## Overview & Scrutiny Committee 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Levelling Up Project Folkestone A Brighter Future (FABF)

Rod Lean (Chief Officer Place and Growth)

Matt Rain (Organisational Development & Engagement Senior Specialist)





## **Levelling Up Fund - Overview**

- In 2021, a Place Plan for Folkestone Town Centre was developed setting out the ambition for Folkestone Town Centre <u>https://www.folkestone-</u> <u>hythe.gov.uk/folkestoneplaceplan</u>
  - Urban Appraisal completed to inform the Place Plan output
  - More than 70 interventions identified
- September '21 Cabinet (C/21/34 <u>https://folkestone-hythe.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=38588&ISATT=1#search=%22C%2</u> <u>f21%2f34%22</u>) approved further development work to enable a bid to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Levelling Up Fund for 6 priority projects

STATION

- Station Arrival and Town Centre Connections
- Improved Town Centre Gateway road layout and bus station
- Folca, Sandgate Road and Town Centre Public Realm
- F51 Environs and Payer Park
- Harbour Line and Tram Road
- Sunny Sands
- June 22 Cabinet (C/22/14 <u>https://folkestone-</u> hythe.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=40951&ISAIT=1#search=%22C%2 f22%2f14%22 ) The 3 projects below were selected for the LUF application
  - Station Arrival and Town Centre Connections
  - Improved Town Centre Gateway road layout and bus station
  - Folca, Sandgate Road and Town Centre Public Realm



HARBOUR

INNY SAND

CREATIVE

QUARTER

TOWN CENTRE

A Brighter Future

### **Overall Project Area**

We R Made That - Direction of Travel Footway Raised Crossing Parking: PavingSet Gravel 2 Hours or permit Special Paving 1Hour or permit Permit Only Cobblestone Road Disabled Car Park 0 Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) Taxi rank Meadow Bus Stop Greenspace Oycle Lane 0011 / 1011 Street Furniture Signalised Crossing Retrofit Buildings Improved Frontage New Buildings Art Opportunties Skate Opportunities Market Stall Plot Play Opportunities Project Boundaries 0022 / 1022 Bus Stop Shelters 50n 100m Project 0023 / 1023 Folkestone Priority Projects £0021/1021 -Drawing No. rov. 248-1000 HHL Title Overview Plan Ø -0030 / 1030 P Scale 13000 Date 30/08/2022 le visions Status FOR INFORMATION

#### Folkestone A Brighter Future





### **Improved Town Centre Gateway**

- Overhaul of legacy highway system
- Introduction of more green space
- Relocation of bus station to linear bus stops
- Restoration of public square with green space and play area







# Folca, Sandgate Road and Town Centre Public Realm

- Refurbishment and separation of former department store to enable occupation
- New public realm in pedestrianised area (seating,and planting etc.)
- Animation to enable/support new uses

Public realm, wayfinding will be subject to artistic input and uplift adding to Folkestone's USP



Folkestone A Brighter Future

### **Folkestone A Brighter Future**

- Deliverability of projects required by 31 March 2025
- Passed subsidy control check and received MOU 17th March
- Inception meeting with DLUHC 17<sup>th</sup> April
- KCC are the delivery partner for highways /public realm works
  - Delivery Partner Agreement in development
  - Appointed Aecom design consultant for all Highways/public realm works
    - Phase 1 design feasibility report received April 23
    - Programme schedule is in draft for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase development
  - Tender for **artistic partner** awarded to Creative Folkestone
- Robust project management and governance in place with regular reporting back to members.



# **F-ABF Budget**

The total cost (including professional and project management fees) of the projects are in the table below:

Project	£
Station Arrival and Town Centre Connections	£4,246,806
Improved Gateway to the Town Centre and Bouverie Square	£11,690,369
Folca, Sandgate Road and Town Centre Public Realm	£6,053,735
Total	£21,990,910
LUF 'ask' £19,791,819	

LUF 'ask' £19,791,819 FHDC funding £2,199,091



# **Governance Structure**

**Cabinet & Member Briefings** 



Folkestone A Brighter Future

#### Sponsoring Group (SG)

#### Meets Bi-monthly

- FHDC Director of Place (Chair)
- FHDC Director Housing & Operations
- FHDC Chief Officer: Place & Growth (Senior Lead)
- KCC MPC Manager
- KCC MPC Project Manager
- DLUHC representative
- Ad hoc attendance as required by senior officers from FHDC and KHC.

#### Role Note progress of overall progress of programme

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- ٠ Monitors strategic risk and financial performance
- ٠ Make decisions on matters escalated by PB
- . Briefings for Cabinet, Members and CLT
- Tools
- Monitoring Reports including finance and risk register with PB actions noted produced by FHDC FABF Programme Manager

Programme Board (PB)

#### Meets Monthly

- FHDC Chief Officer: Place & Growth (Chair)
- FHDC FABF Programme Manager
- FHDC FABF Project Manager
- KCC FABF Programme Manager
- KCC FABF Project Manager
- Creative Folkestone Lead Officer
- Ad hoc attendance as required by:
- Finance/Comms/Legal/Procurement/Planning/ Operations, KCC Project Assistant, Aecom FABF Project Manager

#### Role

- Review progress of all FABF Project - KCC & FHDC-led PMO role to review financial progress, risk register, etc.
- Monitor the project outputs and outcomes
- Make decisions on matters escalated by PSG
- Identify matters for decision by Programme Board
- Engagement with DLUHC
- Project delivery monitoring and reporting
- . Briefings for Cabinet, Members and CLT
- Tools . Monitoring Report to include Key Highlight Report, Finance report, Risk Register, Output and Outcomes report by FHDC FABF Programme Manager

**Project Steering Group (PSG)** 

#### Meets Fortnightly

- FHDC Programme Manager (Co-Chair)
- KCC Project Manager (Co- Chair)
- FHDC Project Manager (s)
- KCC Project Assistant
- Aecom FABF Project Manager
- Creative Folkestone Curator

#### Highlight Report – KCC projects by KCC Project Assistant; FHDC projects by FHDC Project Manager

- Role Proactively manage KCC and FHDC-led projects to ensure smooth delivery, on time and to budget
- Monitor progress and technical detail
- Identify areas of concern requiring decisions to Programme Board Tools



A Brighter Future

# Folkestone A Brighter Future

#### Communication and engagement strategy key

#### objectives.

- To ensure insight is provided by stakeholders and the community into project activity, milestones, and potential impacts during construction.
- Stimulate a wide interest in the programme, it's purpose and expected outcomes.
- Ensure a 'voice for all' is enabled through creative and innovative means of engagement.
- Create an environment to promote genuine two-way communication.
- F&HDC communications platforms will keep the community abreast of programme progress and the timeline of activity and key milestones



Folkestone A Brighter Future

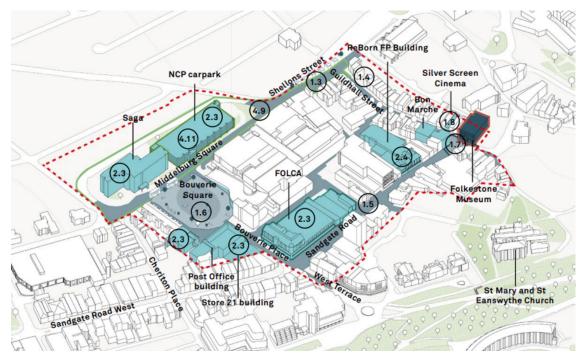
# Folkestone A Brighter Future

Communication and engagement strategy key Audiences :

- Internal stakeholders, members and strategic partners
- Wider stakeholder engagement
- Public engagement
- F&HDC Staff engagement

# **Folkestone A Brighter Future**

- Communication and engagement strategy developed.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> public consultation expected early July on Station arrival, Cheriton Rd & Cheriton Gdns
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Consultation aims to use new ways to engage through VR technology
  - Intention is to create a <u>digital twin (2 minute</u> video) of Folkestone Phase 2





Folkestone

# **Folkestone A Brighter Future**

### Legacy opportunities

- Can share the model with other stakeholders who can use it to visualise how developments will look
- Watford are using it for pre-apps and charging customers £500 as part of the planning application process
- Skills transfer to upskill members of staff and the local community in using VR and digital twinning models
- Wirral have found it is invaluable for *"Informing development projects, improving design, assisting with consultation and engagement, and to support business development."*





### **Programme Schedule – key next steps**

- Phase 1 Station arrival/Cheriton Road/Cheriton Gdns/Middelburg Sq.
  - Design review June '23
  - Public engagement (exc. Middelburg Sq.) July '23
  - RIBA stg 4 Technical design & approval Jan '24
  - Public engagement "you said, we did" Mar '24
  - Contractor procurement Nov '23 to Sept '24
  - Construction Mar '24 to Feb '25
- Phase 2 Bouverie Sq, Shellons St, Guildhall St and Sandgate Rd
  - Design review Aug '23
  - Public engagement (inc. Middelburg Sq.) –September '23
  - RIBA stg 4 Technical design & approval Feb '24
  - Public engagement "you said, we did" Mar '24
  - Contractor procurement Nov '23 to Sept '24
  - Construction May '24 to Sept '25