

South Wiltshire Recovery Programme: Update to the Environment Select Committee

At the time of the previous report to the Environment Select Committee the programme team had just been appointed, and were transitioning from the short-term recovery to a longer-term programme. The aim of the programme is to increase economic vitality in Salisbury and Amesbury. A full list of projects is being progressed. Pertinent highlights from the programme are as follows:

Salisbury Central Area Framework:

A Central Area Framework is being developed to inform the future development of Salisbury city centre. When completed it will set out an outline and deliverable plan that will create a more vibrant and attractive central area in the city. The CAF builds on previous consultation and brings together many different initiatives under one single document. It will help to inform the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan Policy and promote Salisbury to investors. A full version of the Central Area Framework will undergo a second public consultation in November.

The Maltings:

The Masterplan for the Maltings was approved in June 2019. The revised Phase 1 planning application for the old British Heart Foundation in Salisbury's Maltings was unanimously approved by the Strategic Planning Committee at their meeting on 11 September 2019, and demolition works have begun. As of 8th October, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet agreed to recommend to Full Council to release capital funding to acquire third party interests in land and property in the Maltings regeneration area in Salisbury, helping to unlock the second phase of development around Market Walk and realise the ambitious regeneration proposals for this area.

Future High Streets Fund:

On 26th August Wiltshire Council received confirmation its multi-million-pound bid for investment for both Salisbury and Trowbridge, from the Government's Future High Streets Funds had been shortlisted and will now go onto the next stage. The Recovery Team must now develop a full business case for proposed projects, setting out value for money, economic impact and the central benefit/cost ratio for the projects. The draft business case must be submitted by March 2020, with a full Treasury Green Book business case submitted by June 2020. We have been informed that successful bids will be announced in Summer/Autumn 2020. The projects will be judged competitively against other areas, with no guarantee of capital funding.

Fisherton Gateway:

The Fisherton Gateway project is emerging as the most developed of the projects that will seek funding from the Future High Streets Fund. The project will seek to create an exciting arrival experience at the rail station. A redeveloped station forecourt will provide a transport interchange, a sense of arrival for visitors, and improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Along Fisherton Street, the project will seek to create a welcoming entrance to the city that allows the street to flourish, both on its own as a hub of independent shops, and as a feeder to other main retail and cultural areas in the city. Outline plans will be consulted on later this year but delivery is subject to Future High Streets funding.

Amesbury:

The programme is supporting the redevelopment of the History Centre through the provision of advice and funding, as well as supporting businesses, and community events such as the Carnival.

Programme

Alongside the above projects, the team are supporting a range of initiatives including developing a Competitive Brand Positioning, the development of a Cultural Strategy and providing support for 2020: A City on the Move, the 800th anniversary programme for the founding of the Cathedral.