

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE		
<b>DATE:</b>	4 JANUARY 2023		
<b>TITLE:</b>	HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE (HSHAZ) PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	CLLR ADELE BARNETT-WARD	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	CULTURE AND LEISURE
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#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the HNL Committee with information on the achievements of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme over the past two and half years and what it aims to deliver in the remaining 16 months of the programme, despite the covid19 impacts and the current economic crisis.
- 1.2 In 2020 Historic England (HE) awarded the Council with up to £806,500, with the Council match-funding £808,500, to deliver a £1.6 million implementation programme in three of Reading's conservation areas over 4 years. The programme began 1 April 2020 and ends 31 March 2024.
- 1.3 The Council's project funding is aimed at the retail high street areas of three conservation areas: Castle Hill/Russell Street/Oxford Road, St Mary's Butts/Castle Street, and Market Place/London Street. The Oxford Road character area within the Castle Hill/Russell Street/Oxford Road area is the top priority for the funding within the Reading Heritage Action Zone.
- 1.4 Further to the Policy Committee report on the 20 July 2020 agreeing to commit the funds to deliver the HSHAZ programme and an update report on the progress of the programme for the HNL Committee on the 15 December 2020, this report summaries the key achievements and the next steps of this major conservation, cultural and community engagement programme that will end on the 31 March 2024.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Committee notes and agrees:

- 2.1 The achievements of the programme so far detailed in section 4.
- 2.2 The remaining elements and workplan agreed for the programme detailed in section 5.
- 2.3 The risks identified that might hinder achievement detailed in section 6.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The context in which the Council is delivering this programme is very different from when the bid was submitted in 2019. The impact of the coronavirus is far reaching and has had major effects on high streets, including local businesses and their communities. However, the HSHAZ programme continues to play an important role in the recovery of our high streets.

3.2 The HSHAZ has three strands to the programme.

#### **Conservation Strand aims**

The Reading HSHAZ Conservation Strand aims to improve the physical condition and viability of the high streets within the three conservation areas:

- By identifying those properties most at risk and engaging with property owners to help them to restore the buildings, to show them how to maintain the buildings and to share best practice. We want to see premises viably and fully occupied and footfall and customer satisfaction increasing.
- By developing a comprehensive strategy to improve the public realm across the HSHAZ. The outcome will be a better experience and sense of place for those living or working in or visiting the town centre.
- By supporting local businesses, the economy and local community and cultural initiatives by creating a positive sense of place through contributing to the heritage of their high street. The repair and reinstatement of the public realm, where this would significantly improve the high street and help to reinforce the commercial appeal and local distinctiveness of an area, based on detailed historical and townscape analysis.

#### **Community Engagement Strand**

The Reading HSHAZ Community Engagement Strand aims to meaningfully inform and engage with communities and stakeholders with a strong focus on the local communities in the most deprived areas. The Community Engagement Strand will:

- Inform and actively engage with a wide range of local communities and stakeholders on the Reading's HSHAZ programme to ensure, as far as possible, they have every opportunity to express their views to the project team at the design stage and before decisions are finalised.
- Ensure that the views and the needs of the local community are embedded within Reading's HSHAZ programme;
- Actively involve the communities and key interest parties in the enhancement of their local heritage to renew their sense of pride, identity, and ownership in developing the town's future.

Encourage the taking of an active and collaborative role with the programme and training opportunities, through which the community and local businesses are learning new skills, good practice and are becoming more resilient, creating a more prosperous and better maintained neighbourhood.

#### **Cultural Programme strand**

The Reading HSHAZ Cultural Programme Strand aims to support communities to co-create new work with artists and creative practitioners that is relevant, authentic and genuinely participatory for people. The Cultural Programme Strand within the three conservation areas will:

- Reveal hidden histories and the lives of the communities past and present.

- Create informative and creative outputs that uncover and celebrate those histories.
- Accomplish this by giving a voice to the community at the heart of these areas to tell these stories.
- Establish trusted open platforms, with strong local communities' partnerships, encouraging a long-lasting legacy.

The delivery of this programme has been impacted by the covid pandemic, the pressure on staffing, delay of staff appointment due to covid and delay in activities delivery due to the lockdown, supplier chain and contractors' shortage delaying conservation works and the current economic crisis. Despite these challenges, the programme has delivered successfully on the above aims and objectives over the past year and half through the key outputs and activities detailed below.

#### **4. ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROGRAMME TO DATE**

##### **4.1 Building Rescue and Shop Front improvements achievements:**

- Purcell Architects were appointed to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study on shop fronts and historic building within the three conservation areas, including building condition surveys identifying short term and long-term repairs, recommendations and estimated costs, which was completed in 2021. From this study, 28 buildings were shortlisted for a detailed condition survey. Following training and consultation sessions carried out by Purcell Architects with local businesses, despite the covid impacts and the economic pressures, we received 11 expressions of interest from property/business owners. Currently, 10 buildings/shop owners have signed a legal agreement to proceed with the architectural survey and the repairs on their properties.
- The HSHAZ will fund to the repair and conservation of 4 town centre monuments: Soane Monument, Jubilee Cross and Zinzan Tomb in St Mary's Churchyard and Queen Victoria statue in Town Hall Square, in collaboration with The Conservation Area Assessment Committee (CAAC), the Reading Civic Society (RCS) and Environmental and Commercial Services. Cliveden Conservation is currently undertaking schedule of works and costing for the repair and conservation of these 4 monuments.

##### **4.2 Public realm achievements:**

- 10 street name plates are added in conservation areas where they were missing or need to be replaced.
- A community engagement study was commissioned from Feria Urbanism, who conducted a series of on-site public engagement drop-in events across the three conservation areas in Reading town centre - Oxford Road, St Mary's Butts & Castle Street and Market Place & London Street. The purpose of these events was to gather information from people in the street to better understand what changes people would like to see to the public realm in these three heritage areas. The engagement activities included:
  - a. consultation sessions took place in Urban Room in Broad Street Mall;
  - b. audio recordings, street surveys, interviews and workshops took place on the high streets of HAZ;
  - c. A time specific online survey of short questions for each specific areas integrated into the website for leaving feedback.

Feria Urbanism has now gathered all the information and feedback from the engagement activities from more than 150 people and is now producing a report that would be presented for recommendations and will form the basis of a stage two feasibility study for key public realm improvements implementation within the HSHAZ

areas. The HSHAZ team will need to brief other relevant council's departments on the medium and long-term recommendations outside of the HSHAZ funded programme.

### 4.3 Town Centre Historic Area Assessment

An Historic Area Assessment (HAA) of the town centre has been completed by Built Heritage Consultancy in collaboration with Archway Heritage and Ultranyx. The purpose of the study is to identify the significance of Reading's historic environment, its character and heritage assets, and to signpost issues and opportunities that have the potential to change its character.

- 5 workshops have taken place in partnership with Reading CAAC, Reading Civic Society (RCS), Reading Economy and Destination Agency (REDA), and Reading Museum.
- 2 workshops have taken place with Urban Place Lab who were carrying out the Town Centre Strategy Review to share experiences.
- Character areas are identified within the town centre.
- Changes to the boundaries of existing conservation areas are proposed.
- New conservation areas are proposed to be designated.
- Needs for public realm improvements are identified.

### 4.4 Community Engagement achievements:

The aim of this community engagement and cultural pilot project was to engage with the Oxford Road communities, to explore people's real stories of Oxford Road and to link them with their local heritage and rich multicultural history. For more information about the project delivered as part of the Cultural Pilot and the initial Community Engagement programme. Please see the short film below: [cultural pilot and community engagement programme video](#).

- Initial projects included:
  - a) Oxford Road Stories with the University of Reading Community Researchers
  - b) AZUCIT [Welcome to Oxford Road Mural](#) and [ITV coverage of the arts works](#)
  - c) Untold's Oxford Road Chronicles podcast and film- [Untold's Oxford Road Chronicles](#)
  - d) Reside Dance's Moving Stories project.
- Two new audio trails. Sound UK, working with local Reading artists and volunteers, have created 2 self-guided audio tours. The first trail covers the Market Place/London Street HSHAZ area with a particular focus on the 'biscuit' heritage of this area. The second trail focus on the history and heritage of the St Mary's Butts/Castle Street HSHAZ area. [Reading Audio Trails - Reading Borough Council](#)

The community project with Baker Street Productions in partnership with community researchers from the University of Reading, Human Geography Department and groups that meet at Life Spring Church has culminated in the creation of a new exhibition 'Lifespring Stories'. This uncovers the hidden stories of the people who are the 'life' of the Oxford Road, this celebrating 'Lifespring Stories' through audio and visual media; During the summer the exhibition toured to the Turbine House at the Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock and the University of Reading. This free exhibition is now permanently hosted in the foyer of the Lifespring Church, at the Pavilion, on Oxford Road. The posters are hanging up the staircase where photos of movie stars would have been in the early days of the building when it was an Art Deco Cinema. For accessibility purposes, members of the public can ask for a Listening Catalogue, so they can enjoy the exhibition without going on the stairs. For people who are not able to get to the Pavilion, a smaller 'touring' exhibition will be coming to some other Reading's locations, such as the libraries and The Biscuit Factory in October and November 2022. [Lifespring Stories | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](#)

- Three piloting pop up arts activities in Dusseldorf Way during the summer of 2022, to explore the diverse communities in this area and to offer opportunities to people who not normally engage with arts, culture and heritage activities a safe environment to explore creative thinking and crafts. These activities were being piloted as part of the Community Engagement Public Realm work to explore what type of activities and events, the local communities would like to see in the future and be involved in.

#### 4.5 Cultural Programme achievements:

- Pilot phase projects which included:
  - a) Oxford Road Stories with the University of Reading Community Researchers, the project delivered an online community exhibition [Oxford Road Stories](#)
  - b) Caroline Streatfield's [Hidden Recipes From My Ancestral Home | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](#)
  - c) Baker Street Productions Look, Hear - Discover Oxford Road audio piece [Look, Hear - Discover Oxford Road | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](#)
  - d) Gemma Anusa's [Through your eyes](#) mural.
- Market Place/London Street and Castle Street/St Marys Butts Activity 1. Market Place/London Road Hidden Histories was delivered by Museum Partnership Reading (MPR) between January and April 2022. Information, images, documents and objects relating to Market Place were gathered by the MPR Cultural Activities Facilitator through partnership working and the volunteering of time from Reading Museum, The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading Archives, and Local History at Reading Library. These informed the creation of eight workshops delivered to over 50 people. As part of these workshops participants had the opportunity to handle objects from Reading Museum Stuart Life loan box, look at old images of the area and take part in a hands-on creative experience.
- The Cultural Programme Oxford Road commissioned two £9K grants projects that have been delivered.
  - The Oxford Road Times newspaper was launched on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August covering the project from two local visual artists, Lisa-Marie Gibbs and Philip Newcombe, who have been working together to deliver a series of workshops with members of the Oxford Road community looking at how objects hold our own personal and collective stories. Using sound recording, sculpture, text and other forms of art, the workshops allowed participants to discover 'hidden stories' and as a collective bring these stories of the people and place of the Oxford Road to life. This project has culminated in the creation of a unique community newspaper, celebrating the diverse and rich culture of the Oxford Road is now available from 'The Oxford Road Times' is a one off, limited-edition, free newspaper, telling the stories, and highlighting the creativity, of the Oxford Road. 250 copies of the newspaper have been distributed in newsagents, shops, libraries and outlets along and near the Oxford Road in West Reading. Within its pages is documentation of a range of happenings, events and workshops that the artists delivered with various community groups in the area during the summer of 2022. Highlights include 'Bearing Witness to Grey' a study of the colours found in between the IDR and West Reading Bridge, and 'Mango rains', seven stories from seven local people delving into different voices and personal histories. It also includes an insert inside the paper: Postcards from the Oxford Road. For more information and background on the project visit The Oxford Road Times instagram @oxfordroadtimes.
  - Reside Dance are working in partnership with The Federation of Oxford Road Community School and Wilson Primary School, to deliver an after-school arts programme with Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils and their families. Through this project participants will explore connections to the Oxford Road, the area that they live in, recognising the link between redeveloping a sense of home, belonging and civic pride, and improved physical and mental health.

- Oxford Road Projects - up to four £4K grants community call out and artist/creative practitioner projects to develop local community groups and artists creative opportunities and develop new projects with local people that celebrates the history and diverse cultures of the area. The projects will offer local community members the opportunity to take part in creative and cultural activities together that:
  - are inspired by the history of the area and celebrates the diverse cultures of the Oxford Road
  - are co-created with them involving them in the design and delivery of the activities
  - enables them to work with an artist or creative practitioner to co-create work that is meaningful and relevant to them and the local community.
  
- Delivery of Market Place/London Street and St Marys Butts/Castle Street Activity 2 (being delivered by Museum Partnership Reading) and links have been made with relevant partners such as Public Health and the Holiday Activity Fund scheme. Three objects handling and printing making sessions were delivered over the summer - two at Central Library and one at Whitley community centre linked to HAF. The feedback from participants was very positive - The best comment was an initially reluctant participant at Whitley who said 'it was the fastest hour of his life!'. The events provided a place for vulnerable adults, children and young people and families the opportunity to join in with a creative workshop that is inspired by the history and heritage of the two conservation areas as part of support activity that they already attend such as the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF). The aims are to provide an improved experience for those that seek support by providing an inviting atmosphere and opportunity to join in with something positive and fun and vulnerable people feel a part of the community by being involved with the creation of artwork for the HSHAZ areas and/or consultation on the project during events.
  
- The development and the creation of a monitoring evaluation framework with a flexible toolkit for partners. The HSHAZ evaluation plan aims to ensure that evaluation:
  - a) a. measures how well the programme has met its objectives
  - b) is standardised and comparable across the different community and cultural programmes
  - c) is easy to implement
  - d) represents the views of staff, partners, visitors and participants across all programme activity.

The HSHAZ framework and toolkit has been devised following the objectives and outcomes for Reading HSHAZ and shows what success will look like. It is based on The Audience Agency's evaluation framework for the wider HSHAZ scheme and supports the overall objectives for Reading HSAZ:

- Enhance the understanding of local heritage to reveal Reading's hidden histories and to give the community a sense of pride and ownership in developing the town's future
- Improve the physical condition of Reading's three high street Conservation Areas by restoring distinctive and historic character buildings that are most at risk
- Improve the public realm within the three Conservation Areas to provide a better place to be for people shopping, working, living and visiting these areas
- Help local businesses and residents to thrive by appreciating, maintaining and improving the value that their property contributes to the heritage and viability of the high streets.

## **5. REMAINING DELIVERY PLAN**

Over the remaining 16 months and final stage of the programme, the plan and milestones for the various strands are as set out below.

### **5.1 Conservation strand**

#### **Building Rescue and Shop Front Improvement:**

##### **To be delivered by end of March 2023:**

- Purcell Architects and other specialist architects to undertake detailed surveys of relevant properties between October and November 2022. Those surveys will provide detailed drawings and costing of the works.
- Any planning applications for relevant properties should be submitted and determined between October and December 2022, with the aim of the work starting in the new year.
- Repair/restoration works to be carried out to the selected 4 monuments, once costing has been ascertained by Cliveden conservation.

##### **To be delivered by end of March 2024:**

- Contractors to be appointed by individual property owners for construction works (building rescue and shopfront improvement) on site.

### **5.2 Public Realm Improvements:**

##### **To be delivered by 31 March 2023:**

- Six additional lighting lamps to be installed in St Mary's Churchyard in matching style with the existing lamp posts. Heritage statement is submitted to Oxford Dioceses.
- Ten bins to be added or replaced in conservation areas.
- Design and Feasibility Study for Public Realm Improvements to be completed by Feria Urbanism before starting with the implementation.

##### **To deliver by end of March 2024:**

- Strategic Projects such as wayfinding strategy, archaeological desk-based assessment, topographical surveys to be carried out along with the project proposals by Feria Urbanism.
- Improvement works to be carried out in the HSHAZ public realm following feasibility studies.

### **5.3 Community Engagement and cultural Programme:**

##### **To be delivered by the end of March 2023:**

- Co-creation by members of community groups of a temporary display at Reading Museum, that will showcase some of the key recent outputs of the HSHAZ community engagement and cultural programme; telling the story of how local communities are leading and responding to creative activity; highlighting the vibrant everyday life, the rich cultural diversity and the fascinating hidden heritages of Reading high streets.
- Preparation of the evaluation of Lifespring Stories exhibition and the exploration of the legacy of this project through an exhibition catalogue, an online exhibition on the Reading Museum website.

- Evaluate and investigate the legacy of The Oxford Road Times Newspaper project with artists, partners and the communities.

**To be delivered by end of March 2024:**

- To provide a web-based platform that offers information and guidance to support community groups and organisations in setting up and running their own arts and cultural projects with their local communities, Work in partnership with Culture Mix.
- Implementation of recommendations from Community Engagement Public Realm Report which has been develop in partnership with Feria Urbanism e.g. community gardening/planting Oxford Road HSHAZ.
- To commission a series of photos that document the three HSHAZ conservation areas and identified buildings within them as they are now before vital conservation work takes place. These photos will help showcase the impact of the conservation works on the buildings and shop fronts. Giving the local people and businesses a sense of pride in the areas. The images will be presented to the public and will formed part of the legacy and the archive of the project

**5.4 Culture Programme Strand:**

**To be delivered by end of March 2023:**

- Support delivery of three £4K Oxford Road projects including:
  - a) selection of applicants and awarding of grants process
  - b) project planning with grant recipients
  - c) monitoring of project session delivery in line with project application, project schedule and project budget
  - d) evaluation of projects
- To deliver the final stage of the Market Place/London Street and Castle Street/St Marys Butts Activity 2. Initial positive meetings with local community organisations about delivering in partnership between October and April 2023.
- Provide the cultural programme evaluation report for year 3 to HE.
- Investigate the legacy of the HSHAZ programme beyond the funding of the project.

**To be delivered by end of March 2024:**

- Market Place/London Street and Castle Street/St Marys Butts Activity 3. A series of physical installations/pop-up exhibitions/street art on the public realm.
- Remaining five meetings of Cultural Consortium.
- Ongoing Historic England Cultural Programme monitoring and reporting.
- Communication and promotion of the conservation work through such things as the creation of a film to highlight and share the conservation work before, during and after the work is being carried out.
- Cultural Programme final evaluation report.

**6. REMAINING PLAN: RISKS**

The covid pandemic and its major effects and the current economic problems have already impacted on the delivery of the project plan resulting in underspend in year 2 (2021/22). The Council underspend budget had been carried forward to year 3 (2022/23). However, due to DCMS funding policy, HE is unable to move unspent funding to following financial years or to extend the life of the programme. This means that HE will not provide any flexibility in the event of underspend this year (2022/23) or in the final year (2023/24).

This puts huge pressure on the team to deliver the projects within the agreed timescale. Taken in combination with the covid impacts on the HSHAZ activities that were postponed and cancelled during 2020 and up to June 2021, to comply with the government's restrictions and social distancing and external factors such as supplier chain and contractors' shortage, the capital works that could not progress during the periods of lockdown and restrictions. These projects are now competing for supplies and contractors across the wider construction sector. This has especially created a competitive demand for specialist contractors, in a market which was already stretched before the pandemic. These external barriers may impact on the year 3 delivery plan and a further year of underspend. This would lead to the reduction of the scope of the programme. Officers are working hard to avoid any significant underspend by engaging with property owners/tenants and other partners to achieve as much as we can within this financial year and make use of the HE budget before the RBC match funding.

We also have been without project officers since July and recruitment for their replacement is still to be completed. It is anticipated that posts will be filled by the time of the HNL Committee meeting, but if the appointments are delayed this will lead to less delivery capacity on the programme.

## 7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

7.1 The HSHAZ programme is one of the major council projects listed in the Council's Corporate Plan. The aims and objectives of the HSHAZ programme contribute to the Corporate Plan themes, for example:

- **Healthy Environment-** through the physical interventions to buildings, shop fronts and public realm, supporting the conversion of historic buildings and the improvement of the shared spaces within the conservation areas is working towards making Reading a nicer, greener, more attractive place to live that is easy to travel around, and having a tangible impact on physical and mental health and life expectancy of the local resident.
- **Thriving communities-** The HSHAZ community engagement and cultural programme aims to prioritising the needs of the most marginalised groups and the most vulnerable adults and children in our communities through culture activities. All the HSHAZ planned activities aim to celebrate the diverse communities of the conservation areas through arts, culture and heritage. The programme aims to reach as many communities as possible and to ensure our activities are as accessible and inclusive as possible.
- **Inclusive Economy** -The HSHAZ programme aim to enhance our cultural heritage of the conservations areas and to support local communities and local businesses through grants, opportunities to learn new skills, making the community more resilient, creating a more prosperous and better place for people to work, live and enjoy during this difficult economic crisis.

HSHAZ Programme is also linked with Reading local plan, the emerging town centre strategy review and transport strategy and responds well to the objectives of the climate change strategy.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 In terms of climate implications, the HSHAZ programme has at its heart the principle of making better use of the heritage assets of the town, and helps to secure the future of existing buildings within the conservation area. By making physical interventions to

repair, maintain and improve buildings at this stage, the programme avoids the need for more extensive development works in the future, which would be likely to result in more significant emissions. Physical works as part of this programme, as for any such works, will generate emissions but the long-term implications are expected to be positive for the reasons set out above. In addition, achieving the aims of the HSHAZ in improving footfall within these streets and assisting the recovery of the high street will ensure that more people use the central area for shops and services, in locations highly accessible by means other than the private car.

8.2 In terms of the quality of the environment, the HSHAZ has as one of its key aims the improvement of the public realm, and the physical works outlined in this report will therefore contribute to a higher quality environment within the town centre conservation areas.

## **9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

9.1 The aims and objectives of the HSHAZ programme are to meaningfully inform and positively engage with communities and stakeholders with a strong focus on local community inclusion in the most deprived areas. All the activities within the various strands delivered so far have been developed through strong communities' engagement focus.

The HSHAZ Programme Community Engagement Plan key objectives include:

- To inform and actively engage with a wide range of local communities and stakeholders on the Reading's HSHAZ programme proposals and to ensure, as far as possible, they have every opportunity to express their views to the project team at the design stage and before decisions are finalised;
- To ensure that the views and the needs of the local community are embedded within the Council's HSHAZ programme;
- To actively involve the communities and key interested parties in the enhancement of their local heritage to renew their sense of pride, identity, and ownership in developing the town's future;
- By taking an active and collaborative role with the programme and training opportunities, the community and local businesses are learning new skills, good practice and are becoming more resilient, creating a more prosperous and better maintained neighbourhood.

## **10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

10.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.2 The HSHAZ programme does not have a differential impact on: racial groups, gender, people with disabilities, people of a particular sexual orientation, people due to their age, or people due to their religious belief. The programme will promote equality of services/opportunity to all sectors of the community. The project will regularly engage, consult stakeholders and community and evaluate the various strands of the project. Activities will provide opportunities for enjoyment and learning for all regardless of ethnic origin, social background or financial means. All the HSHAZ

planned activities should celebrate the diverse communities of the conservation areas through arts, culture and heritage. The programme aims to reach as many communities as possible and to ensure our activities are as accessible and inclusive as possible.

## **11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no legal implication arising from this report. All procurement procedures will be considered at the time in line with the Council's contract procedure rules and relevant procurement legislation and relevant authority sought for each procurement and any future grants will be considered at the time in line with any relevant legislation in respect of grants including the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as it comes into force.

## **12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 No further financial implications arise from this report. The programme budget has been agreed in the Policy Committee report in July 2020 and in the update to HNL Committee in December 2020. There is the risk that if we cannot spend the year 3 (2022/23) HE allocated budget by the end of the financial year, we will not be able to draw down the full year allocation to HE and would have to reduce the scope of the programme delivery, as mentioned in section 6 of the report, however officers and steering group are aware of this and working to avoid this happening.