups justified on the grounds of promoting equality - proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact/missed opportunities for promoting equality – this requires a strong justification	<input type="checkbox"/>
The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and rethink	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Contact Officer**

Name: Phil Lamb

Date: 10/02/22

**Directorate Equalities Lead Officer**

Name: Tammy Tatman

Date: 10/02/22