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Tameside Metropolitan Borough

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ASHTON AND MOSSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

Day: Monday
Date: 23 November 2026
Time: 6.30 pm
Place: The Vale Unit 2, Vale Mill, Off Micklehurst Road, Mossley OL5 9JL

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No.
1.	**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND HOUSEKEEPING (5 MINUTES)**	
2.	**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (30 MINUTES)** Residents to join table discussion on either the Council's annual budget setting process, or regeneration and growth in Ashton and Mossley.	
3.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of the Community Forum.	
4.	**MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Ashton and Mossley Community Forum on 22 June 2026 be approved as a correct record. To also consider updates on activity since the previous meeting of the Community Forum.	1 - 6
5.	**GROWTH, REGENERATION, AND DEVELOPMENT (25 MINUTES)** To receive a presentation from the Major Projects Manager.	7 - 22
6.	**COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: PRIDE IN PLACE IMPACT FUND (20 MINUTES)** To hear from representatives of Mossley Town Council and The Thread and Butter Collective.	23 - 24
7.	**CIVIC PRIDE, CLEAN STREETS, LOCAL HERITAGE, AND LEISURE PROVISION (15 MINUTES)** To receive an update on developments from the Chair and highlight opportunity for residents to report any current issues.	25 - 28

From: Democratic Services – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from , to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

8. QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

To consider any questions received in writing by members of the public.

Ashton and Mossley Community Forum

22 June 2026

Commenced: 6.30pm **Terminated:** 8.00pm

Present: Councillors J Homer (Chair), S Homer, Bowerman, Carr, Choksi, Drennan, Dunning, Glover, Karim, Khan, Lawrence, Patel, Roylance and Ul-Rasool.

In Attendance:

Nicola Elsworth	Strategic Growth Director
Amy Foots	Assistant Director of Policy, Strategy and Change
Damien Cutting	Major Projects Manager
Phill Brown MBE	Chair of the Neighbourhood Board

Apologies for Absence: Councillor McLaren

1 Introductory Remarks and Housekeeping

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined the housekeeping arrangements. It was highlighted to attendees that the Community Forum provided a valuable opportunity for councillors, residents and partner organisations to engage constructively and respectfully, working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for Ashton and Mossley.

2 Welcome to Your Community Forum

The Chair of the Community Forum presented an introduction to the new Community Forum model and the Council's approach to community engagement.

Attendees of the meeting were informed that the previous Neighbourhood Forums had primarily been information-sharing meetings, with limited opportunities for residents to participate in discussions. The presentation outlined feedback received through the Cabinet in the Community programme, which had involved meetings across Tameside's nine towns. Residents had expressed a desire for greater local access, information relevant to their communities, opportunities to ask questions, and ongoing engagement that resulted in visible change.

Residents were advised of the implications of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act and were informed that forthcoming guidance would provide further detail on the devolution of certain Council powers to local

communities. It was noted that Community Forums would continue to evolve in response to future legislative developments.

It was advised that Community Forums would meet three times annually, in June, November and March, with meetings rotating between venues across the borough to maximise accessibility. The next meeting for this Community Forum would be held in Mossley.

Attendees were informed that future agendas would comprise three sections: borough-wide strategic issues, community-focused local matters and updates, and a dedicated question-and-answer session. It was also noted that community groups and partner organisations would be able to propose agenda items for future meetings through Democratic Services.

A discussion ensued amongst residents, Members and officers on the suitability of the venue and the formality of the layout for a community-based meeting. Concerns were further raised regarding the decision to group together Ashton and Mossley and whether alternative groupings may have been more appropriate and reflective of local communities.

Residents further noted the low level of community attendance and suggested that the Council reviewed its engagement methods to ensure they were accessible to residents who did not regularly use online platforms.

RESOLVED
That the presentation be noted.

3 Pride in Place Impact Fund

The Forum received a presentation from the Major Projects Manager on the Ashton Pride in Place Programme. Attendees were informed that Ashton been allocated £20 million of Government funding over a ten-year period and that a Neighbourhood Board had been established to work in partnership with the Council to determine how the funding would be invested.

The Forum heard that extensive engagement had been undertaken with stakeholders and local communities, the feedback from which had informed the preparation of the Ashton Regeneration Plan. It was noted that the Plan had received strong endorsement from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and that community engagement would continue throughout the programme to ensure local residents had opportunities to influence future investment priorities.

Attendees were informed that the Neighbourhood Board was chaired by Phill Brown MBE and included representatives from a range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations. Phill Brown MBE addressed the Forum and advised that a review of the Board's membership was currently underway. He noted that this presented opportunities to increase community representation and encouraged interested residents to make contact if they wished to become involved. He further advised that the Board was seeking community champions to join and help represent local interests.

The Major Projects Manager explained that the Ashton Regeneration Plan set out a ten-year vision for the town and a four-year investment programme focused on creating a proud, inclusive, skilled, innovative, green and connected place. Attendees were informed that the Board had approved an initial programme of investment which included proposals for the redevelopment of Ashton Market Hall, feasibility work for the Tameside Hippodrome, the establishment of an Adult Support Hub, support for community development activity, initiatives for local businesses, and investment in facilities at Tameside College.

Further projects included community and sports facilities grant schemes, cultural events and activities, support for local organisations, and public art and environmental improvement projects across the town centre.

The Forum was advised that work was underway to develop a communications strategy, including new branding, a dedicated website and regular updates for residents. Opportunities for local people to contribute to future funding decisions would be provided through engagement activities, Community Champions, public events and direct contact with the Neighbourhood Board.

Attendees also received a brief update on the Pride in Place Impact Fund, which provided capital funding for community spaces, public spaces, and high street and town centre improvements across other areas of the borough. Although not applicable to Ashton and Hattersley, the funding would be accessible to Mossley. Community groups, residents and partner organisations were encouraged to submit applications.

Following the presentation, questions were raised by attendees as follows:

Q. Are there plans to build a cinema on the upper floor of the Arcades?
A. This was included in the Masterplan as an example of what the space could lend itself to, not necessarily what would happen to the space.

Q. Is there a time limit on when the money needs to be spent by?

A. The Pride in Place funding is available for 10 years and the Pride in Place impact fund is available for 1 year

Q. What happens if the funds are not spent?
A. Any unspent funds will need to be returned. However, the Council will make every effort to ensure that all funding is used appropriately and in line with the approved objectives.

Q. Do you have a breakdown of what £3m of the funding has already been committed to?
A. A report has been published online which includes a full breakdown of spending

Q. The Neighbourhood Board Membership does not seem representative of residents. It looks to be made up of Statutory agencies. How many members of the Board live in Ashton?
A. Statutory agencies were highlighted to provide an idea on the Board Membership, but many local business owners are members and 75% of the Board are from Ashton.

Q. Is the funding available to improve local parks?
A. £120k of grant funding has been allocated to the improvement of Parks, but the more may be allocated by the Board.

Q. Will we be getting a pool back in Ashton?
A. The lack of a leisure facility is Ashton is actively being looked at.

A detailed discussion ensued between attendees of the meeting on the general overall appearance of Ashton and the negative first impressions it could create. Concerns were raised about several issues, including the condition of car parks, railings, empty planters, and inaccurate or outdated signage.

Officers and Members noted that work to address some of these issues had already commenced, including the installation of new planters around Tameside One and the planting of trees in Market Square. It was also noted that the Pride in Place funding would support further improvements and ongoing maintenance to enhance the appearance of the town centre.

RESOLVED
That the presentation be noted.

4 Civic Pride, Clean Streets, Local Heritage and Leisure Provision

The Chair of the Community Forum addressed attendees and provided some details about recent successes around Ashton and Mossley including the Town Centre Improvements, planting around the Town Hall and Victoria Park and the recent planting of 31 highway trees.

The Executive Member for Towns Transport and Connectivity provided an update on upcoming events around Ashton and Mossley. Attendees heard that the responsibility for facilities management had been brought back in-house and that the George Lawton Hall (Mossley) was now being managed internally, with a focus on increasing community group usage and improving the efficiency of the venue.

An update was provided on the War Memorial and forthcoming activity in Ashton, including the completion of works at the Market Ground and the planned programme of events. Details of upcoming events were noted, and these events were intended to increase footfall and encourage more visitors into the town centres. Members noted the update and requested the full schedule be published and shared with ward councillors and community groups.

The Chair of the Community Forum explained that the Civic Pride, Clean Streets, Local Heritage and Leisure Provision was a standing agenda item and in addition to local updated, it would be an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts and concerns on issues around Ashton and Mossley.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Members, officers and residents regarding litter, fly-tipping and the general appearance of Ashton town centre. Residents commented on the poor condition of some litter bins and the negative impression that litter created for visitors. In response, it was reported that improvements were being progressed, including the installation of additional bins in the Market Square and plans for new facilities to accommodate town centre waste bins. The importance of community involvement was highlighted, with references made to previous town centre clean-up initiatives and litter-picking activities involving schools, colleges and local volunteers.

Questions were raised about education, enforcement and accountability in relation to littering and fly-tipping. Officers and Members advised that wardens with enforcement powers were operating in the area, Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued, and residents were encouraged to report incidents to the Council.

Concerns were also raised regarding the disposal of gas canisters, delays in removing fly-tipped waste, and overflowing commercial bins. Officers undertook to seek clarification on disposal guidance and noted that reports of fly-tipping would be investigated, with consideration given to measures such as CCTV in identified hotspot locations. Overall, it was acknowledged that addressing these

issues would require a combination of enforcement, education and community action.

RESOLVED
That the updates be noted.

5 Question Time

Q. A question was received prior to the meeting on Suicide Prevention work.
A. A full written response to be provided.

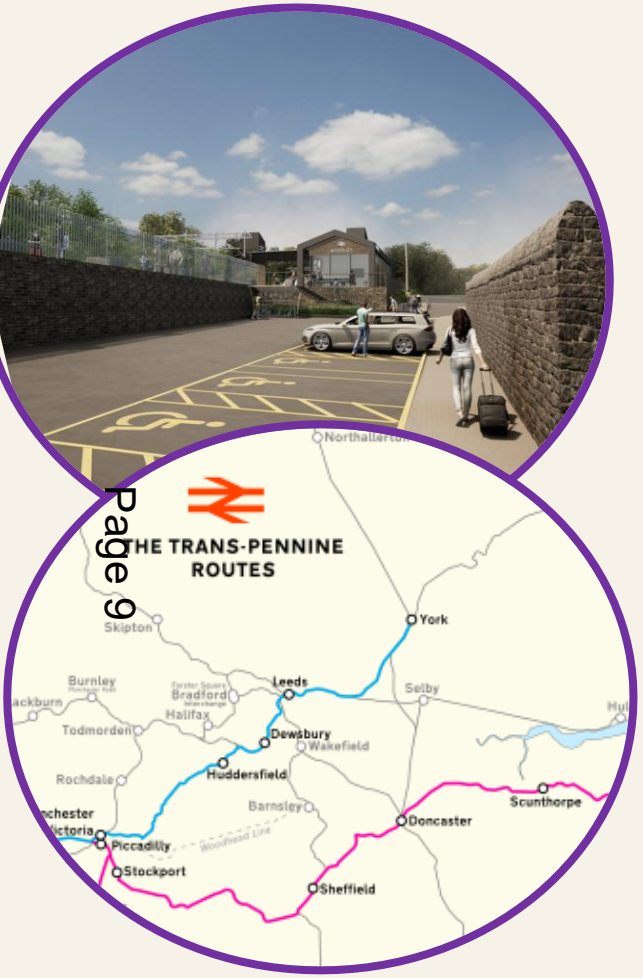
6 AOB

There were no areas of other business to consider.

Ashton & Mossley Community Forum Development Update

Mossley

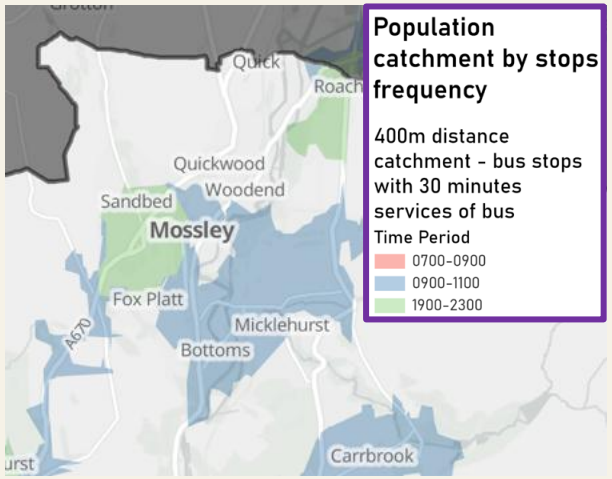
1. Mossley Station – Network Rail's TransPennine Upgrade Scheme

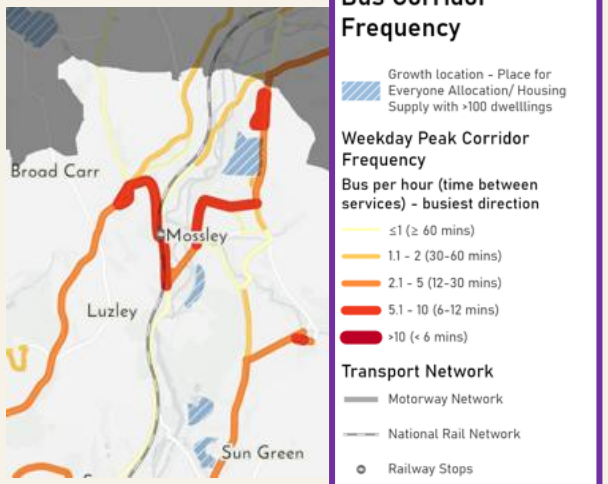


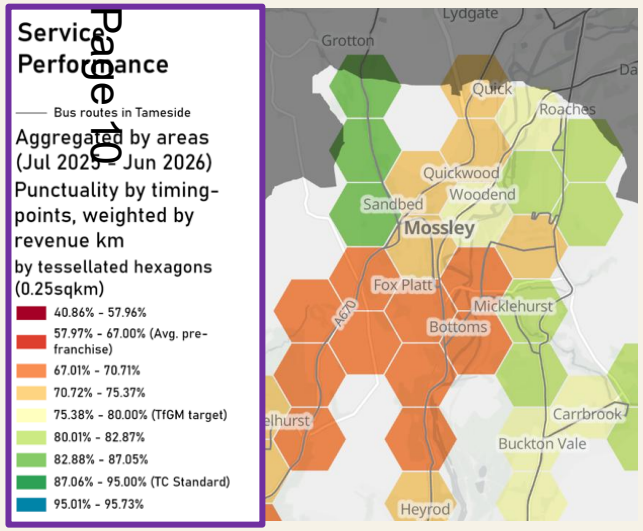
- Network Rail are delivering their multi-billion **TransPennine Route Upgrade** which will increase line capacity, speed, frequency and sustainability
- As part of the TRU programme, a new, fully-accessible station has been proposed at Mossley
- Public Inquiry into the Transport and Works Act Order to deliver the scheme took place **June – July 2026**
- The Planning Inspector's report has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport, with a final decision expected in **Spring 2027**
- The Council's Representation was issued in **December 2025** – highlighting support for the objectives of the order, and requesting exemptions for Heavy Goods Vehicles to minimise disruption, particularly for those living off Mill Lane, Archer Street and Brookfields.



2. Tameside Bus Vision – *first-of-a-kind district-led Bus Vision*









- The Bee Network continues to grow in Mossley – and the Council is working with the GM Mayor to **extend Our Pass** to all young people, **11 – 18**
- We also recognise that there's work to be done to improve our network. Tameside's Bus Vision is providing a detailed evidence base as to how the bus network works for residents and where improvements could be made
- Early findings suggest a desire in **Mossley** for an uplift in services beyond core-hours, bringing more residents within a 400m catchment of frequent bus





Planning Matters – Britannia Mills

3. Britannia New Mill

- Demolition of the existing building is to commence within the next 2 weeks under the approved prior approval (24/00925/NDM)
- Planning application has a resolution to grant following Panel in September 2026 for 49 units
- The proposal provides 100% affordable housing, including an apartment block containing 32 apartments for social rent, along with 17 dwellings which will be shared ownership
- The proposal also includes a Riverside Walkway along the River Tame. This will be constructed as part of the scheme and will be accessible to the general public.



4. Mossley Farmers Market

A Growing Success Story

- Launched in July 2025 as an initial three month trial
- Now an established regular monthly market from April to November
- Held on the last Sunday of the month providing a consistent and recognisable event.
- Significant growth – Increasing from just 8 traders at launch to 40 stalls.
- Delivered in partnership with Little Owl Events – demonstrating the success of collaborative working.
- Supporting local traders and producers, bringing together a varied selection of fresh produce, handmade crafts, and artisan goods.
- National recognition, winning Best Small Speciality Market at NABMA awards



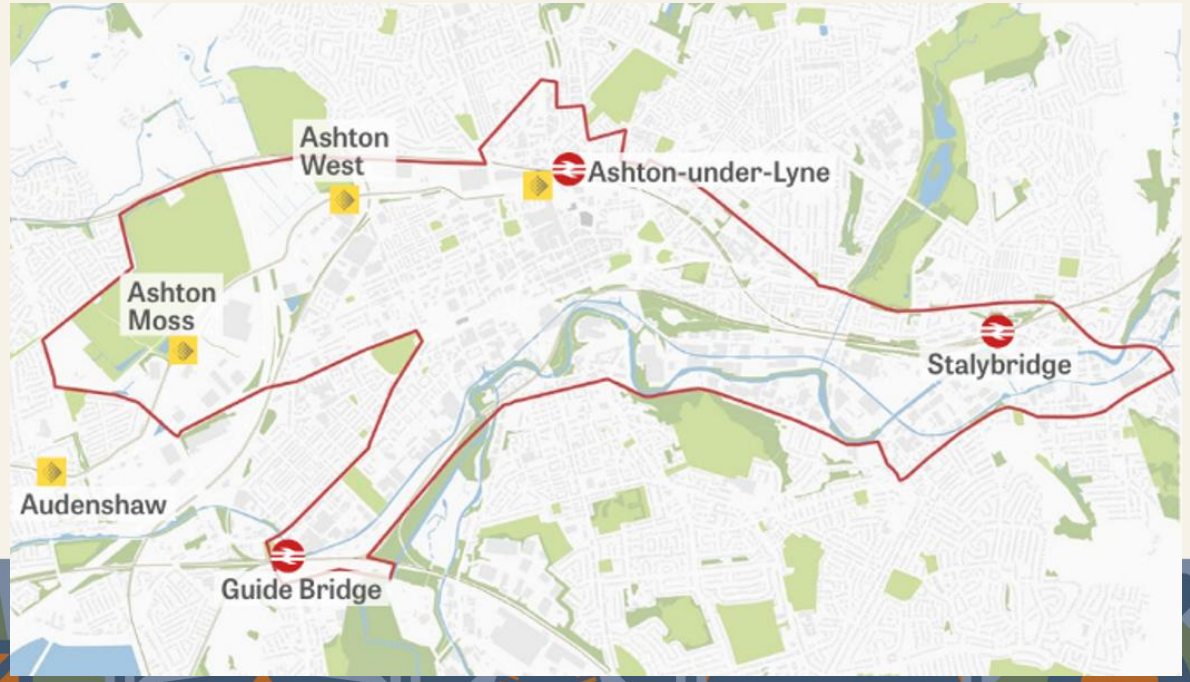
Ashton

5. Ashton & Stalybridge Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC)

What is it?

- An MDC is a statutory body with powers to accelerate regeneration.
- The Greater Manchester Strategy (2025) proposes an MDC for Ashton & Stalybridge as a national exemplar of transport-led regeneration.
- The MDC is the preferred vehicle to provide the necessary governance and resource arrangements to accelerate delivery
- The wider MDC programme could support around 3,000 new homes

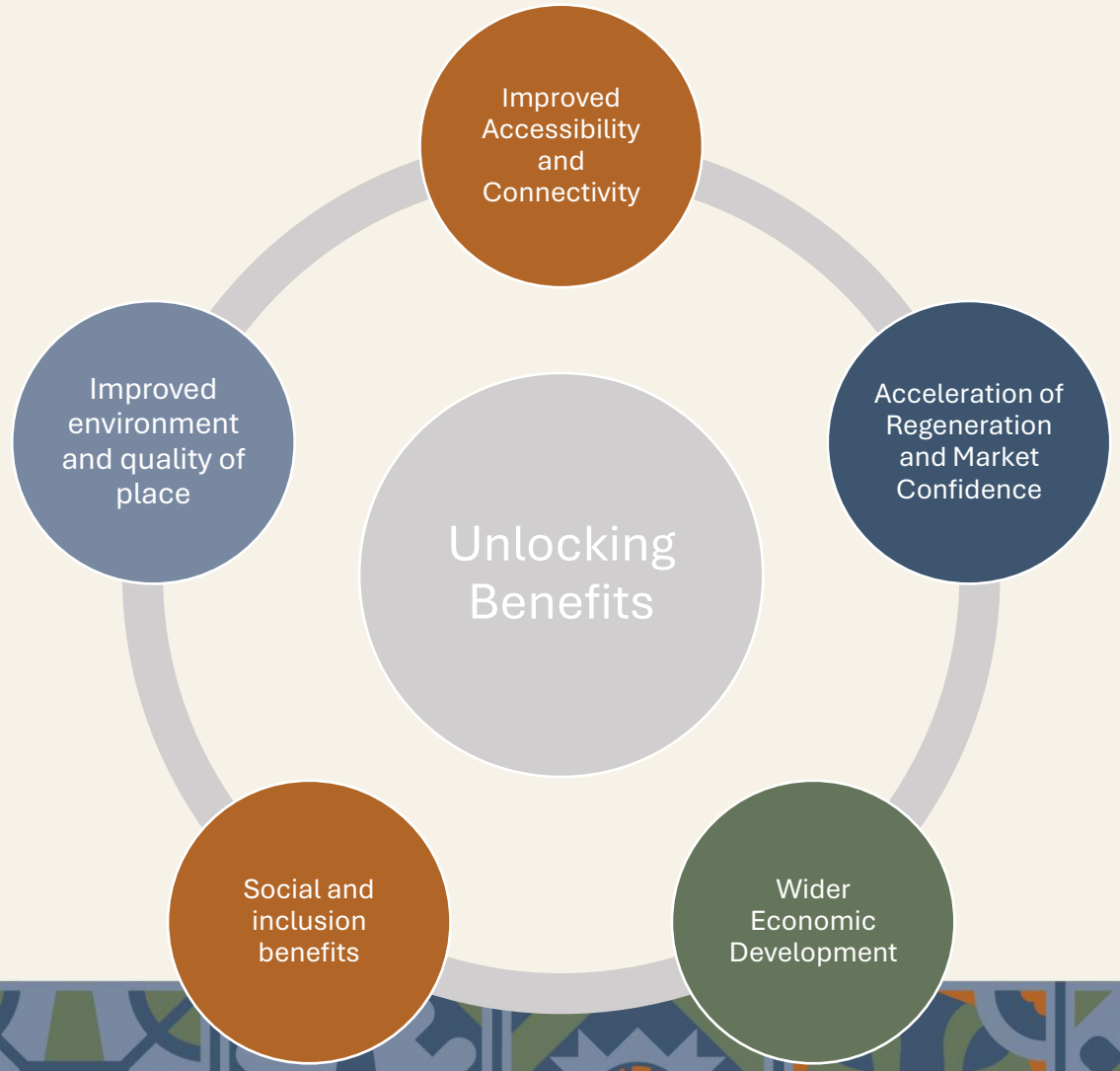
- Following public consultation over the summer and the approval of Council and GMCA, a letter from the GM Mayor has been sent to the Secretary of State for Housing seeking the formal establishment of the Ashton & Stalybridge MDC.



Why is transport-led regeneration approach so important?

- **Unlocking a wide range of benefits:**





6. Ashton Market Square

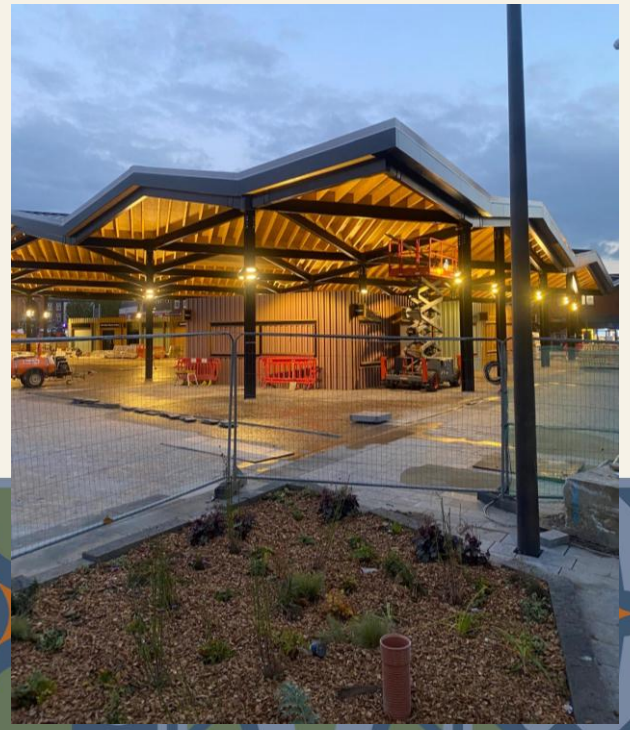
Project Description

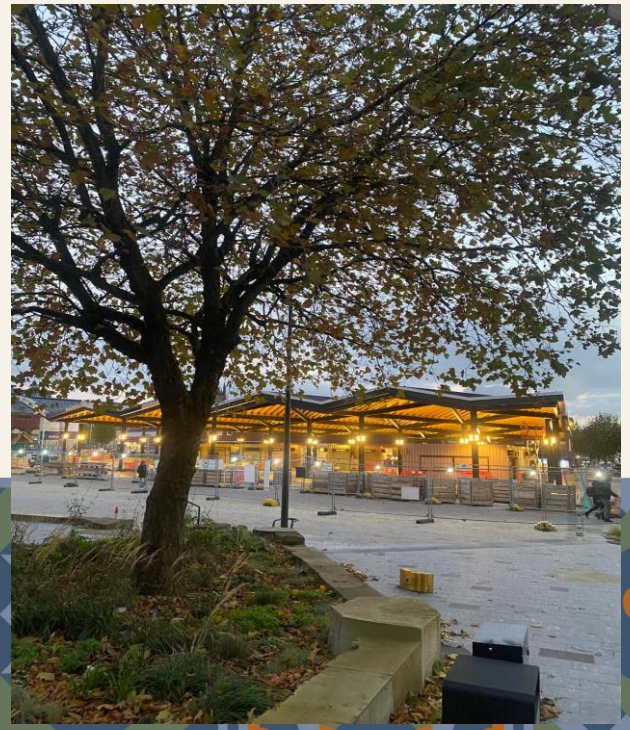
- Redevelopment of Ashton Market Square to provide a mixed-use public space destination for market events and cultural activities.
- Works will also include new public realm, including new seating, lighting, planting and green spaces as well as a large canopy roof and 10 brand new kiosks.

Key dates:

- The Market Square is planned to reopen on Saturday 14th November, in time for the lantern parade and a series of festive events over the Christmas period.







7. Ashton Pride in Place

What is it?

- Ashton has been selected by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as a Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) area to receive £20m over 10 years (£2m per year).
- Tameside Council are the facilitators for the funding. But decisions on how the funds are spent is the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Boards and the communities that they serve.
- The Neighbourhood Boards are made up of a Chair and local representatives from the community, including residents, businesses, health & education sectors.
- Neighbourhood Boards must demonstrate and evidence that meaningful engagement has been carried out.





Ashton Engagement Events
An online consultation platform – open for 4 weeks
2 hour workshop hosted at Place First Tameside
Pop up stall at Ashton Super Saturday event
Youth Council workshop

7. Ashton Pride in Place Cont.

Upcoming Projects

- A new evening security team to help people feel safer in the town centre
- Improvements to King George V Park, Oxford Park and Waterloo Park
- £750,000 to improve Ashton Market Hall, increasing the food & beverage offer
- A street art project to brighten subways and help people feel safer using them
- Increased events and activities in the town centre
- New skills and training opportunities through Tameside College
- A "Dragon's Den" style fund to help local people start a business
- 3 small grant funding schemes have been launched, aiming to support local community groups, sports groups and event organisers. More information here: [Pride in Place: Ashton-under-Lyne - Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council]

8. Ashton Place Based Pilot

What is it?

- Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has selected Ashton as the pilot area for a new Place-Based Regeneration Programme designed to test how coordinated investment and partnership working can accelerate neighbourhood renewal and improve outcomes for residents
- Delivered through a partnership between GMCA, Tameside Council and local Registered Providers

Funding Opportunity

- Approximately £2.5m capital funding plus £125k revenue funding available to support projects within the pilot area
- Funding must demonstrate additionality, innovation and measurable place-based impact

What Are We Doing?

- Coordinating a partnership of Registered Providers to develop a programme of investable projects across the pilot area
- Identifying interventions that complement existing regeneration activity and maximise the impact of public investment
- Using housing-led investment as a catalyst for wider neighbourhood improvement and community benefits



8. Ashton Place Based Pilot Cont.

Potential Areas of Investment

- Housing and estate improvements
- Retrofit, energy efficiency and warm homes initiatives
- Public realm and environmental enhancements
- Community facilities and neighbourhood-based projects
- Skills, employment and inclusive growth initiatives

Strategic Alignment

- Supports the ambitions of the emerging Ashton Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) through improved neighbourhood quality, housing outcomes, connectivity, environmental quality and investment confidence
- **In summary** - A unique opportunity to secure £2.625m external investment, test a new regeneration delivery model, strengthen partner collaboration and generate evidence for future place-based investment across Ashton and the wider Borough (and Greater Manchester)

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Tameside Metropolitan Borough

Community Spotlight

Pride in Place Impact Fund:
Thread & Butter Collective and
Mossley Town Council

Pride in Place Impact Fund

Funded Projects in Mossley

- Play Equipment Upgrades at Egmont Street and Mossley Park
- Completing The Vale
- Woodend Green Gateway (Thread and Butter Collective)
- Mossley Refurbishment and Enhancement Zone
- Mossley Community Centre

Funded Projects in Ashton

- Play Equipment Upgrades at Oxford Park

Ashton has received a separate Pride in Place allocation of £20m over 10 years.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

Civic Pride, Clean Streets, Local Heritage, and Leisure Provision

Recent Activity and Reporting Issues

Ashton and Mossley

- Achieved the highest fly tipping enforcement performance of any council in the North West.
- Expanded Mossley Farmers Market, which won a Great British Market Award in its first year.
- Three new litter hubs launched at Ashton Market Hall, LEAP Ashton and New Life Church, Ashton.
- Highway safety schemes at Darnton Road, Ashton, and Beaufort Road, Ashton, successfully completed, improving safety for all road users.
- The CCTV team was awarded a Chief Inspector's Good Work Minute for their excellent partnership working for the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 31 Fixed Penalty Notices for flytipping issued across Ashton and Mossley over three months.
- Three highway trees planted in Ashton.



Tameside Metropolitan Borough

Report Issues Online

https://lite.tameside.gov.uk/ReportIt

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