



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities and Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Councillor Le Marinel, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	16 November 2023

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Cleveleys Public Realm Works

Key decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to grant £400,000 of UKSPF to Lancashire County Council to fund Cleveleys Public Realm Works.

2. Corporate priorities

- 2.1 Support our town centres to recover and develop through delivery of the UKSPF 2023-25.
- 2.2 Collaborate with our partners to facilitate cleaner, greener, vibrant town centres.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That approval is given to enter into a grant funding agreement with Lancashire County Council to the sum of £400,000 to design and construct the Cleveleys Public Realm Works project.
- 3.2 That the capital programme be updated to reflect the spend profile of £400,000 in 2024/25.

4. Background

4.1 The UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda providing £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. Wyre's allocation being £3,949,132 (which includes £20,000 for preparing the Investment Plan).

4.2 The Investment Plan of projects for Wyre was selected via a project selection group from a shortlist compiled from proposals returned via three routes, namely:

- Town Centre Partnership Boards (established as part of the council's Town Centre Strategy Fund programme) nominating projects from priorities as set out in Town Centre Regeneration Frameworks.
- A long-list of county-wide business, people and skills support projects supplied via Lancashire County Council.
- A long-list of borough-wide projects which picked up priorities that were outside the remit of the Regeneration Frameworks.

4.3 Projects were selected based on the strength of their strategic fit in addressing key local needs and providing outputs which will support the council's Town Centre Recovery Projects' objectives.

4.4 Cleveleys Public Realm Works, is one of the proposed Investment Plan projects. It is identified in the Cleveleys Together Partnership Group's [Cleveleys Town Centre Regeneration Framework](#) (Theme 1: The High Street – Environment and Public Realm, section 1, project No.2).

4.5 Cleveleys Together Partnership Group established a working group of key stakeholders and appointed a consultancy team to undertake a Town Centre Study funded by UKSPF which explored:

- Feasibility of pedestrianising or having pedestrian priority for a section of Victoria Road West.
- Reviewed options for high street bus stops and the use of the bus station.
- Assessed the use of the council's car parks, the feasibility of a multi-storey car park and concepts for improved pedestrian routes from the car parks to the high street.
- Options to improve highway safety and the pedestrian environment along Victoria Road West and surrounding areas.

4.6 The findings and proposals were presented to the community and relevant stakeholders for their input and feedback during September and early October (See Appendix 1 Cleveleys Transport Study Proposals). The majority of responses to the public consultation were received from residents. There was general support for the improvements and investment in the town centre, as well as comments in favour of no change and maintaining the status quo. Proposals were grouped and respondents asked to prioritise how important each group was to them.

The greatest support was shown for road safety improvements to Victoria Road West.

- 4.7** Lancashire County Council are the landowner and have the necessary skillset and statutory powers to design, permit and implement the public realm works as a whole package.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** The working group, taking into account feedback received, have put forward a preferred scope of public realm works for funding by the UKSPF. Of the Cleveleys Transport Study Proposals these works include:

- Proposal One: Improving the pedestrian route from the Derby Road Car Parks to access the high street.
- Proposal Two: Pedestrianising the section of Princess Road between the junction with Victoria Road West and Cleveleys Bus Station.
- Proposal Three: Road safety improvements along Victoria Road West.
- Proposal Four: Installation of digital screen at the Bus Station.
- Proposal Five: Traffic management and road infrastructure changes to Rough Lea Road.

- 5.2** Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council will enter into a grant agreement whereby Lancashire County Council will design and construct the project, to the value of £400,000 in 2024/25. A detailed scope of work is to be agreed during the design stage of the project, as well as the agreement to commence construction. Work to the highway will be adopted by Lancashire County Council upon completion.

- 5.3** The detailed design, consultation and possible implementation of proposed coach parking on Derby Road East Car Park will be undertaken by Wyre Council as the car parks are not a highway asset.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1** The findings of the study and proposals presented for customer feedback are the culmination of options considered by the working group. Options to fully pedestrianise part of Victoria Road West or to overhaul the bus station have been developed but the costs to implement would exceed the UKSPF monies available. The working group have agreed to take a phased approach to delivery of the proposals for the high street and to pursue alternative funding opportunities to deliver these as future phases of work.

- 6.2** The working group have focussed on works that best meet the eligibility requirements of UKSPF 'Intervention E1: Funding for improvement to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people.' Moreover, which contribute positively towards outcomes such as increased footfall and improved perceived/experiences accessibility.

6.3 The priority rating placed on the proposals by respondents to the September consultation will be taken into consideration should selection of the improvements be required due to budget or timescale constraints at a future date.

6.4 Lancashire County Council are the landowner and only body that can deliver the design and construction as a whole package and are considered to be the most economic, effective and efficient way of delivering the project taking into account the project value and timeframe available.

7. Delegated functions

7.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive functions delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council’s constitution): “To determine payment of grants to outside bodies within allocated budgets” and the executive functions delegated to the Street Scene, Parks & Open Spaces Portfolio Holder “To consider issues relating to the development and co-ordination of the Council’s approach to public realm.”

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	<p>The capital programme be updated to reflect the spend profile of £400,000 in 2024/25. The project will be funded from the UKSPF.</p> <p>Works £270,500 Traffic management costs £25,200 LCC Overheads £35,200 Fees £18,800 Contingency £50,300 Grand total £400,000</p>
Legal	<p>The council will enter into a grant funding agreement with Lancashire County Council for the delivery of the Cleveleys Public Realm Works project.</p>
Climate Change	<p>The nature of the public realm works, and the requirement to replace materials so as to implement the improvements, is such that there is waste and use of new materials. The potential outcomes of the public realm works such as increased local shopping and better use of transport arising from a safer, better designed town centre show a climate benefit.</p>

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

Appendix 1: Cleveleys Transport Study Proposals