

## **Marple District Centre Action Plan 2023**

Stockport Council has been working with the Institute of Place Management (IPM) to understand what Marple needs to thrive and be strong. A stakeholder workshop was held in Spring 2022 and brought together local stakeholders including retailers, community groups, and Ward Members. Feedback from this workshop along with detailed information on how Marple District Centre is performing formed the basis of IPM's report which culminated in a series of recommendations based on IPM's 4Rs Framework – Restructuring, Rebranding, Repositioning and Reinventing, with suggested quick wins and longer term priorities.

The District Centre Manager for Marple has been working with partner organisations and local stakeholders to develop a formal Action Plan for Marple based on the recommendations within the IPM report. The Action Plan that follows reflects the priorities of the Marple community, it is a partnership approach to help create a strong viable centre for everyone's benefit.

Anyone living or working in Marple, has a role to play – if organisations work together, small individual actions can have a big collective outcome.

Along with stating how each Action will be delivered the Plan also states by whom and the following specific role is allocated to each organisation:

**Deliverer** – delivers the service needed to complete the action

**Enabler** – helps create the conditions needed to achieve the action

**Funder** – gives money to pay for an action

**Influencer** – helps change other people's opinions or behaviours to achieve the action

**Policymaker** – creates policies that reinforce the action

**Supporter** – encourages and approves the action

## Marple District Centre Action Plan

Business Support (Pillar 1)						
What?	Why?	How?	Who (& roles)?	When by?	How will we know if we've been successful?	June Progress Update
1. Reduce building vacancy rates	To help create new businesses and jobs	<p>Work with property owners and new business start-ups / innovators to identify correct business support, advice and funding.</p> <p>Maintain occupancy and vacancy spreadsheet with new and closing business reasons.</p> <p>Drop in sessions with access to Enterprise You and other partners.</p>	<p>Stockport Council (<i>enabler, influencer &amp; deliverer</i>)</p> <p>Agents and property owners (<i>influencers</i>)</p> <p>Growth Company (<i>deliverer</i>)</p>	Dec 2023	<p>Vacancy rates in Dec 2023 v. Dec 2022 figures.</p> <p>We can look at case studies on new businesses, created jointly with Growth Hub, Build a Business Programme (BAB), and Enterprising You.</p>	<p>M&amp;Co building owners contacted to explore use of window displays. Waiting for owner feedback.</p> <p>Database added to with new businesses and new contacts made.</p> <p>Promoted Workplace Wellbeing Workshop and free accountancy clinic for traders</p>
2. Build a database / network of contacts for local businesses	To keep companies up to date on business support and funding available	Establish constant contact with businesses who wish to sign up for receiving information	<p>Stockport Council (<i>enabler</i>)</p> <p>Growth Company (<i>deliverer and</i></p>	Ongoing	Monitor take up on events with partners.	Marple Civic Society supporting business door knocking with questionnaire developed with District Centre Manager

		<p>on Council activity and partner support.</p> <p>Support Businesses with enquiries and resolving any issues- acting as a point of contact</p>	<p><i>influencer</i> – if we tailor products to suit businesses</p> <p>BAB (<i>enabler</i>) Community groups (<i>supporter</i>)</p> <p>Property owners (<i>enabler</i>)</p> <p>Marple Councillors (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)</p>		<p>Feedback from businesses on how useful the support is</p> <p>We can tailor future workshops / events to businesses in particular areas</p>	<p>Business connected with Business Rates Team to support move to larger premises</p> <p>Retail crime Information circulated to traders with security advice for small retail premises</p> <p>Support given to Marple business, property owner and family living above fire damaged premises</p> <p>Promoted Workplace Wellbeing Workshop and free accountancy clinic for traders</p> <p>Guardians of Grub campaign for the Hospitality and Food Service sector free e-learning course to help reduce costs, carbon and improve profits circulated to hospitality businesses.</p> <p>Request for café space to support Fostering Services drop in sessions circulated</p> <p>Growing database of contacts linked to events and projects</p>
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<b>Physical Regeneration (Pillar 2)</b>						
3. Undertake a District Centre Audit to identify grot spots	To identify and prioritise areas that need tidying up	Utilise existing groups to complete audit	Stockport Council ( <i>enabler, influencer &amp; deliverer</i> )  Agents and property owners ( <i>influencers</i> )  Marple Councillors (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Dec 2023	Plans progressed. Improved sense of arrival.	Grot spot list completed 19 <sup>th</sup> November. Tidy ups completed in contract car parks and Derby Way car park 18 <sup>th</sup> March
4. Introduce more greenery and planters	Visual improvements to public realm through planters and adding more greenery	Work with local groups to support funding bids and on-going maintenance	Community groups ( <i>supporter</i> )  Stockport Council ( <i>enabler, influencer</i> )  Marple Councillors (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Dec 2023	Increase in the number of planters. More attractive planters free of litter.	Working with local artist to look at opportunities to introduce planters outside premises
5. Removing unnecessary street clutter	Improves the appearance of the District improved visibility to essential signage	Review previous Street clutter audit and work with Highways to remove unnecessary signs.	Stockport Council ( <i>enabler, influencer</i> )  Community groups ( <i>supporter</i> )  Marple Councillors (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Dec 2023	Audit complete and plans progressed	Abandoned 'Advertising' Board removed chained to lamp column Market St. Further work required to go through street clutter audit

6. Introduce Voluntary Community Toilet scheme prior to further investigations of re-instating closed Derby Way car park toilets managed by Community Volunteers	Improves accessibility to the District Centre for residents/visitors	Work with local traders/organisations to assess premises suitability and to join the scheme, publicise locally via social media channels, SMBC website and through window stickers or other signage	Stockport Council ( <i>enabler, influencer</i> )  Agents and property owners ( <i>influencers/enabler</i> ) Community groups ( <i>supporter</i> )  Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Dec 2023	Plans Progressed	16/02/23 Walkabout with Cllr Alexander to gather views on voluntary scheme  List compiled of willing premises
7. Wayfaring signage and maps at Marple and Rose Hill stations, the canal and District Centre with new/replaced signage and maps highlighting what's available within walking distance	To connect Marple and Rose Hill train stations and the canal with the District Centre and highlights its accessibility minimising car use.	Work with groups to research options and costing and look for match funding/sponsorship options	Community groups ( <i>supporter</i> ) Stockport Council ( <i>enabler, influencer</i> ) Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Dec 2023	Plans progressed	Initial conversation with Highways taken place to discuss costing and requirement for fingerpost signage.
8. Install a Public Noticeboard	To promote events and local activity for both residents and visitors to make information	Work with local organisations to look at feasibility of using local suppliers/makers.	Community groups ( <i>supporter</i> )  Stockport Council ( <i>enabler, influencer</i> )	Dec 2023	Sign installed	Working with Helen Middleton Studios and Local fabricator. Design approved and with Highways to assess utilities at site. Installation costs agreed. Highways completing site

	accessible in different formats		Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)			underground utility inspections prior to installation
9. Investigate feasibility and costs for Festoon Lighting	To improve lighting and add to the atmosphere of the evening economy	Work with supplier to provide costings and property owners to assess permissions required	Retailers and businesses ( <i>enablers</i> )  Council ( <i>enabler</i> ) Community groups ( <i>supporter</i> )  Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Dec 2023	Plans Progressed and reviewed	Long term plan.
<b>Events and Animation (Pillar 3)</b>						
10. Produce an events calendar of existing events to help identify any gaps in activity and develop additional complimentary events.	Work with all local partners and stakeholders to maximise opportunities for support and funding to connect local economy and community and local groups on events etc	Event sub group established to lead on Planning and marketing	Retailers and businesses ( <i>enablers</i> )  Council ( <i>enabler</i> )  Community groups ( <i>supporter</i> )  Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Jun 2023	Footfall Counters to assess impact of events	Supported Marple Fest in running Kings Coronation event, engaged with traders over use of contract car parks and supported the event application process .  Arranged for bench to be removed for the event stage to be sited and for bench to be relocated to prevent further costs when events take place.  Connected Edgeley makers with Make it Marple Market

11. Local artwork and cultural improvement projects such as seasonal art trails to increase activity in the centre	Work with local community groups and businesses on projects which improve the image of the local and to increase footfall	Assist local groups to look at funding opportunities and apply for bids to Council funds and partner funding (GMCA etc).	Community groups ( <i>supporters</i> )  Retailers and businesses ( <i>enablers</i> )  Stockport Council ( <i>enabler</i> )  Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	Dec 2023	Plans progressed	Working with Drawing Board productions with shutter artwork plans being shared with traders.
<b>Vision and Strategy (Pillar 4)</b>						
12. Establish a "Visionary Group"	To meet bi-monthly and discuss all work across all 4 Pillars. Responsible for managing short and long-term change	Plan, connect and facilitate on projects in the District Centre.  Produce a one page summary of actions and meeting dates/locations as an e-bulletin	Stockport Council ( <i>enabler</i> )  Community groups ( <i>supporters</i> )  Businesses ( <i>supporters</i> )	Dec 2023	Group formed and actions developed	Visionary meeting held and first Steering Group Meeting held in April.
13. Complete a Day of Action promote the Vision Team	To start developing a wider understanding of the Vision Team aims completing a grot spot audit and litter picking exercise to	To have a stall on the Make it Marple Market day with volunteers organised to support the actions.	Community groups ( <i>supporters</i> )  Stockport Council ( <i>enabler</i> )  Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)	End Nov 2022	Day of action completed Nov 22	Spring Clean litter pick completed March 23

	promote the Vision Team					
14. Consolidate and sustain existing social media good practice through Marple community group forums	To increase Marple's offer utilising existing platforms and to promote positive images	Review what is on offer and work with stakeholders to promote positive messages.	<p>Stockport Council (<i>enabler</i>)</p> <p>Community groups (<i>supporters</i>)</p> <p>Businesses (<i>supporters</i>)</p> <p>Marple Cllrs (Enabler, Influencer Supporter)</p>	Dec 2023	Stronger social media presence.	Stockport Spring Clean 18/03/23 for Marple promoted on Marple website and Social media