

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	24th FEBRUARY 2020
Heading:	APPROVAL TO CONSULT ON THE DRAFT KIRKBY TOWN CENTRE SPATIAL MASTERPLAN		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR M. RELF – PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLACE, PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Ward/s:	ABBAY HILL, KINGSWAY, KIRKBY CROSS & PORTLAND, LARWOOD, SUMMIT		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to undertake a public and stakeholder consultation on the Draft Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan for 3 weeks commencing Monday 2nd March 2020.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the undertaking of a public and stakeholder consultation on the Draft Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan for a period of 3 weeks during March 2020.
- 2) Approve the Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan in principle subject to delegated authority being granted to the Director of Place and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration to make minor amendments to the Masterplan prior to adoption,

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.

Detailed Information

Background

The Spatial Masterplan will replace part of the 2007 Masterplan for Sutton in Ashfield & Kirkby in Ashfield, undertaken by ARUP. A new masterplan for the Sutton Town Centre element of this document was adopted by the District Council in March 2019. The update takes into account recent work including:

- Council Officers – town centre walkabout to undertake a SWOT analysis.
- Council Members/Officer workshop – discussion of issues and opportunities.
- Latham’s Consultants – Appraisal of town centre and potential regeneration opportunities.

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

- Provides a consensus and common understanding of Kirkby Town Centre as a place - its character and identity.
- Establishes a clear Vision for Kirkby Town Centre to guide its development and improvement to 2029.
- Provides clear design principles for subsequent new development/projects with an emphasis on sustainability.
- Identifies sites and buildings where redevelopment and improvements will be encouraged.
- Aims to improve links to and within the Town Centre for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.
- Sets out how developments/projects and initiatives could be delivered, who would be involved in delivery, how they might be funded and by what mechanism.
- Provides an evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.

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

The Draft Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan can be accessed via the following link. Please note that this is a draft document and is subject to minor additions/amendments prior to consultation - in particular the maps and at Chapter 6.

<https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/media/6672/final-2019-draft-kirkby-masterplan-cab-draft.pdf>

Consultation and Community Engagement

Whilst 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 Kirkby Town Centre. The consultation would also allow Officers to explain what the Spatial Masterplan will mean for the Town Centre moving forward.

Following on from the Masterplan workshop with Councillors on the 10th December 2019, consultation and community engagement on the Masterplan proposals will be undertaken by the Forward Planning Team to obtain feedback from local residents, community groups and businesses.

The consultation period will be for a period of **3 weeks during March 2020**.

A copy of the Masterplan and a Consultation poster will be displayed within each ward – using one of the following accessible venues - ADC community centre / community venue / polling station

- Annesley and Kirkby Woodhouse – Acacia Centre
- Kingsway – The Café on Kingsway Park
- Kirkby Cross and Portland – Festival Hall Leisure Centre
- Abbey Hill – venue to be agreed
- Summit – Diamond Centre, Diamond Avenue
- Larwood – venue to be agreed

Officers are aiming to drop in on the following sessions (*subject to the venue's agreement*) – *need to contact to confirm ok* 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.

- **Annesley and Kirkby Woodhouse** – Acacia Centre. Work Club Tuesday 1-3pm
- **Kingsway** – St Thomas's Church
- **Kirkby Cross and Portland** – Festival Hall Leisure Centre – drop in lunchtime session in foyer
- **Abbey Hill** – spend an hour at Abbey Hill Primary and Nursery School with Year 6s for their thoughts on the town centre (or Bracken Hill School to get views of pupils with different abilities)
- **Summit** – Diamond Centre
- **Larwood** – Ashfield School takeover session at the main Council Offices – with Year 7s.

A flyer will be hand delivered to businesses and retailers within the town centre (with assistance from the Town Centre Manager) advising them of the consultation, and where they can give their comments on-line or view hard copies.

Hardcopies of the draft Masterplan will be made available to view during normal working opening hours at the following locations:

- Main District Council Offices at Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield.
- District Council Offices at Watnall Road, Hucknall, and Brook Street, Sutton in Ashfield.

- Sutton, Huthwaite, Skegby, Kirkby, Selston and Hucknall libraries.

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 via / Twitter / Facebook / Babble and the Council’s intranet Message of the Day.

Statement of Community Involvement

The Kirkby 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 and approach to community involvement and public consultation in the preparation of Local Development Documents, including the Local Plan, and when dealing with 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 - Consultees - specific bodies/consultees under the Council’s Duty to Cooperate

- County Council members
- General Circulation Bodies
- Specific Consultees (Statutory Consultees)
- Kirkby businesses and retailers
- Discover Ashfield Board
- ADC Councillors and ADC Citizens’ Panel
- ADC internal officers
- Kirkby College and Kirkby Primary 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 whether to adopt the Spatial Masterplan or not.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

This will contribute towards the strategic objectives in the Corporate Plan by developing a town centre masterplan to help:

- Re-invigorate and re-purpose the town centre by bringing empty buildings back into use, enhancing our town teams 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.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	No financial implications contained within the Report.
General Fund – Capital Programme	No financial implications contained within the Report.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	No financial implications contained within the Report.

Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	No financial implications contained within the Report.
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Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
No known risks	N/A

Human Resources:

There are no Human Resources or diversity / equality implications contained within the report.

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.

Environment/Sustainability

The Kirkby 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.

Other Implications:

No other implications have been identified

Reason(s) for Urgency

To ensure that the Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan is consulted on and subsequently adopted to enable the Council to apply for future funding sources, in particular the Towns Fund.

Reason(s) for Exemption

This report is not exempt.

Background Papers

Report Author and Contact Officer

Lisa Furness
 Forward Plans
 01623 457382
l.furness@ashfield.gov.uk

Christine Sarris, Assistant Director, Planning and Regulative Services