

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

meeting date: TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2024  
 title: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND AND RURAL ENGLAND 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 Committee agreement for progression in respect of specific schemes.

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/ (overallocated)
Clitheroe	800,000	1,081,768	-281,768
Whalley/ Barrow	400,000	419,425	-19,425
Longridge	400,000	394,551	5,449
Borough	289,044	110,813	178,231
Admin	78,710	78,710	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,967,754</b>	<b>2,085,267</b>	<b>-117,513</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 See Part 2 of the agenda.

##### ***Barrow Village Hall (allocation £240,150)***

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 The revised grant agreement was sent to the Parish Council following the decision at this Committee in September to increase the funding to £240,150. It is understood that works will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

##### ***Barrow Car Park (allocation £51,000)***

4.4 Following the decision to increase the UKSPF allocation for this project to £51,100 a revised grant agreement has been sent to Barrow Parish Council.

4.5 The previous clerk of the Parish Council contacted the Director of Economic Development and Planning to query the inclusion of the charging points within the project as these are likely to be delivered at a later stage, after March 2025. Following a discussion with the Working Group the milestones for this project are:

Contractor chosen for resurfacing work	December 2024
Resurfacing Complete	31 March 2025

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

4.6 Planning permission has been granted and work is expected to commence before Christmas.

4.7 Committee should note that Sport England commented on the planning application and included the requirement for boundary treatment to separate the pump track from the adjacent field and for a ball strike assessment. These requirements are secured by planning condition and will add a cost to the project. Committee will be updated further in due course.

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

4.8 The preferred contractor for the bullring resurfacing works has been chosen following the tendering exercise.

4.9 Two tenders were received for the resurfacing works and the preferred contractor has been identified. The contractor has visited the market with the Head of Engineering and has spoken to some of the traders. The following has been made clear to the Contractor:

4.9.1 Works should commence asap however no works which could be disruptive to the operation of the market, for example material cutting, will be permitted on market days

4.9.2 No works will be undertaken in December on market days

4.9.3 Access to the permanent cabins shall be always maintained

4.9.4 The market will not close

4.10 Committee are aware that some of the casual stalls will need to be removed to facilitate some of the resurfacing works. The Contractor is considering options to enable these

stalls to remain in situ for as long as possible to reduce any disruption for the permanent traders who use these stalls.

4.11 A program of work is attached at Appendix 4. The Contractor will also be invited to the next traders meeting which the Director of Economic Development and Planning holds to answer any queries the traders may have.

4.12 Committee will note the following works indicated during December:

- Restoration works to lighting columns
- Taking up elemental paving for re-use

4.13 None of these works will be disruptive to the market traders.

4.14 Two quotes have been received for the refurbishment of the stalls although further quotes have been requested. The intention is to program in the stall refurbishment with the sequence of re-surfacing to reduce disruption and meet the deadlines of this fund.

4.15 The chemical cleaning of the gables of the permanent cabins has been undertaken and quotes have been obtained to replace the windows in the market office. A commencement date for the window replacement has been requested.

***Market Place (allocation £150,000)***

4.16 Discussions have commenced with LCC to extend the improvements works undertaken on Castle Street to Market Place utilising the small underspend from Castle Street and UKSPF funding.

4.17 Initially the Head of Engineering considered the project based on resurfacing the pavements as per the existing highway layout however it is understood that discussions are ongoing at LCC to remove the bus layby on Market Place. It is understood that laybys, such as the existing one on Market Place, have associated challenges with access for modern buses and safety concerns with buses manoeuvring in and out of the layby. There is no intention, it is understood, to remove the bus stop just the layby.

4.18 Given the above ongoing discussions three options have been developed for Market Place attached at Appendix 1. These have been shared with LCC.

4.19 The principal difference between the three options for pricing is the paved areas and these are as follows:

- Option 1 Area 453m<sup>2</sup>
- Option 2 Area 485m<sup>2</sup>
- Option 3 Area 588m<sup>2</sup>

4.20 Clearly options 2 and 3 would result in the bus, when stationary, occupying part of the carriageway which will be part of LCCs considerations when assessing whether to remove or retain the layby.

4.21 Committee should note that the funding allocated from UKSPF is to undertake improvements to Market Place as per the current layout. If LCC want to remove the bus layby in whole or in part they would be required to fund that element of the scheme. Committee are requested to confirm which layout they prefer which will be relayed back to LCC as part of the ongoing discussions (although Committee should note that any decision to remove the layby will be with LCC as the Highway Authority).

***Charging Points - Edisford and Longridge (£61,704)***

- 4.22 Committee at its previous meeting agreed 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
- 4.23 Discussions have progressed with Eon who could provide 3 x 11kw dual chargers (6 sockets) for the total budget. This would provide 6 bays on one of the car parks above with charging posts like the ones on Railway View and Chester Avenue car parks.
- 4.24 Whilst further quotes are being sought it is suggested that if Committee are minded continuing to pursue this project only the charging points at Barclay Road Car Park are progressed at this stage with the UKSPF funding. There is a lack of electric vehicle charging points in Longridge and it is considered that this car park would see greater charging demand than Edisford Road.
- 4.25 However, Committee should be advised that the erection of three dual charging points at Barclay Road Car Park will have the following revenue implications/ risks:
- 4.25.1 There will be ongoing revenue implications in respect of management and maintenance. It is expected that there would be a cost of approximately £1675 per year just for the management and maintenance of the points on that car park. This would include the management of the operation of all the chargers, 2 planned maintenance visits per year to each charger, remote and on-site rectification of faults.
  - 4.25.2 The Council would be responsible for paying the electricity bill for the points (the cost of which is an unknown at this stage).
  - 4.25.3 Whilst the Council will receive the profit from these charging points (customers would pay the provider who would pay the Council back) it is an unknown what level of profit would be generated from these charging points at this stage.
- 4.26 If Committee are minded pursuing this project, there will be a requirement for an ongoing revenue budget to be identified.

## **5 UKPSF FUNDING**

- 5.1 Appendix 2 includes details of all schemes which have been approved and are either complete or progressing in respect of the Councils' UKSPF allocation. Committee will note that if all the schemes are completed before end of March 2025 there will be a £117,513 overspend.

## **6 RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND (REPF)**

- 6.1 Following approval at previous Committees 20 schemes are being supported via REPF funding (please see Appendix 3).
- 6.2 To date the following grant schemes have been completed:
- 6.2.1 The solar panels at Hurst Green Football Club
  - 6.2.2 The car park resurfacing at Aighton, Bailey and Chaignley
  - 6.2.3 The works associated with the delivery of B4RN at Knowle Green (the elements the grant was facilitating)
- 6.3 The Council led scheme to provide electric vehicle charging points in rural villages has been completed with two points (one dual post) each erected at Sabden, Ribchester, Slaidburn, and Chipping.

6.4 Committee should note that all the approved schemes result in a £233,456 overspend of REPF funding. The highlighted column (Appendix 3) indicates how much of the Council will need to contribute to each project if all the projects are completed.

## **7 RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

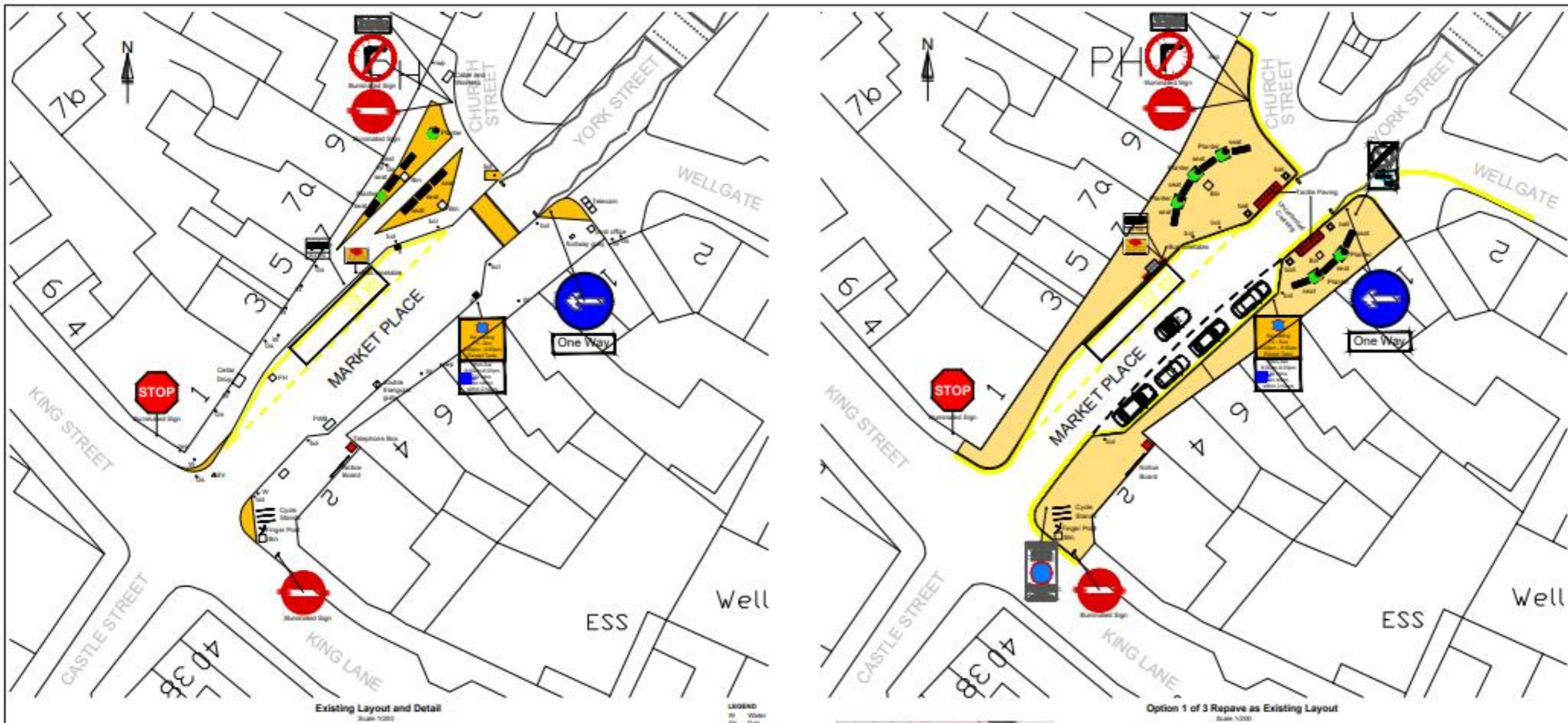
- Resources – the 2024/25 UKSPF allocation has been received and the REPF funding will need to be claimed in arrears. The potential overallocation/overspend on UKSPF schemes (£117,513) and REPF schemes (£233,456) totals £350,969. This will be considered at the Budget Working Group meeting on 4 November, and we will update this Committee at your meeting
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Procurement will be in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 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.

## **8 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee are asked to:

- 8.1.1 Note the removal of the electric vehicle charging points from the Barrow car park resurfacing project
- 8.1.2 Note the potential for additional costs associated with the Pump Track project (this will be kept under review)
- 8.1.3 Confirm which Market Place layout is preferable which will be relayed back to LCC.
- 8.1.4 Confirm whether Officers should progress with the provision of charging points at Edisford Road Car Park noting the revenue implications which will need to be considered at budget setting.
- 8.1.5 Approve the funding of the potential overspend for both UKSPF and REPF as recommended by the Budget Working Group.

NICOLA HOPKINS  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING



Glasdon Jubilee 110 ltr Bin



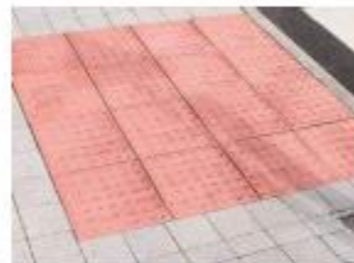
Glasdon Stanford Seat



Marshall's Manchester Bollard



Marshall Spherical 500 Bollard  
Charcoal Conservation



Tactile Paving

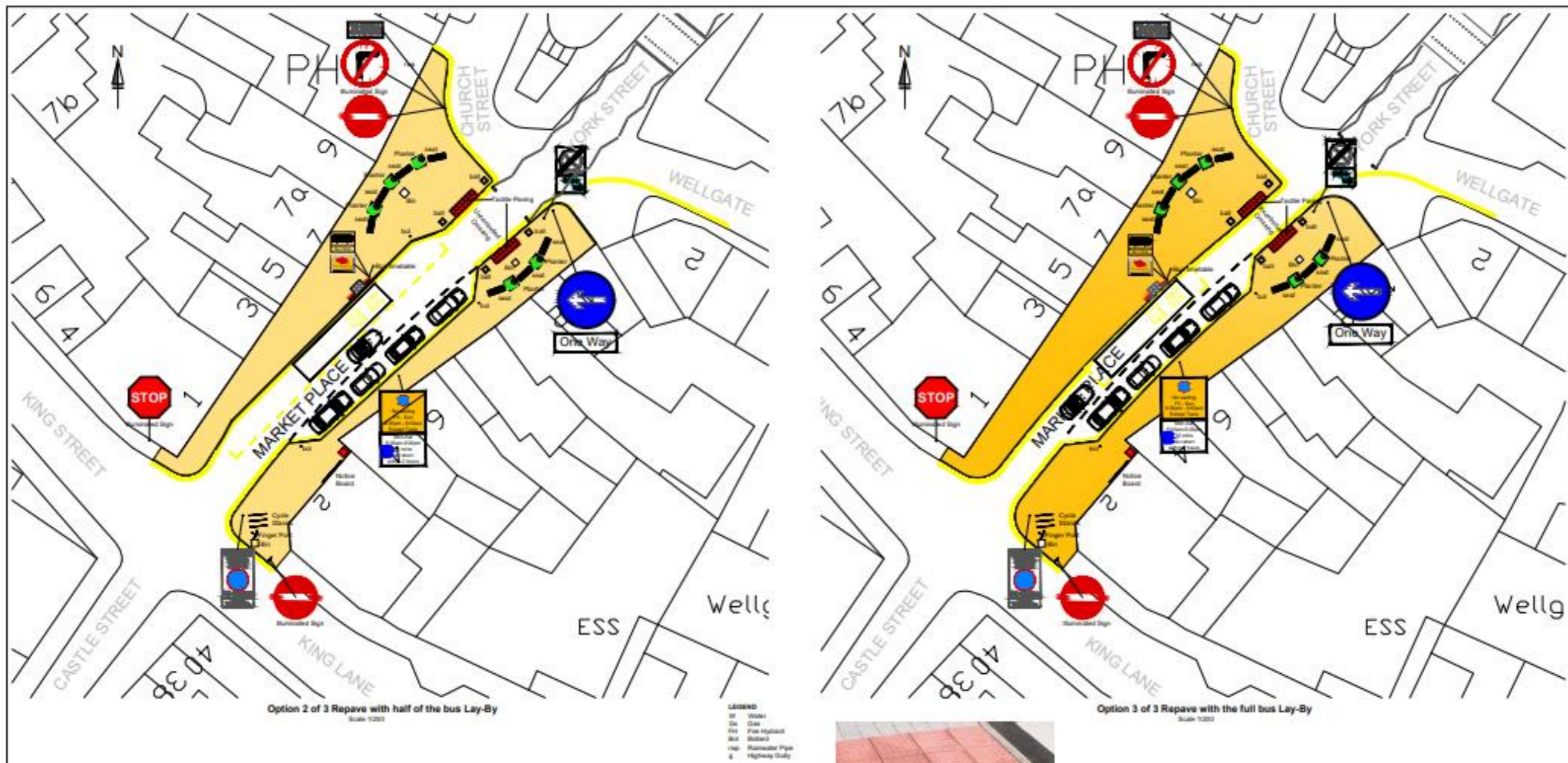


Marshall Conservation X Oatmeal, textured Paving



Townscape Gunwharf Planter  
1200 x 1200 x 1070

Ribble Valley Borough Council Church Walk, Cithere, BB7 2RA Tel: (01200) 425111 www.ribblevalley.gov.uk	
<b>PROJECT:</b>	
Market Place Cithere	
<b>TITLE:</b>	
Options for Redevelopment Existing Layout, Option 1 of 3 with Street Furniture Detail	
<b>STATUS:</b>	
For Consultation with Lancashire County Council Only	
<b>PROJECT REF:</b>	<b>DRAWING NUMBER:</b>
	1 of 2
<b>SCALE:</b>	<b>DESIGNED:</b>
As shown @ A1	W. Robinson
<b>CHECKED:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
	October 2024



Glasdon Jubilee 110 ltr Bin



Glasdon Stanford Seat



Marshall's Manchester Bollard



Marshall Spherical 500 Bollard  
Charcoal Conservation



Tactile Paving



Marshall Conservation X Oatmeal, textured Paving



Townscape Gunwharf Planter  
1200 x 1200 x 1070

<p><b>Ribble Valley Borough Council</b> Church Walk, Clitheroe, BB7 2RA Tel: (01200) 425111 www.ribblevalley.gov.uk</p>			
<b>PROJECT:</b>			
Market Place Clitheroe			
<b>TITLE:</b>			
Options for Redevelopment Options 2 and 3 of 3 with Street Furniture Detail			
<b>STATUS:</b>			
For Consultation with Lancashire County Council Only			
<b>PROJECT REF:</b>		<b>DRAWING NUMBER:</b>	
		1 of 2	
<b>SCALE:</b>	<b>DESIGNED:</b>	<b>CHECKED:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
As shown @ A1	W. Robinson		October 2024

INTERVENTION	SCHEMES	AMOUNT REQUESTED/ APPROVED	AREA	2024/25			TOTAL	UPDATE
				2022/23	2023/24	(COMMITTED)		
<b>UKSPF ALLOCATION</b>				<b>238,805</b>	<b>477,610</b>	<b>1,251,339</b>	<b>1,967,754</b>	
<b>E1: Improvements to town centres &amp; high streets</b>	Castle Street Improvements	300,000	Clitheroe	0	302,700	0	302,700	COMPLETE
	Market Place Improvements	150,000	Clitheroe	0	0	150,000	150,000	NEW- PROCEED 10.09.24
<b>E2: Community &amp; neighbourhood infrastructure projects</b>	Mardale Car Park Improvements	49,828	Longridge	0	49,828	0	49,828	COMPLETE
	Townley Garden Event Space, Longridge	100,000	Longridge	0	725	99,275	100,000	PROCEED 07.11.23
	Mardale drainage improvements	18,500	Longridge	0	18,500	0	18,500	COMPLETE
	Barrow Village Hall	240,150	Whalley/ Barrow	0	0	240,150	240,150	PROCEED 23.01.24- additional £41,000 requested- AGREED 10.09.24
	Barrow Car Park	51,100	Whalley/ Barrow	0	0	51,100	51,100	PROCEED 23.01.24- additional £26,100 requested- AGREED 10.09.24
	Whalley Educational Foundation		Whalley/ Barrow	0	0	100,000	100,000	PROCEED 07.11.23
	Roefield	80,000	Clitheroe	0	80,000	0	80,000	COMPLETE
	Whalley Educational Foundation (additional request)	75,220	Whalley/ Barrow	0	0	27,600	27,600	NEW- PROCEED 10.09.24
<b>E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces</b>	Mardale changing room improvements	133,769	Longridge	61,185	72,452	0	133,637	COMPLETE
	Pump Track, Longridge	60,000	Longridge	0	550	59,450	60,000	PROCEED 07.11.23
	Salthill Play Area	100,000	Clitheroe	0	0	100,000	100,000	NEW- PROCEED 10.09.24
	Brungerley Footpaths	150,000	Clitheroe	0	0	150,000	150,000	NEW- PROCEED 10.09.24
<b>E5: Built &amp; landscaped environment to 'design out' crime</b>	Standalone CCTV cameras- Whalley	575	Whalley/ Barrow	0	575	0	575	COMPLETE
<b>E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area</b>	New web-site project	33,912	BOROUGH	0	31,065	2,785	33,850	PROCEED 28.03.2023



<b>E16: Open markets &amp; town centre retail &amp; service sector</b>	Clitheroe Market Improvements	250,000	Clitheroe	0	2,401	247,599	250,000	PROCEED 28.03.2023 ALLOCATION INCREASED 09.04.24 ALLOCATION INCREASED 18.06.24
<b>E17: Development &amp; promotion of visitor economy</b>	Cycle Routes - Five circular self-guided cycle routes	1,888	BOROUGH	0	1,888	0	1,888	COMPLETE
	Walks with Taste- Six new circular self-guided walks	4,200	BOROUGH	0	4,200	0	4,200	COMPLETE
<b>E29: Supporting decarbonisation &amp; improving natural environment</b>	Business support for net zero transition & decarbonisation	70,000	BOROUGH	10,000	30,000	30,000	70,000	ONGOING
	Charging Points Edisford	29,118	Clitheroe	0	0	29,118	29,118	NEW- PROCEED 10.09.24
	Charging Points Longridge	32,586	Longridge	0	0	32,586	32,586	NEW- PROCEED 10.09.24
<b>E31: Support relevant feasibility studies</b>	Clitheroe Market Feasibility Study		Clitheroe	6,000	0	0	6,000	COMPLETE
	Rail Feasibility Study		Clitheroe	6,450	0	0	6,450	COMPLETE
	EV Charging Points Feasibility		BOROUGH	0	875	0	875	COMPLETE
	Scoping/ Feasibility Study Primrose Nature Reserve	7,500	Clitheroe	0	0	7,500	7,500	NEW- PROCEED 10.09.24
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				<b>9,552</b>	<b>19,104</b>	<b>50,054</b>	<b>78,710</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>93187</b>	<b>614,863</b>	<b>1377217</b>	<b>2,085,267</b>	
<b>REMAINING</b>				<b>145,618</b>	<b>-137,253</b>	<b>-125,878</b>	<b>-117,513</b>	

Area	Allocation	Spent/ Committed	Remaining
Clitheroe	800,000	1,081,768	-281,768
Whalley/ Barrow	400,000	419425	-19,425
Longridge	400,000	394551	5,449
Borough	289,044	110813	178,231
Admin	78,710	78,710	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,967,754</b>	<b>2,085,267</b>	<b>-117,513</b>

INTERVENTION	SCHEMES	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AREA	2023/24	2024/25 (ALLOCATION)	ACTUAL 2024/25	TOTAL	COUNCIL RESERVE FIGURE	UPDATE
<b>REPF ALLOCATION</b>				<b>75,000</b>	<b>358,680</b>	<b>433,680</b>	<b>433,680</b>	<b>233,456</b>	
<b>Funding (capital grants) for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation (E26)</b>	EV Charging Points in Villages	50,000	Sabden, Slaidburn, Chipping and Ribchester	0	50,000	0	49,885	0	ONGOING
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>-49,885</b>	
<b>Funding (capital grants) for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities E15</b>									
	Access Road	47,362	Salesbury	0	47,362	0	47,362	17,998	ONGOING
	Footpath	24,908	Chipping	0	24,908	0	24,908	9,465	ONGOING
	Composting Toilet	8,482	Ramsgreave	0	8,482	0	8,482	3,223	ONGOING
	Car Park	43,680	Aughton Bailey and Chaigley	0	43,680	0	43,680	16,598	ONGOING
	Green Car Park	12,268	Sabden	0	12,268	0	12,268	4,662	ONGOING
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>136,700</b>	<b>51,946</b>
<b>Funding (capital grants) for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups E11</b>									
	B4RN	50,000	Knowle Green	0	50,000	0	50,000	17,901	ONGOING
	B4RN	50,000	Bolton-by-Bowland and Paythorn	0	50,000	0	50,000	19,000	ONGOING
	Solar Panels	35,000	Hurst Green	0	35,000	35,000	35,000	13,300	ONGOING
	Solar Panels	30,188	Grindleton	0	30,188	0	30,188	11,471	ONGOING
	Solar Panels	23,304	Chipping	0	23,204	0	23,204	8,818	NEW
	B4RN	50,000	Grindleton and Sawley	0	50,000	0	50,000	19,000	NEW
	Disabled Access	20,233	West Bradford	0	20,233	0	20,233	7,689	NEW
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>258,625</b>	<b>97,179</b>
<b>Funding (capital grants) for creation of and improvements to local rural green spaces E3</b>									
	Playground	9,929	Sabden	0	9,929	0	9,929	3,773	ONGOING
	Coronation Gardens	13,536	Wiswell	0	13,536	0	13,536	5,144	ONGOING
	3G Pitch	46,800	Rimmington	0	37,740	0	37,740	14,341	ONGOING- ADDITIONAL £9,060 REQUESTED (declined 10/09)
	Creation of football pitches	48,000	Wilpshire	0	48,000	0	48,000	18,240	NEW
	Playground equipment	41,803	Mellor	0	41,803	0	41,803	15,885	NEW

Appendix 3-REPF Spend

	Playground equipment	20,918	Wilpshire	0	20,918	0	20,918	7,949	NEW
	3g Pitch and lighting	50,000	Langho	0	50,000	0	50,000	19,000	NEW
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>221,926</b>	<b>84,332</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>667,251</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>667,136</b>	<b>233,456</b>	
<b>REMAINING</b>				<b>75,000</b>	<b>-308,571</b>	<b>398,680</b>	<b>-233,456</b>	<b>0</b>	

