

MARPLE DISTRICT CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Report of the Director of Development and Regeneration

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.0 To provide an update on delivering Marple District Centre Action Plan including recent successes and priorities for the next 6 months.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Marple Action Plan reflects local priorities and includes quick wins and longer term actions all of which to help towards creating a strong, healthy and sustainable District Centre. The Plan was discussed at the Marple Area Committee meeting in March 2023 and the District Centre Manager provided an update on delivery of the Action Plan in June 2023 and in November 2023. This report is to update on delivery since November.

3. MARPLE DISTRICT CENTRE ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 Over the winter and spring months various activities and events have been held and good progress made on delivering a number projects within the Action Plan. Below is a summary from the last 6 months:

- ✓ The 1st phase of the UKSPF funded planter project is nearly complete involving 9 shopfront planters and 1 large planter created by Marple Men in Sheds with metal artwork designed by Helen Middleton studios.
- ✓ Good progress being made on the festoon lighting project with Marple Fest raising over £17,700 towards the cost. Plans have been drawn up and liaison with building owners to seek their permission is progressing. The planning permission process has also begun. It is hoped all permissions will have been secured to allow installation in Autumn.
- ✓ Marple Vision logo work has been completed and has been shared via Facebook and included on the The Marple website.
- ✓ The new noticeboard at the Hollins lane junction continues to be popular for promoting initiatives and events. The new noticeboard for Rose Hill station is being manufactured and due for installation imminently.
- ✓ Event markets are continuing and have extended down Market Street.
- ✓ Work has begun on the Food and Drink Festival in September.

- 3.2 In addition to delivering the specific actions the District Centre Manager continues to regularly engage with small businesses and retailers in

Marple. They regularly promote business support workshops and remind businesses about the wealth of business advice they can access from partner organisations such as the Business Growth Hub and Enterprising You. They have also supported businesses and organisations in accessing funding including UKSPF and connecting them to Council colleagues who provide advice on specialist areas including road closures, Temporary Event Notices.

4. FOOTFALL

- 4.1 The new footfall counting system was installed in April 2023 so we are now able to compare year on year figures to identify trends. In Marple for the 2 month period of May to June footfall increased by 4% compared to the same period last year.

5. BUDGET ALLOCATION & UPDATED ACTION PALN

- 5.1 In 2022/23 each District Centre was allocated £5,000 to assist with delivering projects within their specific Action Plans. Local stakeholders in Marple were involved in identifying priority projects for the £5,000. In October 2023 £40,000 was allocated via the Communities and Place strand of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to be split equally between the eight District Centres.
- 5.2 To assist with continuing the successful work that has taken place over the last 18 months a further £40,000 has been allocated from the 2024/25 Communities and Place strand of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), again to be split equally between the eight District Centres. To comply with the requirements of UKSPF the £5,000 per District Centre must be spent by the end of March 2025.
- 5.3 As with all District Centre allocated funding, local stakeholders in Marple Vision Team will be actively involved in prioritising projects for funding from the second UKSPF allocation (£5,000). A meeting of Marple Vision Team is being organised which along with considering priority areas for funding, will also help shape a new updated version of the Marple District Action Plan which will build on recent successes – a verbal update will be provided at the Committee meeting. This collective approach to allocating funding and developing the Action Plan has helped ensure a partnership approach to delivery and has resulted in buy in from a range of local stakeholders.

6. SUPPORT FOR LARGE LOCAL CENTRES

- 6.1 As mention previously to assist those businesses and organisations based in the large local Centres an online portal is being developed which will have a wealth of useful information to help businesses with accessing business support, running and delivering events including what permissions are required, how to set up steering groups or traders' associations, and details of funding sources.

- 6.2 To ensure the portal is a meaningful resource further work is needed and it is hoped to launch the portal in the Autumn 2024. In the meantime advice and support is being provided where possible to those in Large Local Centres.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Richard Daniels, the District Centre Manager for Marple continues to develop strong positive relationships with colleagues in the Council, local businesses and community organisations in Marple. This strong partnership approach has helped to generate ideas for new projects and activities, along with identifying priority actions.

- 7.2 The Committee is requested to:

- a) Note the progress made in delivering projects and events.
- b) Provide feedback on initial ideas for priority projects to allocate the £5,000 UKSPF which will be discussed with Marple Vision Team.