

Report of the Regeneration and Housing Director to the meeting of The Executive to be held on 14 June 2005.

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Subject: Airedale Masterplan

Summary statement:

This report describes the background to the development of Airedale Corridors: A Masterplan and Strategy for Airedale which was launched on 15 March 2005. It outlines the implications of the Masterplan for the Council, particularly in relation to its regeneration, planning and transportation functions and informs the Executive of the programme of consultation proposed by the Airedale Partnership.

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Improvement Area: Regeneration & Economy



1. Summary

- 1.1 Airedale Corridors: A Masterplan and Strategy for Airedale was launched on 15 March 2005 at Dalton Mills, Keighley. Following publication there is a need to establish a process for the Council to receive and comment upon the Masterplan and consider the action required to take forward its implementation and delivery.
- 1.2 This report describes the background to the development of the Masterplan. It outlines the implications of the Masterplan for the Council, particularly in relation to its regeneration, planning and transportation functions and informs the Executive of the programme of consultation proposed by the Airedale Partnership.

2. Background

- 2.1 Arup and a team of supporting consultants were appointed by the Airedale Partnership to develop a masterplan and strategy for Airedale by the Airedale Partnership and the Council. Funded by Yorkshire Forward, the aim of the Masterplan was to identify the key interventions to assist in the regeneration of Airedale in a sustainable, integrated way.
- 2.2 Since their appointment Arup have carried out a detailed baseline analysis of Airedale, its economy, environment, education and skills, business, land and premises. During October and November 2004 almost one thousand people also took part in a programme of public consultation to give their views on the future of Airedale. Through this consultation and analysis Arup have developed ideas and interventions which they believe will deliver a step-change in the performance of Airedale, in line with the aspirations of local people and the Bradford 2020 Vision.
- 2.3 The Masterplan and Strategy includes a Vision which sees Airedale performing three distinctive roles in the local and regional economy as a:
- Creative Corridor – An area that is internationally recognised for its focus on commercial research, design and development of products and services. A place specialising in innovation and business start up, driven by the widespread integration of digital technology.
 - Connected Corridor – An area that is a model of integrated transport and communications for road, rail, air and high speed internet access that supports the existing world class companies within the dale. A place where leadership is strong and committed to the regeneration of Airedale for its people, Bradford district and our city region.
 - Lifestyle Corridor – An area that draws on the “raw material” of the outstanding natural landscape, town centres, world heritage site and waterways to provide a highly desirable quality of life and destination to live and visit. A place that is well educated, diverse and cosmopolitan and proud of being Airedale.
- 2.4 The Masterplan includes a wide range of ideas and identifies places for change in Airedale to achieve the Vision. These include actions to support: the renaissance of the three main town centres of Keighley, Shipley and Bingley; improve the area’s capacity for innovation and enterprise; unlock areas of land for employment;

enhance education, skills and training; create a sustainable transport system and develop new leisure and cultural facilities. It emphasises the importance of Airedale's outstanding natural environment and the importance of protecting this from unregulated and inappropriate development. There is a focus on strategic change to bring benefits for the whole valley without compromising the work done at community level.

- 2.5 The Council at its meeting on 19 April 2005 considered a resolution on the Airedale Masterplan and resolved:

That this Council:

1. Welcomes the Airedale Masterplan and recognizes the contribution it can make to the economic development and regeneration of Airedale;
2. Notes the Masterplan's potential as the basis for supplementary planning guidance;
3. Refers the Masterplan to the Regeneration & Economy Improvement Committee for comment and feedback; and
4. Asks the Assistant Chief Executive, Regeneration & Environment to work with the Airedale Partnership, Yorkshire Forward and other interested parties in developing proposals for the Masterplan's delivery.

3. **Other considerations**

- 3.1 The Airedale Masterplan is an ambitious plan for the regeneration of the area and includes a wide range of interventions and projects. Following its publication work has begun to assess with key partners the most appropriate delivery mechanism and structure to achieve the successful implementation of the Plan. This will include examining options for a public/private partnership to take forward the development opportunities identified by the Plan.

- 3.2 The Airedale Partnership proposes to consult on the Masterplan in a variety of ways and obtain feedback on the proposals from the public and key stakeholders. This will include:

- A programme of public roadshows throughout Airedale during the week beginning 4 July 2005
- Presentations to the Shipley and Keighley Area Committees, Town Centre Management and other appropriate partnerships and forums
- Meetings with key stakeholders, eg., Metro, PCT, Environment Agency
- Media coverage in the Telegraph & Argus and the Keighley News
- Feedback forms on the Airedale Partnership website

- 3.3 The Council is both local planning authority and local highway authority and in these capacities will play an essential role in the delivery of the Plan. Its' proposals in part take forward the adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the policies and proposals of the replacement plan which is close to adoption later this year.

- 3.4 The Director of Transportation Design and Planning has advised that some of the Masterplan proposals may be safely advanced through planning applications. Others may require informal planning guidance or the preparation of more formal Supplementary Planning Documents. The town centres, the Shipley proposals and the other key projects are of particular importance. However, certain proposals will require the preparation of new Development Plan Documents (including advancement through the preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy).
- 3.4 Recent changes to the Planning system have introduced the Local Development Framework (LDF) as a more flexible alternative to the comprehensive district wide UDP. The LDF will include different types of plan document which will be able to update and replace the UDP as necessary. This approach includes the requirement to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) as a project plan showing what steps will be taken to keep the LDF up to date. The first LDS has been submitted to Government as required and it refers to the need to consider the implications of the Airedale Master plan. A commitment has been given to appraise what needs to be done in terms of the LDS.
- 3.6 The implications of the Master plan for the natural environment and the Saltaire World Heritage Site will be considered within this Planning appraisal.
- 3.7 The Master plan includes several significant transport proposals, both public transport and highway network. A new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for West Yorkshire is currently in preparation and is the subject of a separate report on the agenda. The approach at this time is to work up and assess the feasibility of a major scheme proposal for an Airedale Integrated Transport Scheme based on Shipley. METRO is being invited to contribute to development of this scheme. The Masterplan makes transport proposals in other parts of Airedale which will be considered at a future time.

4. Options

- 4.1 The Masterplan was commissioned to provide a clear framework and set priorities for action to take forward the regeneration of the area in line with the 2020 Vision. Arup's document is based on a thorough analysis of the area and was informed by widespread consultation. Endorsing the document and seeking to incorporate its proposals within planning and other Council policies and strategies provides an opportunity to deliver a step change in the economy. Not to endorse the Masterplan or to partially endorse the Plan would lose the benefits of the process and put a brake on the momentum of change which has developed over the past 12 months.

5. Financial and resource appraisal

- 5.1 Airedale is identified as one of the key priorities for Yorkshire Forward's Sub Regional Investment Plan funding within Bradford and a number of bids which support the delivery of the Masterplan are currently being appraised. In addition, the Masterplan identifies other potential sources of funding, eg. the LTP, Heritage Lottery Fund. The Council will also need to consider its financial contribution to the delivery of the Masterplan through direct financial support or the inclusion of Council assets within a financial package. Recent Government initiatives such as

the Local Authority Business Growth Initiative and the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative could also support the implementation of the Plan.

- 5.2 The Director of Transportation, Design and Planning will consider the staff resources required by the Masterplan and those available to him as part of the LDS appraisal.

6. **Legal appraisal**

- 6.1 Careful consideration will be necessary to incorporate key elements of the Masterplan within the Local Development Framework.

7. **Other implications**

7.1 **Equal rights**

There are no direct implications arising from this report

7.2 **Sustainability implications**

Arup have undertaken a sustainability appraisal of the proposals included in the Masterplan. The 'Places for Changes' have been selected to ensure that any development or investment protects or enhances the environment, creates jobs which are available and accessible by public transport to local people and maximises the use of brownfield land.

7.3 **Community safety implications**

There are no direct implications arising from this report

7.4 **Human Rights Act**

There are no direct implications arising from this report

7.5 **Trade Union**

There are no direct implications arising from this report

8. **Not for publication documents**

None

9. **Recommendations**

1. That Executive welcomes the Airedale Masterplan and recognizes the contribution it can make to the economic development and regeneration of Airedale
2. That a full report on the Masterplan be brought to the Executive which outlines proposals for the delivery of the Masterplan, together with the outcome of the consultation exercise outlined in this report

3. That the Transportation, Design and Planning Director identifies such planning documents as may be required to address the Airedale Masterplan proposals and incorporate their preparation within the Local Development Scheme at the earliest opportunity.
4. That Transportation, Design and Planning Director prepares an Integrated Transport Scheme incorporating the Masterplan proposals for the Shipley area and seeks Government funding.

10. **Appendices**

None

11. **Background documents**

None