

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2024  
 title: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND  
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
 principal author: NICOLA HOPKINS – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To update Members in respect of the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and to seek approval for some of the use of the Council's UKSPF allocation.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Ambitions-
  - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
  - To help make people's lives safer and healthier
- Corporate Objectives –
  - To work with our partners to ensure that the infrastructure in the Ribble Valley is improved
  - To promote stronger, more confident, and more active communities throughout the borough

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 To date the Council's UKSPF has been used to/ is earmarked to support the projects set out on the spreadsheet appended to this report.

2.2 RVBC have received the full UKSPF 2024/25 allocation of £1,251,339 however the REPF will need to be drawn down in arrears.

### 3 COMMITTED/ ACTUAL SPEND

3.1 When the UKSPF funding was announced this Committee allocated the majority of the funding to the three main service centres. To date the following UKSPF funding has either been spent or allocated as follows (this is based on the Council's full allocation).

Area	Allocation	Spent/ Committed	Remaining
Clitheroe	800,000	647,650	152,350
Whalley/ Barrow	400,000	419,425	-19,425
Longridge	400,000	362,097	37,903
Borough	289,044	110,875	178,169
Admin	78,710	78,710	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,967,754</b>	<b>1,618,757</b>	<b>348,997</b>

3.2 As previously advised the requirement for UKSPF funding is that the money is spent by the end of March 2025. The Working Group are conscious of the tight deadlines associated with this fund particularly in respect of the schemes above which have significant allocations which are yet to be commenced. A further update is provided below with all schemes being kept under close review.

## 4 SCHEME UPDATE

### ***Towneley Gardens Event Space (allocation £100,000)***

4.1 A draft contract has been issued to DK Design Associates LTD to enable works on the design to commence.

### ***Barrow Village Hall (allocation £199,150)***

4.2 Planning permission was granted on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 for the change of use of the vacant restaurant/public house and adjoining cottage to village hall to include first floor meeting rooms and ancillary storage.

4.3 Cllr Birtwhistle has confirmed that following the tender exercise the four tenders they have received are above the grant secured via UKSPF. Whilst further discussions with the preferred contractor will be undertaken by the Parish Council in respect of reducing some of the suggested costs there would still be a deficit.

4.4 The clerk of the Parish Council (30<sup>th</sup> August 2024) has written setting out the following:  
*“As you are aware the Tenders for the refurbishment of 22-25 Old Row have now been returned.*

*From the quotes submitted, it is apparent that the Parish Council needs additional funding to complete the works.*

*I have set out below the areas where additional funding is required and wondered if the UKSP had any funds available to meet (or go some way) to meet these costs:*

- *Reinstate service utilities: gas, water and electric. = £8,000*
  - *Lift and stairs to provide access to the first floor of the old pub. The lift is required to meet disability requirements. = £28,000*
  - *Upgraded fire alarm system = £5,000*
- Total required = £41,000.”***

4.5 Committee are requested to confirm whether they agree to increasing the grant to Barrow Parish Council by £41,000. This request will be considered by the Working Group in advance of Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> September, their recommendations will be provided verbally.

4.6 If additional funding is not available Cllr Birtwhistle has confirmed the project will proceed without the lift which will just involve refurbishing downstairs with the lift and upstairs work done at a later date.

### ***Barrow Car Park (allocation £25,000)***

4.7 On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 the clerk of Barrow Parish Council e-mailed in respect of this project setting out the following.

4.8 *“As you are aware the Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £25,000 from the UKSPF for resurfacing the car park at the rear of 22-25 Old Row, Barrow. This figure was based on a quote the Council received in December 2023 for the provision of a base asphalt surface.*

4.9 Update:

*-After further investigation and the area being given to the Council by LNT increasing in size, it is apparent that there is a need to install a drainage scheme which feeds into the existing culver, and edging stones to prevent the asphalt breaking at the perimeter edges. The additional cost of this work is £6,500*

*-In addition, the Parish Council require an additional, £20,000 to lay the final finishing coat of asphalt and mark the parking bays. It was anticipated that the resurfacing of the car park would be completed during the school vacation when the car park is less used.*

#### 4.10 Question:

*-Is it possible that these additional funds circa £26,500 can be allocated from the UKSPF?"*

4.11 This request was shared with the UKSPF Working Group on 11th July who requested confirmation that the increased funding request would enable the completion of the car park. The following questions were sent to Barrow Parish Council:

- 1) The area of car park to be resurfaced in m<sup>2</sup>
- 2) The cost per m<sup>2</sup> of the of a base asphalt surface.
- 3) Details of the drainage costs, including the extent of drainage required- do you have a supporting quote for the requested £6500
- 4) The cost of the edging stones
- 5) The cost per m<sup>2</sup> of the finishing course.
- 6) The cost of lining
- 7) The timescale for undertaking and completing the car park

4.12 The following breakdown of costs has been provided by Cllr Birtwhistle:

- The quote from LNT's supplier didn't include ground works, drains or edging. They quoted a thicker base quote, but it didn't extend up to the school path.
- Groundworks (edgings, aco drain, connection, stone) - £10,400.00
- Tarmac (binder course) - £21,100.00
- Tarmac (surface course) - £17,650.00
- Line markings - £1950.00
  
- Carpark - 1210m<sup>2</sup>- Machine lay 40mm depth of 10mm close graded surface course in limestone aggregate (including tack coat).
- Thermoplastic line markings - 50 no. Parking bays including 2 no. Disabled bays
- Sum (surface course and line marking) - £19,600.00

4.13 This request was considered by the Working Group on 11<sup>th</sup> July who agreed to recommend the additional allocation. Committee are asked to confirm whether they agree to allocating a further £26,100 (the original request was £26,500 however the above costs total £26,100) to the Barrow car park project. The intention was to undertake the works in the summer school holidays however due to insufficient funding this did not occur and it is understood this will now be undertaken at half term in October.

#### ***Whalley Educational Foundation (allocation £100,000)***

4.14 The extension is well underway and grant funding has already been passported to the Foundation following receipt of invoices for the work.

#### ***Longridge Pump Track (allocation £60,000)***

4.15 A planning application has been submitted which hopefully will be considered at Planning and Development Committee later this month.

#### ***Clitheroe Market Improvements (allocation £250,000)***

4.16 Following the resolution at the previous Committee to undertake the Clitheroe Market Improvement scheme work has commenced with several of the gables of the cabins cleaned in advance of the food festival.

4.17 Following the completion of Castle Street, which has been well received and looks very good, the choice of materials and street furniture at the market were reconsidered to establish whether a 'Ribble Valley Theme' to the public realm provision could be achieved. After excavating some trial holes on-site, it has been established that with

some further base course work the same materials as those used on Castle Street can be used on the middle ring of the bullring. The further refinements are still within the agreed budget and are subject to a current tender exercise. The refined layout plan and indicative programme of works is attached at Appendix 1.

4.18 The resurfacing works are currently subject to a tender exercise based on the following dates:

Stage	Date(s)/time
Deadline for Submission of Tenders	2:00pm on Friday 27th September 2024
Evaluation of Tenders	27 September 2024– 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Notification of result of evaluation	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Mandatory Standstill Period	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Expected date of award of Contract(s)	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Contract commencement	To Be Agreed
Contract Completion	No later than 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025

4.19 In respect of the refurbishment of the existing casual stalls quotes are being sought. This will enable the preferred contractor to be identified and programmed into the improvement works. The works to the casual stalls will follow the resurfacing works.

#### ***Castle Street***

4.20 The works to Castle Street were delivered ahead of schedule and under budget. The Director of Economic Development and Planning has a meeting with the Head of Engineering and LCC on 5<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the underspend, the outcome of which will be reported to Committee.

#### ***New Web-site project***

4.21 The website refresh and work is progressing well, with the site structure in place and new video and photography content soon to be added. The population of content and the administrative work on the Council's side, to ensure the site complies with accessibility standards, is taking some time with a casual member of staff undertaking this task for a few hours a week.

4.22 The original UKSPF allocation for the website and promotional activities was £40,000. To date these projects have been delivered under budget with £2,847 of the original allocation remaining. This will be used to complete the administrative side of populating the content of the website.

#### ***Castle options appraisal***

4.23 On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Committee were advised that the UKSPF Working Group had discussed the vacant atrium café at the Castle and what this could be used for given unsuccessful attempts to lease this space. One possible use of part of the UKSPF funding would be a soft market study exercise to establish the uses that the commercial market could offer for the vacant and underused parts of Clitheroe Castle.

4.24 Policy and Finance Committee agreed to utilise £2,500 of UKSPF funding to engage a commercial agent to undertake this work. Several commercial letting agents, local and national, were contacted about this piece of work. Interest was received from one national company however they declined to pitch for this work. Given journey times and

the volume of work required, they did not consider it feasible to a decent job for the budgeted fee. No other interest has been received. At this stage other options are being considered in terms of engaging interest in the atrium café and wider castle as such it is proposed to remove this project from the UKSPF schemes.

#### ***Business support for net zero transition & decarbonisation***

4.25 Project well underway with regular reports to Economic Development Committee.

### **5 COUNCIL LED NEW SCHEMES**

5.1 Following Committee's resolution (18th June 2024) for Officers to explore projects at Salt Hill Play area and the footpaths at Brungerley Park these were considered by the Working Group on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

#### ***Refurbishment of the play area at Salthill***

5.2 The Working Group have recommended the allocation of £100,000 of the UKSPF funding to enable the complete refurbishment of this play area.

#### ***Footpath improvements at Brungerley Park***

5.3 The Working Group were advised that based on the length of footpaths at the park a broad estimate for the work was £200,000, which would not include the bridge or re-opening the section of path that was partially collapsed.

5.4 The Working Group considered that this could be a good reserve project should other schemes not progress, noting the March 2025 deadline. The Group suggested to go out to tender for the scheme now, with a figure of £150,000, and for the outcome to be reported to Policy and Finance Committee.

#### ***Charging Points - Edisford and Longridge***

5.5 On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 the Working Group considered a proposal to extend the electric vehicle charging point scheme which is being delivered via REPF in some of the villages and utilise some of the UKSPF funding to install vehicle charging points on both the Barclay Road Car Park and at the Edisford Road car park. The Working Group agreed to recommend to Committee that part of the UKSPF funding is used to install charging points at these two Council owned car parks.

5.6 Quotes are being sought for the works and confirmation from Electricity Northwest in terms of the connection costs has been provided as follows:

- Barclay Road -£22,585.34
- Edisford Road -£19,117.50

5.7 At this stage the cost of the installation of the fast-charging points is unknown however an estimate of £10,000 has been added to the above connection points costs based on previous installations elsewhere in the Borough.

5.8 Committee approval is sought to allocate UKSPF funding for the provision of EV Charging points as follows:

- Barclay Road Car Park -£32,586
- Edisford Road Car Park -£29,118

#### ***Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and Action Plan (PPS)***

5.9 Ribble Valley Council's PPS has been completed by the consultants appointed to undertake the work. This will be reported to the next Community Committee. It should be noted that this is a Borough wide report and any deficits in provision identified would not solely be the requirement of the Local Authority to rectify. The document can be used to evidence external funding requests by both private clubs and the Council and will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.

5.10 If the Borough Council identified capital play space schemes at budget setting time the PPS could be used to support such schemes. The report does identify a deficit, borough wide, of artificial pitches which can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. The report also notes that the development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate use of grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play (this would be of assistance when grass pitches are unusable during periods of inclement weather).

5.11 One suggestion for use of some of the UKSPF funding would be a feasibility study into suitable locations, on Council owned facilities, for 3G pitch provision. This would establish the feasibility of provision, including if suitable drainage provision can be secured, which would support future external funding bids. As such £15,000 of UKSPF funding is sought for this piece of work. This request will be considered by the Working Group on 9<sup>th</sup> September and Committee will be advised of their recommendations verbally.

## 6 NEW SCHEMES

### *The Whalley Educational Foundation*

6.1 The additional funding request from the Foundation, which was appended to the previous Committee report, was considered by the Working Group on 11th July. The Group discussed the alignment of the suggested itemised works with the identified UKSPF interventions and felt that the car park did meet the requirements, but the other elements did not. Members recommend allocating £27,600 of UKSPF, for the car park element of the scheme.

### *Primrose Nature Reserve*

6.2 A request has been received from Primrose Community Nature trust for £7,500 to cover the cost of a scoping exercise for a number of proposed projects which included:

- Refurbishment of the sluice system – estimated cost £25,000
- Link path from the reserve to Greenacre Street (opposite Holmes Mill) – estimated cost £90,000
- Creation of a circular walk around the lodge – estimated cost £500,000 - £900,000

6.3 It was anticipated that the scoping exercise would enable future grant applications to support to proposed projects. The Working Group recommended an allocation of £7,500 for the scoping exercise, subject to consideration by the Director of Economic Development and Planning that this fell within the identified interventions and would enable future external funding.

6.4 One of the trustees has confirmed the following:

The outputs will be:

- Sqm of land made wheelchair accessible/step free (from increased paths),
- Amount of public realm created or improved (new paths would allow access to more of the reserve),
- Amount of green or blue space created or improved (new paths would allow better access),
- Amount of new or improved cycleways or paths
- Number of people supported to participate in education (use of the reserve for education, esp from St James School),
- Number of volunteering opportunities supported (maintenance of the reserve by volunteers made safer by better access).
- Creation of a tourist attraction and educational tool- lead to Increase in footfall, Increased visitor numbers, Increase in visitor spending, Increased amount of investment, Improved perception of attractions

The other outcomes will be

- Increased footfall,
- Increased visitor numbers
- Increased use of cycleways or paths
- Improved perception of facilities/amenities
- Increased users of facilities/amenities
- Improved perceived/experienced accessibility

6.5 The Trust were also advised that any funding given is required to comply with the Council's Procurement rules and whilst schemes less than £10,000 may be made without written competitive quotations this is on the basis that the Contract is not part of a larger Contract which may not be the case here. As such, along with ensuring that the best price is secured and value for money is maintained, the Trust were advised to obtain quotes for the piece of work.

6.6 In response the Trust have confirmed that their preferred company for undertaking the scoping exercise is Ribble Rivers Trust who, whilst they have the expertise to prepare the document, the Trust do not feel that they would have the capacity or equipment to complete any of these projects. The need for quotes from the Trust in this case is therefore queried.

6.7 The proposed study would fall within intervention E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies and as such Committee approval is sought to allocate £7,500 of UKSPF to this scoping/ feasibility study, noting that the study will be undertaken by River Ribbles Trust and further quotes for the work will not be sought.

#### ***Whalley Community Sports Hall***

6.8 The Project has been previously considered by both the Working Group and Committee. Further information has been provided including a proposed site plan for the project for which the total estimated cost was £3,215,300. Discussions are ongoing with the project lead and the required planning application; however, the Director of Economic Development and Planning has requested clarification on some elements and is awaiting this from the architect. Planning therefore had not yet been obtained and the amount being requested is unclear. The working group did not recommend the scheme for approval at this stage.

## **7 UNDERSPEND**

7.1 The additional funding requests above are set out in the table below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Approved Funding</b>	<b>Additional/ Request</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Total</b>
Barrow Village Hall	199,150	41,000		240,150
Barrow Car Park	25,000	26,100		51,100
Salt Hill Play Area	N/A	100,000		100,000
Brungerley Park	N/A	150,000		150,000
Charging Points-Edisford	N/A	29,118		29,118
Charging Points-Longridge	N/A	32,586		32,586
3g Pitch Feasibility	N/A	15,000		15,000
Whalley Education Foundation Car park	N/A	27,600		27,600

Primrose Reserve	Nature	N/A	7,500	7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>224,150</b>	<b>428,904</b>	<b>653,054</b>

7.2 If Committee are minded to approve all of the additional schemes and additional funding requests there would be £17,293 of UKSPF remaining (the new schemes/ additional requests are highlighted on the appended spreadsheet) as set out below.

Area	Allocation	Spent/ Committed	Remaining
Clitheroe	800,000	931,768	-131,768
Whalley/ Barrow	400,000	419,425	-19,425
Longridge	400,000	394,683	5,317
Borough	289,044	125,875	163,169
Admin	78,710	78,710	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,967,754</b>	<b>1,950,461</b>	<b>17,293</b>

7.3 The UKSPF working group met on 11 July 2024 to discuss the option of enabling some of the rural projects submitted under the REPF scheme to be considered under the UKSPF scheme. Committee will note a separate report on REPF on the agenda.

7.4 The schemes which have applied for REPF funding but have not been approved and there is insufficient REPF funding remaining to support them are as follows:

	Applicant	Project	UKSPF intervention	Approved funding	Additional funding requested	<b>Total</b>
1.	Wilpshire Wanderers Football Club	Converting disused tennis courts into additional playing fields consisting of ground preparation, draining and installation of top layer.	E3	N/A	48,000	<b>48,000</b>
2.	Chipping and District Memorial Hall	44 solar panel system and 6 x 5.3k batteries with 3 phase inverter	E11	N/A	23,304	<b>23,304</b>
3.	Mellor Parish Council	Supply and fit playground equipment	E3	N/A	41,803	<b>41,803</b>
4.	Wilpshire Parish Council	Supply and fit playground equipment	E3	N/A	20,918	<b>20,918</b>
5.	Rimmington Recreation Association	Remove existing surface and relay with new tournament MF surface.	E3	37,740	9,060	<b>46,800</b>
6.	Grindleton and Sawley Parish Councils	B4RN scheme	E15	N/A	50,000	<b>50,000</b>
7.	West Bradford	Creation of disabled access to the rear of	E11	N/A	20,233	<b>20,233</b>



	Village Hall	the building with installation of two patio doors				
8.	Langho Football Club	Installation of drainage and top 3g pitch and LED floodlights	E3	N/A	50,000	<b>50,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>37,740</b>	<b>263,318</b>	<b>310,094</b>

## 8 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – the 2024/25 UKSPF allocation has been received.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Procurement will be in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules. It should be noted that due to the sand base not being suitable for vehicles, it is likely that damage to paving will occur if vehicles continue to drive on the market area.
- Political - N/A
- Reputation- N/A
- Equality and Diversity – Committee has chosen to spend the majority of the UKSPF on the communities and place priority by enhancing community facilities and ensuring access for all. It is considered that the projects identified above meet our Public Sector Equality duties.

## 9 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

9.1 Committee are asked to confirm whether they agree to supporting the following projects with UKSPF funding:

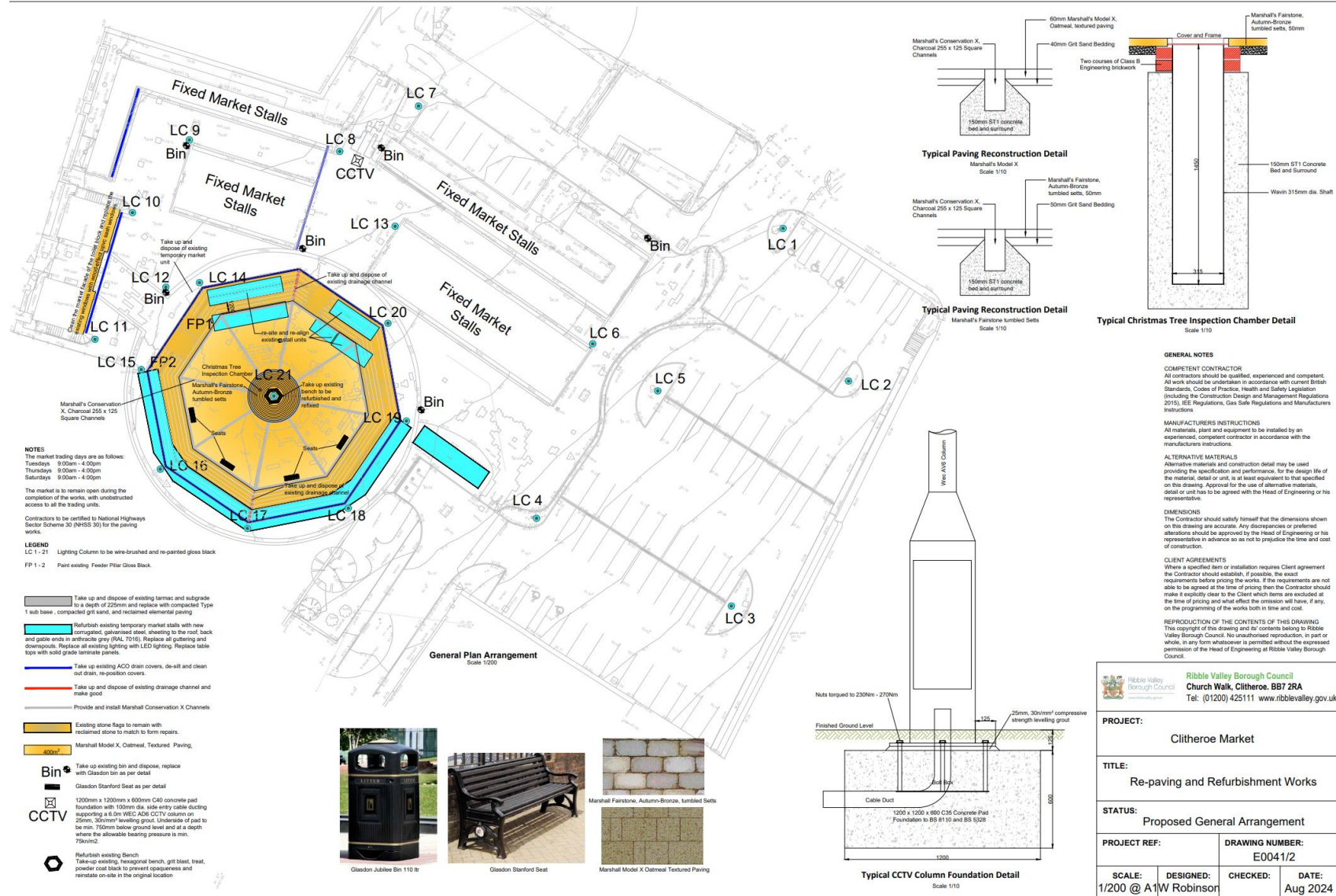
- 9.1.1 Barrow Village Hall- an additional £41,000
- 9.1.2 Barrow Car Park- an additional £26,100
- 9.1.3 Salt Hill Play Area- £100,000
- 9.1.4 Brungerley Park- £150,000
- 9.1.5 Charging Points- Edisford- £29,118
- 9.1.6 Charging Points- Longridge- £32,586
- 9.1.7 3G Pitch Feasibility- £15,000
- 9.1.8 Whalley Education Foundation Car park- £27,600
- 9.1.9 Primrose Nature Reserve- £7,500

9.2 If Committee decline to support some of the projects above, Committee are asked to confirm whether they agree to supporting the following projects with UKSPF funding:

- 9.2.1 Wilpshire Wanderers Football Club- £48,000
- 9.2.2 Chipping and District Memorial Hall- £23,304
- 9.2.3 Mellor Parish Council- £41,803
- 9.2.4 Wilpshire Parish Council- £20,918
- 9.2.5 Rimmington Recreation Association- £46,800
- 9.2.6 Grindleton and Sawley Parish Councils- £50,000
- 9.2.7 West Bradford Village Hall- £20,233
- 9.2.8 Langho Football Club- £50,000

NICOLA HOPKINS  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

# Appendix 1- Refined Plan and indicative programme- Clitheroe Market Improvement Works



**Ribbles Valley Borough Council**  
 Church Walk, Clitheroe, BB7 2RA  
 Tel: (01200) 425111 www.ribblesvalley.gov.uk

**PROJECT:** Clitheroe Market

**TITLE:** Re-paving and Refurbishment Works

**STATUS:** Proposed General Arrangement

**PROJECT REF:** **DRAWING NUMBER:**  
 E0041/2

**SCALE:** 1/200 @ A1 **DESIGNED:** W Robinson **CHECKED:** **DATE:** Aug 2024

1. Chemical steam cleaning of Market toilet / office building (August 2024)
2. Paving Works : (October 2024-November 2024)
3. LED Lighting to stalls (January 2025-March 2025)
4. Replace existing roof panels, gutters and back panels. (January 2025-March 2025)
5. Replace the existing table tops with solid grade laminate panels. (January 2025-March 2025)
6. Associated electrical works. (October 2024-March 2025)
7. New Windows to Market Office Building (January 2025-March 2025)
8. Paint existing lighting. (March 2025)