

Report to CABINET **PART A**

Accessible Oldham – Henshaw Street

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth

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17th October 2022

Reason for Decision

To approve recommendations relating to the Accessible Oldham Programme that will create an improved town centre pedestrian link and connectivity.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report relates to the Accessible Oldham Programme that will create an improved town centre pedestrian link and connectivity.

The costs can be financed from within the existing external Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham scheme.

Recommendations

That Cabinet is requested to approve:

- i. Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth to finalise terms together with any ancillary documentation and contracts as outlined in the restricted part of this report.
- ii. Delegated authority to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representative to sign and affix the Common Seal of the Council to all contractual documentation necessary to give effect to the above authorisations and delegations and all as described in the restricted part of this report.
- iii. To note that the costs can be financed from within the existing Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham scheme.
- iv. All other recommendations are as contained within the restricted part of this report.

Accessible Oldham – Henshaw Street

1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide and approve recommendations relating to part of the Accessible Oldham Programme that will create an improved town centre pedestrian link and connectivity.

The proposal will create an improved pedestrian access and connectivity in the town centre significantly improving the linkage on Henshaw Street, Albion Street and to the proposed linear park.

The costs will be financed from within the existing external Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham scheme.

Accessible Oldham is part of The Creating a Better Place programme which is focused on building more homes for the borough's residents, creating new jobs through town centre regeneration and ensuring Oldham is a great place to visit with lots of family friendly and accessible places to go.

A central focus of this programme includes the redevelopment of the former Tommyfield market which includes a proposed linear park and residential development. Improved pedestrian access will enhance the connectivity of this location.

2 Funding

In April 2020, Oldham Council submitted a total £15.55m bid to the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) for three town centre projects, Egyptian Room, Prudential Building and Accessible Oldham.

In December 2020, the Council received an in-principal funding offer of £10.75m, representing approximately 69% of the amount requested from the FHSF and leaving a funding gap of £4.8m.

The Government accepted the revised funding envelope described below on 1st April 2021:

	FHSF Bid Amount (£000)	Council Match Funding (£000)	Total (£000)
Egyptian Room	1,103	267	1,370
Prudential Building	8,165	2,014	10,179
Accessible Oldham	1,482	8,720	12,950
Total	10,750	11,001	24,499

In respect of the Council's match funding for Accessible Oldham this will be from the Mayors Cycle and Walking Fund and Growth Deal 3 and this would not require any additional internal Council resources.

The design and business case for Albion St (GD3) has been approved and the MCF elements are currently in design and will follow TfGM governance to gain approval. The designs will be submitted to TfGM design review panel for approval prior to completion of the business case for submission. The MCF schemes are split into 3 separate business cases:

- West Street
- Lord St/Rock St
- Market Place/Curzon St/Fountain St

The West St design has been approved by the Portfolio Holder, Leader and TfGM DRP. Approvals will be sought for the other two phases as and when each design is complete.

The design for Market Place/Curzon St/Fountain St is at concept stage. Moving forward, a workshop is to be organised with relevant stakeholders to inform the design for the subsequent stages. This will include the discussion around the current WOW Bed and Play area in relation to the overall design. The landscape architects brief includes an element of play within the design and this will be developed within the series of workshops. The final output will be determined as part of the workshops with the stakeholders.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 The options considered vary from not continuing with the programme of work through to full delivery and progression of the recommendations in this report.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Progress the recommendations that will deliver this part of the Accessible Oldham Programme.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation on the proposals for Accessible Oldham has taken place through the Council's Big Town Centre conversation and more specifically as the project continues to roll out. Members have been briefed on the proposals.

6 Financial Implications

Financial Implications are described in the restricted part of this report.

7 **Legal Services Comments**

Legal Comments are described in the restricted part of this report.

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 This proposal forms part of the broader re-development and regeneration of the town centre and as such supports delivery of the Oldham Model; helping to accelerate economic recovery and sustain a thriving town centre for our communities.

(Amanda Richardson, Policy Manager)

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 None

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 Risk assessments are described in the restricted part of this report.

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 Property Implications are described in the restricted part of this report.

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 There are no procurement implications. The recommended approach identified in the report will need to comply with the Future High Streets Funding Agreement, and Council's Land and Property Protocols.

(Dan Cheetham, Commercial Procurement Unit).

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 ESR-23-22

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 Reference to background papers are contained in the restricted part of this report.

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendices are contained in the restricted part of this report.