



Report to:	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee
Date:	29 February 2024
Subject:	High Street Heritage Action Zone Programme
Director:	Liz Hunter Director, Policing, Environment and Place
Author:	Rebecca Greenwood, Head of Housing

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Committee members to consider Historic England's evaluation of the High Street Heritage Action Zone Programme and to stimulate a discussion regarding opportunities for further engagement with Historic England in West Yorkshire

2. Information

- 2.1 Historic England are the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's historic environment. Historic England's work is wide ranging and includes working closely with partner local authorities and the Combined Authority to identify, develop and invest in programmes and interventions that support protecting our historic environment.
- 2.2 West Yorkshire Combined Authority have been working in partnership with Historic England for a number of years, including through input to the Strategic Place Partnership and ongoing engagement on the development of the West Yorkshire Housing Strategy. Richard Butterfield, Partnerships Team Leader at Historic England joined the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee as an advisory representative in 2023.

- 2.3 Historic England have invested and supported several strategic projects across the region. The High Street Heritage Action Zone is one such programme where Historic England have invested in areas such as Huddersfield, Leeds, Sowerby Bridge and Wakefield. The projects have supported improvements to historic highstreets and coupled this with cultural programmes and community engagement. At the meeting Richard Butterfield will share a presentation with the Committee to outline the impact and emerging findings of the evaluation of the programme. A copy of the presentation is attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.4 Committee members will be invited to share their views on the programme and experience of working with Historic England and the Heritage Action Zone Programme. Following the presentation, Historic England would like to ask members to discuss:
- How can Heritage Action Zones help the Combined Authority deliver its ambitions for people and places and create synergies with existing programmes?
 - How to align funding opportunities to make this happen and bring further economic growth to communities in West Yorkshire?

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 Historic England have published a Climate Change Strategy which sets out their response to the climate crisis and how they will prioritise work to address the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The High Street Heritage Action Zone programme works with partners to unlock the potential of England's historic high streets, fuelling economic, social and cultural recovery. Projects aim to transform disused and dilapidated buildings into homes, shops, work places and community spaces, seeking to maximise the impact of heritage and culture in supporting inclusive growth of local areas.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Historic England's purpose is to improve people's lives by championing and protecting England's historic environment. As a public body, Historic England has a duty to ensure their work is accessible and relevant to everyone in England. The Historic England strategy for inclusion, diversity and equality states that:

'Heritage is for everyone. The work we do ensures that a diverse range of people are able to connect with, enjoy and benefit from the historic environment'

As such, the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme, builds in equality, diversity and inclusion into the design of the programme and assessment of projects.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

10.1 The Committee are asked to note the contents of the report and contribute to discussion of the presentation at the meeting on 29th February.

11. Background Documents

11.1 There are no background documents to this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Historic England – High Street Heritage Action Zone Presentation