

Report To:	CABINET
Date:	29 MARCH 2022
Heading:	APPROVAL TO CONSULT ON THE DRAFT HUCKNALL TOWN CENTRE SPATIAL MASTERPLAN
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR M. RELF – PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLACE, PLANNING AND REGENERATION
Ward/s:	HUCKNALL NORTH, HUCKNALL CENTRAL, HUCKNALL SOUTH, HUCKNALL WEST
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	YES

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to undertake a public and stakeholder consultation on the Draft Hucknall Town Centre Spatial Masterplan (Appendix 1) for 4 weeks during April and May 2022.

Recommendation(s)

- 1) To undertake public consultation on the Draft Hucknall Town Centre Spatial Masterplan attached to this report for a period of 4 weeks during April and May 2022 and that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place and Communities in discussion with the Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration to make any minor amendments to the masterplan as necessary prior to consultation.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To enable the Council to carry out public and stakeholder consultation. Consultation will allow the spatial masterplan to have the greatest weight in the planning system once formally adopted.

Alternative Options Considered

Not to consult. This option is not recommended as participation with the public and stakeholders will enable valuable feedback. Consequently, the spatial masterplan will hold more weight as a material planning consideration, and in the detailed formulation of subsequent projects where funding will need to be secured. **Not recommended.**

Detailed Information

Background

The spatial masterplan will replace the 2009 Town Centre Masterplan for Hucknall undertaken by Urbed. The update takes into account recent works including:

- Relocation of the outdoor market to the High Street in 2018
- Pedestrianisation of the High Street and construction of a new inner relief road, Torkard Way, completed in 2018
- Investment in a shop front improvement grant scheme

The updated Hucknall Town Centre Masterplan aims to provide a framework for future investment and development which maximises the opportunities for Hucknall and capitalises on its existing assets. In particular it:

- Provides a common understanding of Hucknall Town Centre as a place, and its role within Ashfield and Greater Nottingham,
- Establishes a clear vision for Hucknall Town Centre to continue to guide its development,
- Provides clear design principles for new development and projects that emphasise the principles of sustainability,
- Considers and identifies opportunities for future development within the town centre,
- Aims to improve links to and within the town centre for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users,
- Considers how the links between the train station and town centre can be enhanced,
- Sets out how developments, projects and initiatives could be delivered and suggests who would be involved in their delivery and potential funding mechanisms,
- Provides an evidence base for the emerging Local Plan, and
- Supports the development of the Hucknall Levelling Up Funding Bid

The masterplan is not inflexible or prescriptive. It is not intended to provide detailed projects or design solutions, nor does it represent a commitment to funding by the District Council.

Consultation and Community Engagement

While there is no statutory requirement for the Council to carry out consultation with the community and statutory bodies, it is considered to be good practice and will result in greater local support for the spatial masterplan.

Public consultation would allow Council officers to explain and seek opinion on the spatial masterplan, and to understand concerns and issues relating to Hucknall Town Centre. The consultation would also allow officers to explain what the spatial masterplan will mean for the town centre moving forward.

Consultation and community engagement on the masterplan proposals will be undertaken by the Forward Planning Team to obtain feedback from local residents, community groups, stakeholders and businesses.

The consultation will be for a period of **4 weeks during April / May 2022**

A copy of the masterplan and a consultation poster will be displayed within each ward using one of the following accessible venues:

- Hucknall North – Hucknall Leisure Centre
- Hucknall Central – John Godber Centre
- Hucknall Central – Hucknall Library
- Hucknall South – St Johns Community Hall
- Hucknall West – Rolls Royce Leisure Centre
- Hucknall West – Edgewood Library

Officers are aiming to organise drop-in sessions at publicly accessible venues in Hucknall subject to the venue's agreement, for **1 hour maximum** to ask local residents for their thoughts on the new masterplan and any issues or concerns they have about the town centre. This will be publicised prior to the consultation.

Leaflets will be hand delivered to businesses and retailers within the town centre with assistance from the Town Centre Manager. The leaflet will advise them of the consultation and indicate where they can give their comments online or view hard copies.

Hard copies of the draft masterplan will be made available to view during normal operating hours at the following locations:

- Council Offices on Urban Road, Kirkby in Ashfield
- Libraries in Sutton in Ashfield, Kirkby in Ashfield, Huthwaite, Skegby, Hucknall and Selston

Digital engagement on the masterplan and an interactive consultation comment form will be made available on the Council website. The Council's social media accounts will also be used to encourage local resident and business engagement through Twitter, Facebook, Babble and the Council's intranet message of the day.

Statement of Community Involvement

The Hucknall Town Centre Masterplan consultation will comply with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI is a public document which sets out the Council's policy, approach to community involvement and public consultation in the preparation of local development documents, including the Local Plan and the processing of planning applications.

The current SCI was adopted in October 2019. The Forward Planning Team will ensure that the following individuals / organisations and groups are consulted (by letter or email) as set out by the SCI and its appendices:

- County Council Members
- General Circulation Bodies
- Statutory Consultees

- Hucknall businesses and retailers
- Discover Ashfield Board
- ADC Councillors and ADC Citizens Panel
- ADC internal officers
- Hucknall colleges and schools
- Community groups where ADC has authorisation for contact

Following public consultation, a report of the responses will be compiled, and a further report put to Cabinet with a recommendation outlining whether to adopt the spatial masterplan or not.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

This will contribute towards the strategic objectives in the Corporate Plan, allowing the Council to serve the communities and residents of Ashfield, deliver services that are good quality and value for money, and plan strategically for the future to ensure sustainability. Development of a town centre masterplan will help:

- Reinvigorate and repurpose the town centre by bringing empty buildings back into use, enhancing our town services and diversifying the town centre economy
- Make the most of external funding to improve our town centres
- Use our town centre events, including specialist markets to attract visitors to our town centres

Legal:

There are no legal implications contained within the report. [RLD 04/03/2022]

Finance: No direct financial implications arising from this report. [PH 03/03/22].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
There are no known risks associated with the report	N/A

Human Resources:

There are no Human Resources implications contained within the report.

Environmental/Sustainability

The Hucknall Town Centre Spatial Masterplan will provide the opportunity to enhance and invigorate the town centre, providing an attractive environment in which to shop, visit, live and work. Along with a potential for improved connectivity, this will encourage sustainable travel pattern by providing an offer which appeals to the local catchment population.

Equalities:

The Equality Act 2010 introduced a public sector equality duty and the Masterplan will have a direct impact on equality issues. Consequently, an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken, which identified no issues.

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

N/A

Reason(s) for Exemption

N/A

Background Papers

The Draft Hucknall Town Centre Spatial Masterplan. Please note that this is a draft document and may be subject to minor additions/amendments prior to consultation.

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