
Report to: Land and Assets Panel

Date: 20 April 2018

Subject: **West Yorkshire Textile Mills - Feasibility and Investment Framework**

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Land and Assets Panel on next steps in relation to the completed Cushman and Wakefield (C&W) West Yorkshire Textile Mills Feasibility and Investment Framework.

2 Information

- 2.1 An update report was provided for the Land and Assets Panel on the C&W report on 5 January 2018. The report was completed on 7 February 2018 and has now been accepted by the main funder Historic England.
- 2.2 The 7 February 2018 final report identified intervention options and the anticipated level of investment required to unlock each of the 10 original sample textile mill sites. The report also recommended the establishment of a shared Mills Working Group (MWG) to look at the wider issues across the region.
- 2.3 The report recommended that the MWG is to comprise of members of the five partner councils, Homes England, Historic England and West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The C&W report recognised that the appropriate resource / capacity needed to be facilitated to enable this to happen, a draft terms of reference for the group was also compiled is attached to the final C&W report at appendix 6 of the report.
- 2.3 Discussion on the resources and expertise required to establish an effective MWG have taken place between Combined Authority officers and Trevor Mitchel and Deborah Wall of Historic England.

2.4 The following draft proposal has been compiled in principal with Historic England.

Historic England

- A dedicated project manager from the Heritage at Risk Team is to act as the lead officer, working with the Local Authorities, the Combined Authority, Homes England and mill owners.
- Bringing mills project experience to the MWG.
- Developing a criteria for assessing priority mills and mechanisms required to bring mills back into use.
- Initially assessing potential mills requiring support and types of support required.

Combined Authority

- Coordinate and facilitate the MWG meetings.
- To bring projects that are relevant and deliverable into the Combined Authority pipeline as part of wider area regeneration initiatives.
- Ensure alignment with relevant strategies and investment plans of the Combined Authority.
- Support liaison with our partner councils, Historic England and Homes England.

Local Authority

- Identify officer with appropriate skills to lead for each.
- Ensure alignment with relevant local authority strategies and align support from relevant departments.
- Support the planning process where required.

Homes England

- Ensure proactive alignment with relevant funding sources.
- Commit staff resources to the MWG.
- Support inclusion on the Leeds City Region Strategic Sites Pipeline where appropriate.

General principles

- Draft terms of reference to be agreed.
- Chair of the group to be identified.
- To work proactively with mill owners.
- 6 month review of the effectiveness / value of the MWG.

3 Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report at this time.

4 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report at this time.

5 Staffing Implications

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

6 External Consultees

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That the offer of a dedicated resource from Historic England is accepted

7.2 That the Mills Working Group (MWG) is established to be coordinated by the Combined Authority and support sought from and to include input of the local authorities and Homes England.

8 Background Documents

None

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 – West Yorkshire Textile Mills – Feasibility and Investment Framework (7 February 2018)