Towns and Villages Programme

Economy & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 July 2023



Agenda and Objectives

- **≻**Background
- ➤ Strategic Context
- ➤ Investment Plan
- ➤ Delivery to Date
- ➤ Outputs and Outcomes
- **≻**Case Studies
- **≻**Summary
- **≻**Questions

Background



Background

- Three Cabinet reports 2018-2021 set programme principles, five delivery themes, and a full investment plan
- Two full rounds of Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) consultation identified localised priorities and tested investment plan assumptions
- Targeted Delivery Plans (TDPs) for 7 housing areas prepared
- Towns and Villages Task & Finish groups established by all AAPs
- Funding, delivery and planned works were reviewed as part of Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 13) considerations
- Continued commitment to supporting the transformation of the County's towns and Villages
- County defined thematic investment with locally defined spend



Strategic Context



Strategic Context

Devolution

- £48m per year investment fund
- Initial £17.4m brownfield fund
- New powers to drive the regeneration, including compulsory purchase powers and the ability to establish mayoral development corporations
- Transport funding and powers
- Specific Rural Portfolio

Inclusive Economic Strategy

- Place is one of the 5Ps
- Towns and Villages one of the key drivers of that section of masterplan
- Emerging Actions rolling review of Masterplans



Additional funding and investment

Total £94.2m

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund £30.8m
- Rural England Prosperity Fund £3.5m
- Multiply £2.8m
- National Heritage Lottery Fund Seaham Townscape Heritage £1.6m
- Future High Street Fund £19.9m
- Heritage Action Zone £2.6m
- Stronger Towns £33m



Investment Plan



Investment Plan Themes



To help achieve more and better Jobs through support for town and neighbourhood centres; link with Partner and wider investments to maximise outcomes; and to maximise integration between council activity and communities:



To support the accelerated delivery of the Housing Strategy; deliver resilient, inclusive and connected communities; and maximising the benefits from S106 monies and private investment;



To create local opportunities for physical activity; mental well-being through high quality environment; and support opportunities for addressing climate change helping to enable people to live long and independent lives;

£4m Budget

£1.3m Spend to April 2023 £1.8m Committed £900k remaining uncommitted

£8.3m Budget

£1.3m Spend to April 2023 £6.2m Committed £800k remaining uncommitted

£500k Budget

£331k Spend to April 2023 £165k Committed



Investment Plan Themes



To drive and support regeneration activities within our towns and villages; find innovative solutions to underused/derelict land and buildings; support independent retailers and businesses to achieving more and better jobs; and to provide clean and attractive built environments that communities are proud of; and

£3.4m Budget

£1.4m Spend to April 2023 £1m Committed £990k remaining uncommitted



To ensure connected communities through excellent connectivity for businesses, workforce and learning to help ensure our residents can access more and better jobs; optimise the use of well-maintained and connected transport corridors; encourage the use of alternative modes of transport including walking and cycling for long and independent lives.

£4.6m Budget

£445k Spend to April 2023 £2.6m Committed £1.4m remaining uncommitted



Delivery to date



Total Spend to-date

- **£6.3m** spent by end of 22/23
- A further £12.9m committed
- £5.9m remaining to be allocated against investment plan priorities
- £470k additional government funding from Reopening High Streets Safely (RHSS),
 Welcome Back Fund (WBF) on cross cutting projects during 20/21
- £18.3m additional central government funding leveraged in (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero)
- £1.5m additional funding secured for Walking and Cycling from Central Government Department for Transport via Sustrans

Spend to-date & Committed

Theme	Project	Total	Spend to date	Committed	Remaining funding
	Digital High Street	775,000	255,516		519,484
	Retail Hub	300,000	47,252	167,000	85,748
Strategic Investments	Neighbourhood Retail Improvements	2,750,000	976,719	1,604,965	168,316
	Towns and Villages Vibrancy	200,000	33,845	42,000	124,155
	Community Housing	650,000	2,027	134,000	513,973
	Housing Opportunities Fund	150,000	85,500	64,500	0
Hausing and Community	Improving Community Resilience	2,000,000	198,714	1,503,982	297,304
Housing and Community	Green Homes Fuel Efficiency Programme	950,000	950,000	0	0
	Horden Regeneration Programme	4,500,000	98,840	4,401,160	0
	Allotment Improvement Programme	75,000	0	75,000	0
Environment & Health	Enhanced Environmental Maintenance	500,000	335,299	164,701	0
	Vulnerable Buildings	1,250,000	98,618	245,000	906,382
	Property Reuse and Conversion	500,000	370,000	50,000	80,000
Built Environment	Dean Bank Clearance and Improvement	150,000	145,942	0	4,058
Built Environment	Easington Colliery Programme	1,050,000	522,886	527,114	0
	South Moor Improvement Programme	200,000	7,728	192,272	0
	Sacriston Workshop Conversion	200,000	200,000	0	0
Transport 9 Commontivity	Walking and Cycling Routes	3,750,000	203,312	2,300,598	1,246,090
Transport & Connectivity	Neighbourhood Parking and Circulation	850,000	241,835	370,000	238,165
Local Programme	AAP Area Improvement Fund	4,200,000	1,496,797	1,024,133	1,679,070
Total		25,000,000	6,270,830	12,866,425	5,862,745



Outputs and Outcomes

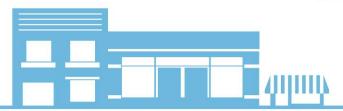


Outcomes

- Greater focus on joined up delivery of Place agenda
- Packaged approach to project delivery maximising investment and community outcomes while minimising disruption
- Provided an anchor programme for £20m of match funding and supported and guided wider investment funding of an additional £94m
- Approach has informed and supported delivery of wider programmes
 - Reopening your High Street, Welcome Back Fund, LAD programme
 - Informing the development and delivery of the Communities and Place Investment Strand of the UK Shared Prosperity Programme 2022-25



April 2022 – April 2023



262 businesses engaged with 72 retailers

have applied or applying for support through our Targeted Business Improvement scheme Created

18 new businesses and brought 19

properties back into use Created

106 new jobs Safeguard 4 4 2

142



Attracted an additional

£1,203,502

of private sector investment

into County Durham retail and leisure businesses



£514,254 paid through grants

Works underway will create

71 jobs and attract £2,144,110 of private investment

through award of grants totalling

£1,253,701







Outputs delivered

- 50 Areas scoped for Neighbourhood Retail Improvements and underway
- 35 Vibrancy Events have taken place
- 14 Retail Training courses delivered
- 5x Town Centre wifi installations completed
- 4 vacant DCC properties converted / refurbished providing 7 residential units
- 6 Community Resilience projects approved in full, 1 complete, 1 underway, 4 pending start dates and 3 business cases under development
- 1,846 properties receiving energy efficiency measures.
- Action taken against 10 long term vulnerable properties. 6 properties demolished
- 3 property reuse loans paid out, 1 business case pending decision.
- 4 Neighbourhood Parking schemes implemented
- 2 schemes underway Waskerley Way Consett & NCN1 East Durham sections of Footpath / Cycleway created / upgraded and 4 Feasibility Studies completed

Delivery by location

Geographical split of monies paid out

Towns & Villages Programme	Total spend to March 2023	Total expediture to date	3 Towns	4 Together	BASH	Chester-le- Street & District	Derwent Valley	Durham	East Durham	East Durham Rural	Mid Durham	Great Aycliffe & Middridge	Spennymoor	Stanley	Teesdale	Weardale
Digital High Street	£255,516	£269,878			£55,358	£55,402			£61,110					£45,458	£52,550	
Retail Hub	£47,252	£47,252	£3,350		£6,701	£9,549	£4,916	£7,083	£4,917			£7,383		£3,353		
Neighbourhood Retailing	£976,719	£1,051,719	£212,761	£33,378	£19,486	£177,616	£59,806	£129,074	£155,594	£28,641	£31,535	£19,565	£116,498	£25,360	£33,018	£9,387
Towns & Villages Vibrancy	£33,845	£45,845							£28,922			£4,923	£12,000			
Vulnerable Buildings	£98,618	£98,618	2 = 2	a),		£3,795	i e		£94,823							
Community Housing	£2,027	£2,027			£2,027											
Property Reuse, Conversion & Improvement	£370,000	£370,000		·a	£150,000				£120,000				£100,000			
Housing Opportunity Fund	£85,500	£85,500			£85,500											
Enhanced Environmental Maintenance	£335,299	£338,490	£10,975	£17,023	£26,520	£30,213	£27,496	£24,834	£84,797	£8,516	£38,952	£9,568	£21,452	£13,525	£11,503	£13,116
Allotment Improvement Programme	£0	£0														
T&VC Walking & Cycling Routes	£203,312	£203,312			£2,985		£71	£61,782	£135,447		£42				£2,985	
Dean Bank Bernicia Environment Improvements	£145,942	£145,942		£145,942								501		5.0		-
Easington Colliery School	£522,886	£522,886							£522,886							
Traffic Neighbourhood Parking & Circulation	£241,835	£241,835	£37,959			£31,621		£35,255	£137,000							
South Moor Development Site	£7,728	£7,728												£7,728		
Sacriston Co-op Buildings Refurbishment Grants	£200,000	£200,000				£200,000										-
Improving Community Resilience (inc Redhills)	£198,714	£489,954						£150,000	£279,954						£60,000	
Horden Housing Feasbility Plan	£98,840	£98,840							£98,840					-		
Green Homes - Phase 1b & 2	£950,000	£950,000	£12,825	£176,225	£163,400	£94,145	£110,675	£23,340	£135,565	£21,090	£18,555	£67,735	£21,090	£78,280	£27,075	
AAP Area Improvement Programme II	£1,496,797	£2,138,702	£210,000	£141,685	£210,000	£84,278	£210,000	£170,306	£170,000	£164,431	£187,786	£170,916	£157,300	£50,000	£180,000	£32,000
TOTAL	£6,270,830	£7,308,528	£487,870.00	£514,253.00	£721,977.00	£686,619.00	£412,964.00	£601,674.00	£2,029,855.00	£222,678.00	£276,870.00	£280,090.00	£428,340.00	£223,704.00	£367,131.00	£54,503.00

Total payment split approximately across identified AAP areas

Spend across geographical areas

Committed places in development/designs/fees/publicly announced



Target Outputs 2023/24

- 6 Neighbourhood Retail Improvements to Public Realm
- 50 Targeted Business Improvement Schemes
- 12 Vibrancy Events
- 12 Retail Training Courses
- 6 Improving Community Resilience Projects
- 12 Allotment Improvement Schemes
- 10 Enhanced Environmental Schemes
- 5 Vulnerable Buildings
- 2 Property Reuse and Conversion Loans
- South moor Site side elevation
- 5 Neighbourhood Parking and Circulation Schemes
- Walking and Cycling 3 Schemes to complete on site and 3 feasibility studies



Theme	Project	2	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Strategic Investments	Digital High Street	Bishop Auckland & S Chester-le-Street, Se	tanley Pilots, then eaham, Barnard Castle	Designed Wi-Fi scheme for installation in Consett Spennymoor and Crook, Durham City Design underway	Continue offer Bishop Auckland, Stanley, Seaham, Chester le Street, Barnard Castle. Investigate new opportunities in emerging technology	Phase 2 of delivery digital offer
	Retail Hub	Service training; Eme	ness training; Customer ergency First Aid at Work; ing training; 5x drop-in ss support;	14 training courses have been undertaken across the County, covering Digital Media for Business, Customer Service & Sales, Level 2 Food Safety, Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work	Engagement to Retail Sector offer Re 12 available courses: 2x Digital Media in Business training 2x Customer Service training 2x Emergency First Aid training 2x Food Safety training	Will ascertain Retail needs to develop the offer
	Neighbourhood Retail Improvements	Gilesgate x3 Proudfoot Drive Esh Winning South Stanley New Shildon Willington Silverdale Place Coundon Pelton Wheatley Hill Castleside Tow Law	Annfield Plain Cornforth Lanchester Blackhall Framwellgate x3 Murton Sacriston Easington Colliery Ushaw Moor Blackhill Station Town Haswell South Moor	Newton Hall x3 Belmont Carville Thornley Sherburn Hill New Brancepeth Bearpark Brandon West Rainton Pittington Wolsingham Stanhope, Frosterley	Delivery in: Framwellgate Moor, South Moor Coxhoe, Wheatley Hill, Spennymoor, New Brancepeth, Newton Hall, Tow Law, Seaham, Crook, Sherburn Road, Brandon, Ch Le St, Frosterley, Bearpark, Consett, Ferryhill, Horden	Delivery in: Thornley, Shildon, Cornforth, Annfield Plan, Pelton, Stanley, West Auckland, Framwellgate Moor, Ushaw Moor, Sherburn Road, Consett, Coundon, Eldon, Willington, Wolsingham, Stanhope

Theme	Project	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Strategic Investments	Town and Village Vibrancy	Bishop Auckland Food Festival Seaham Food Festival Durham Book Festival S&DR community engagement Digital Library development	Bishop Auckland Food Festival, Seaham Food Festival Creative Economy Dev Digital Library Delivered Activities, Festivals and Events across all main towns "Winter Wonders" Oct – Dec Durham City Christmas Festival	Bishop Auckland & Seaham Food Festivals Programme of Town Centre Events and Activities developed and delivered Linking UKSPF (12 across main towns) plus 75th Anniversary of New Towns at Peterlee and Newton Aycliffe Spennymoor Family Fun Street Festival	Events and Activities scope to develop following feedback with communities
	Community Housing	Discussions took place with; Durham Action on Single Housing (DASH) Craghead Development Trust Oakenshaw Community Association Canney Communities	East Durham Community Initiatives (EDCI) completed	Canny Hill Bishop Auckland is in development stage Further opportunities for community housing schemes to be considered	Further opportunities for community housing schemes to be considered
Housing and Community	Housing Opportunities Fund	Interventions in Targeted Delivery Plans areas	Shildon Peoples Centre converted to 4 x 1 bedroom Flats Coundon Grange 3 bungalows refurbished back into use	7	1
	Improving Community Resilience	Houndsgill Viaduct Scheduled Monument Project feasibility Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club Community Building	P&HRC Planning Approved, funding dev. Lowes Barn New Build Redhills Revealed GOL	Redhills Revealed Delivery Cotherstone Chapel Woodhouse Close X 6 further schemes to be delivered	14 Schemes ref report
	Green Homes Programme (External Wall Insulation Installs)	300 Properties/ EWI's complete	1846 Properties benefitted including solar phot voltaic panels, renewable heating	7	7



Theme	Project	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Housing and Community	Horden Regeneration Programme	Identify investment priorities through masterplan Commence acquisition and clearance of targets/problem properties	Undertake site assembly and marketing	Preparation and finalisation of Acquisition and Demolition Strategy and Decant Strategy. Autumn 2023 Cabinet, which will seek approval for the proposed delivery approach, CPO approach and the acquisition and demolition of properties.	Planning application to be prepared and submitted Acquisition of properties by negotiation will commence. Subject to approval, demolition of properties can be expected in Q4 of 24/25.
	Allotment Improvement Programme	F		Identify and implement 12x allotment improvement schemes	Identify and implement 12x allotment improvement schemes
	AAP Small Area Improvement Fund	Engage with 28 AAPs and deliver 28 schemes, identifying Small Area Programme opportunities	Delivery of AAP Small Area improvement schemes	Delivery of AAP Small Area improvement schemes	Delivery of AAP Small Area improvement schemes
Environmental and Health Environmental Maintenance		Deliver environmental improvement programme aligned to neighbourhood retail programme and targeted delivery plan areas	Delivered environmental improvements in 14 Areas	Deliver environmental improvement programme aligned to neighbourhood retail programme and targeted delivery plan areas	
Built Environment	Vulnerable Buildings	Address 3x priority buildings Stanley/Shildon, 2x buildings in Chester-le-Street	20 properties being brought back into use 10 with Action Taken	Address 5 priority properties	Address 5 priority properties
	Property Reuse and Conversion	5 Loans approved	3 Loans approved	Review loan take up and repayment rate Target 2 Loan approvals	Review loan take up and repayment rate Target 3 Loan approvals
	Dean Bank Clearance and Improvement	Conclude landscaping of recent clearance sites.	Demolition of 36 properties, landscape solution completed	1	1



Theme	Project	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
	Easington Colliery Programme	Complete demolition programme at former Colliery School	Completed phased programme of clearance Review End use ref pocket park see report	Develop end use solution	Delivery or facilitate end use solution
Built Environment	South Moor Improvement Programme	Improve key problem site and vulnerable property	DCC CCS developing design solution. Landowners' permissions now in place.	Costs and delivery	T
	Sacriston Workshop Conversion	Improvements to Sacriston Coop Buildings, Workshops 4,5 & 6 completed to Coop Buildings	2 further units brought back into use creating 5 independent spaces. CLLD Match funding attracted supporting 4 units	Support to CIC to attract external funding to complete empty units remaining potential UKSPF	I
Transport and Connectivity	Walking and Cycling Routes	Audit of opportunities along the Weardale Way Enhanced walking and cycling linked to Stockton and Darlington Railway 200th anniversary	Feasibility and design: Railway Paths to Bishop Auckland, south of Pesspool Wood to Wingate East Durham Rural Corridor at Trimdon link to Coxhoe, Relley Bridge, Houndsgill Viaduct, Belmont Viaduct, Barnard Castle to Bishop Auckland	Feasibility and design continue and Delivery: NCN 1 East Shotton, Wingate, South Hetton Waskerley Way C2C Auckland Walk Spennymoor to Coundon Seaham to Ryhope Murton to Dalton Park link	Delivery continues from programme feasibility outlined in 22/23 and 22/24
	Neighbourhood Parking and Circulation	Easington Village Parking/ Traffic project Identification and design of four parking and circulation schemes Parkside Traffic Improvement scheme	Delivered Willington Car Park, Sherburn Hill Hub, Sacriston, Crook	Ash Crescent Seaham, Framwellgate Moor, Blackhall Colliery, Newton Hall, Shildon x2, Annfield Plain, Gilesgate	To be identified following costs and delivery of 23/24 schemes linking NRP Areas listed.



Case Studies



Neighbourhood Retail improvements

Neighbourhood Retail Improvements

The project has continued to scope areas as outlined in the Investment Plan which are used to identify opportunities for potential improvements which link across the programmes themes and also to wider investments and ensure cross service funding and maximising external opportunities.

Projects have included continuing to invest and support the retail sector with grant support via the Targeted Business Improvement Scheme, identifying problem sites, engaging owners, implementing public realm improvements, enhancing the local environmental with new street furniture, identifying issues with parking and circulation in key hubs around schools, doctors, retail parades etc

Key Stats Last Year:

- 50 Areas scoped
- 262 Retail Businesses engaged
- Prior to COVID average yearly engagements were 120
- 73 Businesses supported
- 248 jobs safeguarded/created

- To Support 50 retail businesses through application process and improve premises to aid growth, development
- To Safeguard/Create 250 Jobs
- To Attract £2.1m private sector investment





Enhancing public realm

Enhanced Environmental Maintenance/Public Realm

Environment and public realm schemes complement retail support enhancing our communities environment and place.

- Projects are often cross service funded which adds value and maximises benefits, ensuring a coordinated delivery approach.
- For example: Framwellgate Moor Front Street Neighbourhood Retail Improvement scheme enhancing the public realm, installing traffic calming measures and improved crossing points aligned with delivery of the road resurfacing funded from Strategic Highways and C&G involved in Landscaping works in a true working partnership approach, minimizing disruption to local residents

Key Stats Last Year:

- 4 Public Realm Completed
- 1 Underway
- 14 Enhanced Environmental Schemes completed

- 6 Public Realm Planned
- 10 Enhanced Environmental Maintenance Schemes planned





Town Centre Vibrancy Events

Town Centre Vibrancy Events

- Building upon established events programmes in place
- Seeking to deliver further events to drive footfall
- A mix of Free Family Fun, Arts, Cultural, Creativity Activities & Events
- Help retailers to attract and encourage dwell time and to boost trade

Key Stats Last Year:

- 35 Events Delivered
- Seaham & Bishop Auckland Food Festivals
- Countywide Winter Wonders Programme all 12 Towns
- Spennymoor Family Fun Day pictured 27 May 2023

- Seaham & Bishop Auckland Food Festivals
- Christmas Markets
- Fire and Ice
- Peterlee and Newton Aycliffe 75
 Years Activities and Events
- Countywide Winter Wonders Programme
- Countywide Tin Arts Inclusive Dance





Digital High Street and Retail Hubs

Digital High Street and Retail Hub

- Digital High Street project established to provide free WIFI across main towns as part of the shift to leisure focussed uses in town centres to aid user experience, functionality and extend dwell time and map town centre usage
- Retail Hub has a number of strands
 - To provide bespoke training offer for the retail sector in local venues, premises online and virtual to fit retailers needs
 - Shared retail space, temporary retail offerings and meanwhile uses, helping to tackle long term empty units

Key Stats Last Year:

- 5 Digital high street WIFI installations in 5 Towns
- 14 Training Courses completed
- Training moving back to face to face provision following COVID
- Procurement Awarded as a Call Off Contract to support temporary shop dressing

- Engagement with retailers to ensure retail training offer fit for purpose completed in Spennymoor, Chester le Street and Consett (May-June 2023)
- Proposal to continue offer and review – 12 Training Courses target
- Working with owners in Durham City, Bishop Auckland, Peterlee to tackle long term empty properties





Housing and Community

To address long term empty properties in communities most effected by them is a key outcome identified by the Housing Strategy. Support for acquisition, clearance, conversion and improvement of property.

&

Aligned to priorities of Housing Strategy the Green Home Fuel Efficiency Programme is targeted to directly improve poorest performing properties which result in fuel poverty – Levered in match £18,257,422.00

Key Stats Last Year:

- 1846 Properties benefitted from Green Home Fuel Efficiency
- 2000 measures installed (solar, renewable heating and insulation)
- Shildon Peoples Centre full refurbished Providing 4 x 1 bedroom flats
- Coundon Grange Bungalows Providing 3 refurbished and back into use
- External works to Shildon Peoples Centre to complete 2023/24
- All other projects fully complete





Housing and Community

Improving Community Resilience

The project was established to address localised issues of concern which can help maintain the social fabric and improve resilience of local communities.

It has 3 key objectives:-

- Provide targeted investment for communities to save community assets that would otherwise be lost
- Strengthen capacity and capability in communities to support them to shape their places and develop sustainable community businesses, services and spaces
- Empower communities in left behind places to level up

Key Stats this year:

- 6 GOLS issued £983,400.00
- £8.4m Match
- 1 scheme completed Lowes Barn Community Facility featured right

Places Supported:

Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club, Cotherstone Chapel, Redhills Revealed, Woodhouse Close, Fishburn Youth and Community

- 1 underway, 4 pending start on site
- 3 Business Cases being prepared
- 5 applications being supported through process





Transport and Connectivity

Walking and Cycling Routes

Walking and Cycling Routes

The walking and cycling programme looks to enhance the investments made through other projects and schemes to add value. Particular priority is given to addressing breaks in the current walking and cycling network and connecting residential areas and employment sites with the walking and cycling infrastructure. During AAP consultations further opportunities for walking and cycling at local level were identified.

Key Stats Last Year:

- £1.5m additional Funding secured Walking and Cycling from Central Government Department for Transport via Sustrans
- Works underway along the Waskerley Way (Consett) and addressing breaks in the network /surface improvements along sections of NCN1 in East Durham

- NCN1 continue towards south towards county boundary
- Waskerley Way C2C
 Surface/drainage improvements
- Auckland Walk Railway Path Spennymoor to Coundon
- Belmont Viaduct, Bishop Auckland to Barnard Castle, Hownsgill viaduct feasibility





Summary



Summary

- £19m Towns and Villages spent and committed to date, £20m of direct match funding from other funding programmes, and an additional £94m of wider funding and investment
- Programme continues to be delivered in line with established themes and approved investment plan
- Focus on delivery in deprived/left behind areas and linking development / investment packages to maximise impact
- Ongoing development of Towns and Villages delivery is based on strategic themes and spend is then aligned at a local level
- Potential further UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Funding for Town Centres,
 Community Resilience and Green Initiatives through Communities and Place theme
- Focus is now on delivering the £12.9m committed and allocating the remaining £5.9m



Questions?

