

<b>Report to</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Councillor Barry Mellor Mike Jones (Traffic, Parking & Road Safety Manager)
<b>Head of Service</b>	Emlyn Jones (Head of Planning, Public Protection & Countryside Services)
<b>Report author</b>	Kimberley Mason & Sian Lloyd Price (Corporate Project Managers)
<b>Title</b>	Clwyd West Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Projects: St. Peter's Square & Cae Ddol Park

## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. This report is about the two Clwyd West LUF projects in Ruthin – public realm improvements to St. Peter's Square and Cae Ddol Park.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1. A decision is required on progressing the project to concept design stage following consultation.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. That Cabinet notes the position of the approved Clwyd West Levelling Up projects in Ruthin.
- 3.2. That Cabinet approves the next phase of the project, commencement of the detailed designs.
- 3.3. That Cabinet confirms that it has read, understood, and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment, attached as [Appendix 1](#) as part of its consideration.

## 4. Report details

### Background

- 4.1. These projects were approved within Denbighshire County Council's application for funding under round two of the UK Government Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The application was a package bid with two projects: Project 1 – Ruthin's Unique Heritage and Wellbeing, Project 2 – Rural Communities and Wellbeing
- 4.2. Both schemes are part of Project 1: Ruthin's Unique Heritage and Wellbeing and are based on work undertaken by the Ruthin Future working group of the Town Council, who developed and consulted a long-term vision for Ruthin. Each of the schemes have specific outputs, and share an output relating to a length of improved cycle ways. The contracted outputs, and what each scheme is projected to deliver can be viewed at [Appendix 2](#).
- 4.3. The focus for St Peter's Square was the creation of an events space (facilitated by the removal of the roundabout), wider and safer pavements for pedestrian and wheeled user access, maintenance of vehicle access to include parking, improved drop off and disabled provision, a design that calms and slows traffic and discourages the use of the town centre as a quick through route, and the introduction of an active travel route. For Cae Ddol the brief was less defined, as there was a wish list for the long-term vision for the park, which could not be achieved in its entirety within the funding available. The design for the park has been based on what is thought to be achievable, delivers the outputs, and is acceptable to the key stakeholders.
- 4.4. The scope of what can be achieved within Cae Ddol includes a new cycle way between the entrance of the park and highway adjacent to the Rugby Club, which includes a replacement bridge to active travel standards, and the relocation of some gym equipment, a new scooter and bike track (pump track), located adjacent to the existing skate park, improved access to the river in one location, a small area of wild flower planting, and (subject to the outcome from the ongoing discussions regarding public toilet provision) a limited improvement of the toilet facilities.

- 4.5. Given the longer term vision for the park, the concept design work included the production of a master plan for the park, to ensure that the LUF scheme proposed doesn't inhibit the development of future areas of the park, as and when future funding opportunities arise.
- 4.6. The Council's Streetscene team are currently undertaking a separate project for the refurbishment of the existing play area within the park together, which includes additional pieces of play equipment. This is being funded via Shared Prosperity Fund and is due to be delivered this summer.

## **Progress**

- 4.7. The concept design for the St. Peter's Square project has been completed, and included in the scope are the square and junction with Clwyd Street, Market Street as far as Wynnstay Road (now shown as one way down to accommodate the active travel route, and two options developed). The design also includes a new coach bay on Wynnstay Road. It is also proposed to make Well Street one way from its junction with Record Street, which will enable additional parking to be provided. Wider pavements will be provided in the area behind the Old Court House and the small section of Castle Street where it forms a junction with the square. Castle Street is omitted from the scheme at present, as at the outset it was considered to be unaffordable. The designs shared at the recent consultation events can be viewed at [Appendix 3](#).
- 4.8. The Master Plan developed for Cae Ddol and the scheme proposed to be delivered using LUF funding can also be viewed at [Appendix 3](#).
- 4.9. Ruthin Town Council is seeking Sports Wales Funding for further development within the park, which if successful will contribute towards the priorities and wider aspirations for the park.

## **Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.10. Updates were provided in person to Ruthin Town Council and Ruthin MAG in March and April 2024 respectively. Further updates will be provided to them in the near future.

- 4.11. A public consultation took place between 16 April and 12 May 2024 to gain people's views on the designs for both St. Peter's Square and Cae Ddol Park.
- 4.12. Questionnaires were available for collection at Ruthin Library and County Hall reception and participants were also invited to complete the questionnaire online on Denbighshire's County Conversation. Two drop-in sessions were held within the community and workshops were delivered with primary and secondary school pupils and Ruthin Youth Club.
- 4.13. Correspondence was sent to residents, businesses, and Town and Community Councils to promote the consultation, and our commissioned Independent Consultants Oneday Ltd completed "door knocks" to approximately 200 properties within the vicinity.
- 4.14. We received 400 responses to the consultation questionnaire. Oneday Ltd have reviewed the feedback received and their report together with a summary of their findings can be viewed at [Appendix 4](#).

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

- 5.1. The projects seek to have a visible impact in local areas, particularly those areas most in need. The bid therefore contributes to the Corporate Plan themes around a Prosperous Denbighshire and A Greener Denbighshire. The work contributes to developing an economic strategy that will regenerate the town centre and support the growth of the local economy.
- 5.2. Both projects will be reviewed to ensure a neutral or positive contribution to the goals to become Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

- 6.1. The total estimated project cost for St. Peter's Square is £3,704,424 of which £3,333,982 has been approved by UK Government from the LUF2 Clwyd West grant and £370,442 DCC match funding. We have currently allocated £2,113,249.21 to the construction phase of the project.

6.2. The total estimated project cost for Cae Ddol park is £926,215 of which £833,594 has been approved by UK Government from the LUF2 Clwyd West grant and £92,621 DCC match funding. We have currently allocated £626,683.77 to the construction phase of the project.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment has been carried out for this project and is attached as [Appendix 1](#). This concludes that the overall impact is positive.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. A key stakeholder group has been established comprising two Town Council representatives and the three Ruthin Members. These same representatives are also part of the Project Board, together with the Lead Member for Environment & Transport, and relevant officers. Other key stakeholders include DCC officers who maintain the areas to be developed, and they are represented at project team meetings.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. There is no direct financial impact to this report. With the current substantial rise in material and construction costs, the projects' overall costs will need to be closely monitored to meet the grant awards and every effort made to secure external match-funding to support the Council's contribution.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. A number of risks to the project have been identified and will be included in the full project business case risk assessment. These can be viewed at [Appendix 5](#).

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. Section 111, Local Government Act 1972. Section 2, Local Government 2000. The power to undertake activity for the promotion of the social, economic or environmental well-being of the area.