



THE EXECUTIVE - INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Date: Tuesday, 28 May 2024

PART 1

1. LUF3 Cultural Fund - Investment Plan **(Pages 3 - 24)**

MARK TRILLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER

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HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Individual Executive Decision

28th May 2024

TITLE:	LUF3 Cultural Fund – Investment Plan
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR	Cllr Anthony McKeown – Leader Cllr Matt Taylor – Assistant Executive Councillor
CONTACT OFFICERS:	Andrew Stokes – Chief Executive
WARDS INVOLVED:	Non-Specific

Appendices Attached:

Appendix A – Notification of LUF3 Cultural Allocation

Appendix B – High Peak LUF3 Investment Plan Theory of Change Summary

Appendix C – High Peak LUF3 Investment Plan – Summary of Proposed Interventions

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is agree the Investment Plan that is required to be submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to secure the £5m LUF3 funding that was awarded to the Council in the Spring Budget.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leader:

- 2.1 Approves the draft Investment Plan as summarised in the report for submission to DLUHC
- 2.2 Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make any necessary final adjustments prior to submission
- 2.3 Approves the application of £139,000 from the LUF2 earmarked reserve as match funding
- 2.4 Approves the establishment of a Council Cultural Fund of £344,000 to be utilised as detailed in Section 15 of the report

2.5 Notes the exemption from call-in with the agreement of the Chair of the Community Select Committee due to the urgent nature of the recommendations

3. Executive Summary

3.1 On 6th March, the Council was notified (attached at Appendix A) that it had been provisionally awarded up to £5 million of Levelling Up Fund 3 capital funding as part of the Spring Budget, to support local culture projects across the Borough. The award is subject to the submission of an Investment Plan to provide the detail on the interventions that the Council wishes to fund with this award. Following submission, by 3rd June, DLUHC will conduct a light-touch review of the information provided and then submit the proposals to Ministers for approval.

3.2 The important points from the guidance that has been provided and discussions with DLUHC are as follows:

- LUF monies are for capital expenditure only
- The £5m allocation from the fund must be spent by **31st March 2026**
- The Investment Plan can contain a package of projects and although it is not is not restricted in number (unlike LUF2 where it was 3 maximum), DLUHC cautioned about having large numbers of projects which would dilute the impact
- Each project has to have demonstrable and measurable outputs and outcomes – a formal Benefits Cost Ratio (BCR) is not required but if provided would support the consideration of the Investment Plan by DLUHC
- Although there is not the formal requirement to provide a ‘strategic link’ between the projects submitted as part of the package (as with LUF2) – there will be a need to demonstrate a strategic alignment
- There is no formal requirement for match funding however it is recognised that there it may be proposed by the Council as part of an intervention but that the ‘additionality’ provided by the LUF monies must be clearly demonstrated.
- DLUHC resisted providing a definition of ‘culture’ and eligibility in this context leaving it up to the local authority to make the case

3.3 Given the short timescales for the submission, Mutual Ventures were commissioned to support the Council with the development of the Investment Plan.

3.4 The Investment Plan requires the Council to evidence the support of key stakeholders. It was also important for the Council to engage with stakeholders to invite potential bids to spread the benefit of the investment across the Borough. Soon after the announcement the Council circulated details of the funding opportunity to all organisations within the Council’s wider culture sector network, in addition the Council Leader and Assistant Executive Member for Culture proactively promoted the opportunity amongst their networks.

- 3.5 Local culture organisations were invited to a ‘Culture Capital Stakeholder Group’ held on 16th April which was attended by 8 representatives from community organisations. Following an overview of the funding requirements and timescales, representatives from community organisations were invited to introduce their proposed projects, describing the nature of the proposals and how they would contribute to current culture priorities. Additionally, each representative demonstrated how their proposals were informed by stakeholder engagement and consultation (the public, service users etc.). A total of 8 proposals were received; including five from community organisations and two from Council officers relating to cultural assets owned by the local authority.
- 3.6 The Council assessed the deliverability, viability and feasibility of each proposal. Following this process, 4 projects were identified as the preferred interventions to be included in the Investment Plan:
- Victoria Hall Glossop
 - Buxton Opera House
 - Rock Mill Centre New Mills
 - Milestone Studios New Mills
- 3.7 These interventions have now been developed in line with the requirements required in the DLUHC submission document. Although there is not the formal requirement to provide a ‘strategic link’ between the projects submitted as part of the package (as with LUF2), there is a need to demonstrate a strategic alignment. The Theory of Change modelling has been used to develop each of the interventions and been consolidated to provide an overall strategic case for the Investment Plan – this is summarised at Appendix B. This document includes details of the outputs and outcomes that will be delivered as a consequence of the investment.
- 3.8 The project descriptions for each of the interventions that are included in the Investment Plan are detailed at Appendix C.
- 3.9 The Council engaged with the MP for High Peak early in the development of the Investment Plan and the MP was broadly supportive of the proposed approach subject to the provision of additional information in relation to the Victoria Hall. Due to the recent announcement in respect of the general election and the dissolution of parliament, the Council will not be able to formally reconfirm the MP’s support for the investment plan immediately prior to submission on 3rd June. The Chief Executive also met with the Minister for Levelling Up to outline the Council’s approach.
- 3.10 After the completion of the appraisal process for inclusion in the Investment Plan, the following bids were unsuccessful:
- No Jobs in Arts New Mills – equipment for early career creatives and outdoor arts spaces
 - Partington Theatre Glossop – urgent health and safety works

- Melandra Gamesley – historic interpretation works improvements
- High Peak Community Arts – borough wide - storage space for arts organisations materials

3.11 The unsuccessful project promoters were notified of the outcome of the process; they were also informed that the Council intends to explore alternative means of investing in each project. In response to this it is recommended that the Council creates a Cultural Fund – using the remaining unallocated earmarked reserve set aside for the unsuccessful LUF2 bid – to consider these projects subject to the development of an application and evaluation process and the necessary grant funding agreements being put in place.

3.12 In accordance with Select Committee Procedure Rules, the decisions in this report have been made exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Chair of the Community Select Committee due to their urgent nature, namely the limited time to submit the Investment Plan to DLUHC.

4. How this Report Links to Corporate Priorities

4.1 The investment plan supports the achievement the following Aims and Objectives included in the High Peak Borough Plan:

Aim 1: Supporting our communities to create a healthier and safer High Peak

- Develop a positive relationship with communities
- Enhance the distinctive culture, creativity and heritage of the Borough

Aim 3: Protect and create jobs by supporting economic growth, development and regeneration

- Promote tourism to maximise local benefit

Aim 4: Protect and improve the environment including responding to the climate emergency

- Meeting the challenges of climate change

5. Options and Analysis

5.1 The Council has considered and evaluated a number of potential projects for inclusion in the Investment Plan

6. Implications

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

None

6.2 Workforce

None

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

The proposals have been considered in line with the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies

6.4 Financial Considerations

The financial implications for the proposed Investment Plan interventions are set out in section 12 of the report

The Council match funding requirements are £239,000 which will be met by:

- £100,000 existing provision in the Council's capital programme for Buxton Opera House works; and
- £139,000 met from the earmarked reserve to meet the match funding requirement for the Victoria Hall project in the unsuccessful LUF2 bid

The £344,000 remaining unallocated reserve and capital provision will be used establish a Council Cultural Fund to be used for consideration of the unsuccessful bids.

6.5 Legal

The Council has procured external advice in respect of subsidy control and has confirmed compliance in the submission

6.6 Climate Change

The outputs and outcomes from the interventions include green retrofit of buildings and improvement to EPC ratings

6.7 External Consultation

The investment plan has been informed by consultation with relevant stakeholders

6.8 Risk Analysis

A full risk register is included in the submission which includes the risk analysis and mitigations

The programme will be managed as part of the Council's Transformation Programme

ANDREW P STOKES
Chief Executive

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Contact details

Cultural Strategy – Executive – 30th November 2023
https://democracy.highpeak.gov.uk/documents/s36885/Cultural%20Strategy_v1%20AEM%2022112023%20Community%20Select%20Committee.pdf

Andrew P Stokes
Chief Executive
andrew.stokes@highpeak.gov.uk

7. Introduction and Background

- 7.1 On 6th March, the Council was notified (attached at Appendix A) that it had been provisionally awarded up to £5 million of Levelling Up Fund 3 capital funding as part of the Spring Budget, to support local culture projects across the Borough.
- 7.2 On 25th March, the Council received further details which included an investment plan template for completion. The Investment Plan needs to provide the detail on the interventions that the Council wishes to fund with this award, including financial profiles, stakeholder engagement and outputs/outcomes.
- 7.3 DLUHC also proved separate guidance on the standardised list of outputs and outcomes that are required across levelling up funding streams,. These are required to be used to map outputs and outcomes from the interventions to the relevant standardised indicators.
- 7.4 The Investment Plan was originally required to be completed and returned to DLUHC by no later than Friday 10th May, however following discussions with the local authorities that have been awarded similar allocations the deadline was extended by DLUHC to **Monday 3rd June**. After the plan is returned, DLUHC will conduct a light-touch review of the information provided, to ensure the plans offer value for money, are deliverable and have stakeholder support, including from local the local MP.
- 7.5 The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's Investment Plan prior to submission.

8. Summary of Guidance

- 8.1 Soon after the announcement, officers met with the DLUHC officials and gained more clarity about the details of the requirements for the Investment Plan.
- 8.2 The important points from the guidance and discussions with DLUHC are as follows:
- LUF monies are for capital expenditure only
 - The £5m allocation from the fund must be spent by **31st March 2026**
 - The Investment Plan can contain a package of projects and although it is not is not restricted in number (unlike LUF2 where it was 3 maximum), DLUHC cautioned about having large numbers of projects which would dilute the impact
 - Each project has to have demonstrable and measurable outputs and outcomes – a formal Benefits Cost Ratio (BCR) is not required but if provided would support the consideration of the Investment Plan by DLUHC

- Although there is not the formal requirement to provide a ‘strategic link’ between the projects submitted as part of the package (as with LUF2) – there will be a need to demonstrate a strategic alignment
- There is no formal requirement for match funding however it is recognised that there it may be proposed by the Council as part of an intervention but that the ‘additionality’ provided by the LUF monies must be clearly demonstrated.
- DLUHC resisted providing a definition of ‘culture’ and eligibility in this context leaving it up to the local authority to make the case

8.3 The approval process was summarised by DLUHC officials as follows:

- 3rd June – Submission of Investment Plan
- Submission of proposals to ministers for approval by DLUHC officials – following resolution of any queries / points of clarification
- Approval and provision of MoU

8.4 The timescales for approval of the Investment Plan are now unclear following the announcement of the General Election which will take place on 4th July. This may also impact on the timescales for delivery.

8.5 The Council was encouraged to liaise with DLUHC throughout the development of the Investment Plan to avoid unnecessary queries / issues post submission

8.6 In April 2023, the seven Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) arm’s length bodies– Historic England, Arts Council England, Sport England, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund, VisitEngland and the British Film Institute - joined forces to provide support and advice to councils and communities delivering culture-led regeneration projects – Levelling Up Places (LUP) Service Support. The Council has engaged with this service during development of the Investment Plan.

9. Development of the Investment Plan

9.1 Despite the short timescales for development of the Investment Plan, the Council is in a relatively strong position as a significant amount of the funding can be directed towards the Victoria Hall Development which was part of the Council’s unsuccessful Levelling Up Round 2 bid.

9.2 Given the short time scales for the submission of the Investment Plan, Mutual Ventures were commissioned to support the Council. They supported the Council in the development of the LUF Round 2 bid including the business case that supported the bid. Mutual ventures have provided the following support to the Council:

- Attendance with meetings with DLUHC representatives
- The development of propositions for each of the confirmed interventions.

- The development of a high-level options appraisal and Theory of Change for each confirmed intervention.
- The completion of the LUF R3 investment plan by 3rd June 2024, to include all required information relating to the following tabs of the investment plan template

9.3 The Head of Communities & Climate Change acted as the Council's Project Manager to work with the Mutal Ventures delivery team during the development of the investment plan. The Council has ensured the following tasks have been completed:

- Legal advice has been procured to support the completion of the subsidy control section of the investment plan.
- Confirmation which projects are to be included within the investment plan;
- Supply of the necessary information relating to the costings, match funding contributions and delivery plans/timescales associated with each confirmed project.

10. Stakeholder Engagement

10.1 The Investment Plan requires the Council to evidence the support of key stakeholders for the Investment Plan. It was also important for the Council to engage with stakeholders to invite potential bids to spread the benefit of the investment across the Borough.

10.2 Following the announcement of the Culture Capital funding at the Spring 2024 budget, the Council took immediate steps to raise awareness across the local culture sector. As members will be aware the council is in the process of developing of a new Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough; through the initial stakeholder mapping a core group of stakeholders has been identified to develop the strategy via a Culture Advisory Group. In addition, plans on how to engage with the wider culture sector have been developed. This intelligence was used to circulate details of the funding opportunity.

10.3 The Council's Arts, Culture & Heritage Officer contacted all organisations within the Council's wider culture sector network, in addition to highlighting the opportunity during already scheduled stakeholder events. Additionally, the Council Leader and Assistant Executive Member for Culture proactively promoted the opportunity amongst their networks.

10.4 Local culture organisations were invited to a 'Culture Capital Stakeholder Group' held on Tuesday 16th April (held via MS Teams). The meeting was co-chaired by the Council's Chief Executive Officer, Leader and Assistant Executive Member for Culture.

10.5 The meeting was attended by 8 representatives from community organisations. Following an overview of the funding requirements and timescales, representatives from community organisations were invited to

introduce their proposed projects, describing the nature of the proposals and how they would contribute to current culture priorities. Additionally, each representative demonstrated how their proposals were informed by stakeholder engagement and consultation (the public, service users etc.).

- 10.6 Following discussions, community organisations were invited to submit written proposals to the Council for consideration. A total of 8 proposals were received; including five from community organisations and two from council officers relating to cultural assets owned by the local authority.
- 10.7 Following receipt of the proposals the longlist was appraised. Additionally, a Theory of Change was developed (see Appendix B) to demonstrate the current market failures and systemic challenges being experienced, in addition to identifying the intended benefits (outputs and outcomes). This model was used to inform the criteria used during the appraisal of proposals.
- 10.8 From the longlist of proposals received, initial gateway criteria were used to assess the deliverability, viability and feasibility of each. One project was removed from this process, given the lack of cost certainty and risk that the project would not be delivered within the required timescales. Three other proposals were rejected as they were not capital in nature. The following criteria were applied to each proposal to establish the desirability, viability and feasibility of each proposal, to ensure the objectivity of the process:

Desirability:

- Ability to improve the physical condition of cultural assets (weighted)
- Ability to improve the energy efficiency of venues (weighted)
- Ability to improve access to venues (physical/digital/parking) (weighted)
- Ability to promote wider creative industry engagement (jobs) (weighted)
- Ability to promote wider community usage (visitors / education /volunteers) (weighted)

Viability:

- Ability of investment to improve the financial sustainability of venues (weighted)
- Does each project, or a combination of complimentary projects, represent an affordable proposition (i.e. will costs remain within the £5m of DLUHC funding, in addition to match funding identified by the Council)? (pass/fail)

Feasibility:

- Does the proposal demonstrate an ability to be fully or almost fully completed by 1st April 2026? Will all LUF funding be spent by 31st March 2026? (pass/fail)
- Is the organisation responsible for delivering the project able to demonstrate the capacity, capabilities and experience required to ensure successful delivery? (pass/fail)
- Does the proposed spend align with DLUHC requirements, in terms of proposed spend being capitalised? (pass/fail)

10.9 Following this process, 4 projects were identified as the preferred projects. The unsuccessful projects were notified of the outcome of the process; they were informed that the Council intends to explore alternative means of investing in each project (see Section 15).

11. Development of Preferred Projects and Agreement of Investment Plan

11.1 After initial evaluation of the bids the proposed interventions to be included in the Investment Plan for allocation of LUF3 funding are as follows:

- Victoria Hall Glossop
- Buxton Opera House
- Rock Mill Centre New Mills
- Milestone Studios New Mills

11.2 Following this conclusion a significant amount of work has taken place to develop these proposals in line with the requirements required in the DLUHC submission document.

11.3 As set out in section 8.2 of the report there is not the formal requirement to provide a 'strategic link' between the projects submitted as part of the package (as with LUF2) however there is a need to demonstrate a strategic alignment. The Theory of Change modelling that has been used to develop each of the interventions has been consolidated to provide an overall strategic case for the Investment Plan – this is summarised at Appendix B. This document includes details of the outputs and outcomes that will be delivered as a consequence of the investment.

11.4 The project descriptions for each of the interventions that are included in the Investment Plan are detailed at Appendix C.

12. Financial Implications

12.1 The financial implications for the proposed Investment Plan interventions is set out in the table below:

Project	Direct Project Cost	Indirect Costs	Programme Contingency	TOTAL	Match	LUF
Victoria Hall	4,000,000	80,370	162,383	4,242,753	-159,000	4,083,753
Rock Mill	194,884	3,916	7,911	206,711	-20,018	186,693
Milestone Studios	32,090	645	1,303	34,038		34,038
Buxton Opera House	750,000	15,069	30,447	795,516	-100,000	695,516
	4,976,974	100,000	202,044	5,279,018	-279,018	5,000,000

12.2 The following assumptions have been made:

- The indirect costs relate to project management costs and advice – these are external costs that will be incurred by the Council – internal support costs are not eligible for LUF grant
- The programme contingency of £202,044 is in addition to build cost inflation that has been included in the direct project costs for the individual projects
- The match funding identified includes £20,018 from the Rock Mill Group (already incurred) and £20,000 from the Friends of Victoria Hall
- The match funding requirement for the Buxton Opera House can be met from an existing provision in the Council's capital programme

12.3 The Council's remaining match funding commitment is therefore £139,000. This can be met from the £383,000 that was set aside in an earmarked reserve to meet the match funding requirement for the Victoria Hall project in the unsuccessful LUF2 bid.

12.4 The profile of the spending included in the Investment Plan has been based on the two principles: Realistic about ability to spend; and minimise the requirements to go back to DLUHC to request profile changes. The spend projections have been based on the following assumptions:

Victoria Hall & Buxton Opera House (where clear design & build phases)

- 20% allocation during design phase (evenly profiled over planned design period)
- 80% allocation during build phase (evenly profiled over planned build period)

Rock Mill & Milestone Studios (component based procurement plan)

- Expenditure allocated by cost element shared evenly between start & end date

Project Management support

- Allocated pro-rata to projects 50%/25%/25% Qtrs 2-4 2024/5

External advice

- Allocated pro-rata to projects 25%/50%/25% Qtrs 2-4 2024/5

Programme contingency

- Allocated pro-rata to projects all in Qtr 4 2025/6

13. Programme Management / Delivery

13.1 The Investment Plan sets out that the LUF3 programme management will be incorporated into the Council's Transformation Programme. The project delivery and management arrangements will be brought into the existing LUF2 project management arrangements already established for the SMDC programme with the Executive Director (Governance & Regulatory) as the project executive.

- 13.2 The ongoing progress with implementation will be reported to the Community Select Committee.
- 13.3 The two community based projects (Rock Mill Centre and Milestone Studios) will be delivered by the community organisations and will therefore be subject to a grant funding agreement with the Council. The organisations are in the process of incorporation as CICs – should the timescales for the completion of this process not be met then the Council will make arrangements for the works to be procured and completed.

14. MP Support

- 14.1 The Council engaged with the MP for High Peak early in the development of the Investment Plan. The Chief Executive met with the MP on 18th April and outlined the process that was being undertaken for the development of the Investment Plan. The initial appraisal of potential projects was also shared and the MP was broadly supportive of the proposed approach subject to the provision of additional information in relation to the Victoria Hall and it was also agreed that more information would be provided in relation to the Rock Mill Centre once the proposals had been developed and the draft Investment Plan had been completed.
- 14.2 On 22nd April the Chief Executive met with the Minister for Levelling Up with the High Peak MP and outlined the Council's approach. This was a positive meeting and the minister was reassured about the Council's capacity to successfully develop and implement the Investment Plan.
- 14.3 Due to the recent announcement in respect of the general election and the dissolution of parliament, the Council will not be able to formally reconfirm the MP's support for the investment plan immediately prior to submission on 3rd June.

15. Dealing with Unsuccessful Bids

- 15.1 After the completion of the appraisal process for inclusion in the Investment Plan, as set out in section 10.8 above, the following bids were unsuccessful
- No Jobs in Arts New Mills – equipment for early career creatives and outdoor arts spaces
 - Partington Theatre Glossop – urgent health and safety works
 - Melandra Castle Gamesley – historic interpretation works improvements
 - High Peak Community Arts – borough wide - storage space for arts organisations materials
- 15.2 As outlined in 10.9 these organisations were notified of the outcome of the process. They were informed that the Council intends to explore alternative means of investing in each project.

- 15.3 As set out in the financial implications section of the report (section 12), there remains some £244,000 remaining unallocated from the reserve that was set aside to meeting the match funding commitment in respect of the unsuccessful LUF2 bid. There is also approximately £100,000 available (on top of the £100,000 committed as match funding) unrequired funding in respect of the Buxton Opera House.
- 15.4 It is recommended that these allocations, £344,000 in total are used to provide financial support to the unsuccessful projects,. This will be subject to the development of an application and evaluation process and the necessary grant funding agreements being put in place.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Jacob Young MP
Minister for Levelling Up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Cllr Anthony McKeown
anthony.mckeown@highpeak.gov.uk

Via email only

6 Mar 2024

Dear Cllr McKeown,

SPRING BUDGET 2024 – LEVELLING UP CULTURE PROJECTS FUNDING

I am delighted to announce that High Peak Borough Council has been provisionally awarded up to £5 million of capital funding as part of the Spring Budget, to support local culture projects in your area.

This provisional funding recognises the crucial role culture can play in levelling up and supporting pride in place, whilst ensuring that all areas that have been previously prioritised for levelling up investment – of which you are one – have benefitted from government investment through one of our Levelling Up Funds.

We will shortly be inviting High Peak Borough Council to bring forward an investment plan that is focused on supporting cultural activity in your area. As engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders is critical to the success of funding delivery, we will ask you to confirm that you have consulted with key local stakeholders, which must include your local MP (or MPs), before submitting the investment plan. My department will then work closely with you to finalise your plans and reach agreement on them. We will provide further guidance by April.

In the meantime, my officials will be in contact with your officers shortly to discuss the next steps in this process and answer any questions you may have.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the Levelling Up agenda and look forward to working closely with you over the coming months.

Best wishes,

JACOB YOUNG MP
Minister for Levelling Up

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Theory of Change- High Peak Culture Capital

Local challenges & opportunities requiring LU culture capital investment	What is the impact of these challenges or unrealised opportunities?	Intervention(s) that will address challenges/realise the intended outputs and outcomes?	Outputs What are the tangible outputs of the interventions?	Outcomes What are the social, economic and environmental benefits?	Impact What will the cumulative impact/benefit?
<p>Under investment in cultural assets and offer</p> <p>Balancing heritage value of assets with adapting to current cultural requirements</p> <p>Lack of flexibility of cultural stock limiting opportunities for wider engagement</p>	<p>Declining physical condition</p> <p>Financial sustainability (through declining use and/or opportunities foregone + increasing maintenance cost)</p> <p>Energy inefficiency of buildings Access limitations (physical & parking)</p> <p>Inability to attract wider creative industry engagement and investment (incl. job creation and retention)</p> <p>Missing opportunities for wider community usage (including education / volunteering opportunities)</p>	<p>Victoria Hall refurbishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing a cherished building back into use as a community focused performance and flexible space <p>Rock Mill Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing the existing facility to become a visitor destination through developing a series of interactive displays, alongside better travel planning and energy efficiency measures <p>Milestone Studios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of existing facilities to a fully equipped, accessible teaching workshop, contemporary exhibition space and artist studio <p>Buxton Opera House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving and futureproofing the condition of the building, as part of a longer-term plan of wider upgrading of the facility balancing heritage with current customer expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovation of 2 heritage buildings Improvement of 950m² of cultural space 3 Non-domestic buildings with green retro-fits completed 16 new parking spaces <u>created</u> and an active travel plan implemented 8 Full-time equivalent jobs created 11 Full-time equivalent jobs facilitated 8 Full-time equivalent jobs safeguarded 86 volunteering opportunities supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nealy 200,000 annual visitors / audience members to these improved cultural venues by 2029/30 850 annual cultural events by 2029/30 At least one facility upgraded to EPC rating C or above Increase of people / customers / visitors / users who report a positive experience at Buxton Opera House from 50% to 55% 50 Enterprises receiving non-financial support by 2029/30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health and wellbeing of <u>local residents</u> (due to increased access to heritage, culture, learning and emotional development) - improved life expectancy and quality of life Modernisation of local arts and heritage offer, leading to a vibrant, growing and sustainable culture sector - increased economic activity Increased footfall, dwell time and visitor economy- increased economic activity Increased skills through volunteering and learning – increase in employment and higher skill/higher wage Increased sustainability of community organisations (through DLUHC and council investment) - increased community resilience Increased pride in place - increased community resilience

Context

- Lack of cultural activities outside of main population areas – the solution in part requires the catalytic impact of established ‘core’ offers in these areas, raising the profile of culture for the area and enabling smaller scale projects to be developed that can complement and expand upon this offer

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LUF3 Investment Plan – Project Descriptions

VICTORIAHALL

The refurbishment of Victoria Hall into a multiuse arts and community hub located within the Norfolk Square Conservation Area in Glossop town centre. Refurbishing this flagship community asset will create an energy efficient, accessible and inclusive multiuse arts and community hub, bringing a cherished building back into use as a community focused performance and flexible space.

Victoria Hall is a Grade II listed Victorian library and concert hall that opened in 1888. The Hall is held in trust for charitable purposes by High Peak Borough Council.

Derbyshire County Council closed the public library in the Hall in 2018, leaving the building virtually empty and the Council looking for new uses. In April 2019, the ground floor of Victoria Hall came back into community use, managed by the voluntary 'Friends of Victoria Hall' group.

In 2018 Purcell Architects were commissioned by the Council to review options for the future of the vacant Victoria Hall and Public Library with a view to it becoming an Arts Centre. These findings were reviewed in 2022 in light of the changing environment and the demand demonstrated through the meanwhile uses managed by the Friends of Victoria Hall. An updated preferred option, focused on making the building accessible and usable for a range of different uses, has been identified.

The refurbished Victoria Hall will offer a range of cultural, creative and health and wellbeing activities. The primary users will be local residents participating in cultural activities around arts, music, live performances and craft fairs, makers markets and art for wellbeing sessions. It will be the final piece in the overall Glossop Halls project, anchoring the creative scene in the town centre and catalysing the creative industries in Glossop.

By summer 2024, the Victoria Hall Glossop Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('CIO') will have been established and, upon completion of the capital works, be in a position to assume responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the building.

In summary the proposed capital works are as follows:

- Ground floor - general fit out, refurbishment works and alterations, including general strip out, full installation of WC's, creation of changing place provision, new kitchen/café, circulation (repairs, decorations) and a multi-use space (window overhaul, new finishes and sprung floor).
- First floor - general fit out and refurbishment works, including full installation of WCs, updated changing rooms, theatre space (window overhaul, new finishes and sprung floor) and kitchen/café fit out.
- Condition based works – asbestos removal, repairs to roof, parapet, rain water goods and remedial work due to water penetration, redecorating all windows and repairs to external ramps and stairs.

The intended benefits from this investment include:

- The improvement of existing cultural space
- The creation and improvement of office space

- The installation of new Wi-Fi hotspots
- The creation and facilitation of permanent jobs, and creation of volunteering opportunities
- Investing and sustaining in community organisations
- Increasing footfall and dwell time in the town centre
- Improved EPC rating, resulting in carbon savings

BUXTON OPERAHOUSE

As part of a wider refurbishment programme, this project will assist in restoring the Buxton Opera House, a cherished and much-loved landmark arts venue which serves the local community and wider region. The modernisation will enable the Opera House to attract more customers and visiting companies/artists, assisting to secure the asset's long-term sustainability and maximise the health, wellbeing, economic and environmental benefits associated with a modern and thriving arts and culture offer.

The Opera House is an exquisitely beautiful Edwardian theatre and one of the country's finest examples of Frank Matcham theatre design. Benefitting from major restoration in the 1970s and the 1990s, the 901-seat Opera House is considered a wonderfully preserved heritage asset that occupies a landmark location within Buxton. A grade II* listed building, it retains much of its original fabric and fittings.

The Opera House is owned by the Council and operated by High Peak Theatre Trust, which also operates the Buxton Pavilion Arts Centre. It plays a key role in the heritage of High Peak, a unique 'theatre in the hills', loved by, cared for and supported by its trustees, executive team and 130+ volunteers.

The Opera House is a busy receiving house with around 450 performances each year including dance, comedy, children's shows, drama, musical concerts, pantomime and opera as well as a lively Fringe Theatre and Community and Education Programme. The theatre is also home to the renowned Buxton International Festival.

However, the theatre is in urgent need of modernisation. It now falls short of the modern standards expected by both customers and visiting companies/artists. Access and participation are severely limited due to the inadequate facilities and many modern productions simply cannot be accommodated. The visitor experience is being negatively impacted, as evidenced by visitor feedback (see response re: stakeholder engagement).

As such, the council, High Peak Theatre Trust and trustees recognise that we must modernise the building to secure its long-term future. The scope of works proposed focus on addressing the source and damage caused by water ingress, and should be seen as a project within a wider longer-term programme to fully refurbish the Opera House:

- Replacement of flat roof and rainwater goods
- Replacement of drains and improvement to drainage system
- Damp works to upper floor to address damage from water ingress
- Replacements of alarms and improvement to fire safety arrangements

The theatre currently operates at c65% capacity; the ambition is to increase this to 75%. The intended outputs and outcomes from this investment/project will be created by improving the current visitor experience, increased visitor numbers and repeat visits, and the attraction of the venue to visiting performers:

- Increase in the number of events held
- Increase in the number of visitors/audience members
- Percentage of customers/visitors/users who report a positive experience
- Creation, facilitation and safeguarding of permanent jobs
- Creation of additional volunteering opportunities

The wider refurbishment programme will realise improvements to backstage facilities to enable larger and more diverse programming, further enhancing the benefits that would be derived from this initial project/investment.

ROCK MILL CENTRE

Investment in an existing visitor and community centre run by and for the New Mills community. Building on the recent success achieved by this valued community asset, the investment will be used to creatively engage visitors and the local community with their environment, establishing a positive sense of what can be achieved through collective action. As the number of visitors to the centre grows, so does the number of local organisations that are collaborated with; this investment will help the centre to expand the scale and scope of our community education, engagement and physical health projects

Additionally, the intention is to invest in securing the future viability and sustainability of the centre; reducing the energy usage and carbon emissions, and showing residents, community groups and other local stakeholder how they can do the same.

The Rock Mill Centre occupies what was formally the Heritage and Information Centre. When the Town Council moved the Heritage Centre into High Lea Hall in 2022, a group of volunteers took on the lease and organisation of the Centre to keep the building as a visitor and community centre for the town and surrounding area.

They aim to serve our local community. They host events, meetings and activities run by local groups and are a registered Safe Place and a Warm Welcome Space. They run a small friendly cafe where all are welcome. Displays are intended to encourage a positive and collective response to the future and the changes we can all make. Throughout their activities they intend to creatively celebrate what is special about New Mills and the surrounding area.

Since opening in 2022, the visitor numbers have increased tenfold; they now regularly have over 100 people a day with up to an additional 50 just using the external toilet. The Council has recently agreed to fund the refit of the toilet to improve its accessibility for all users.

The proposed scope of works is summarised below:

- Various displays - celebrating and engaging the local community with regards to local nature, artwork, artists and natural environment
- Lost Species external mural - highlight the centre with a piece of public art of value that links with other river themed murals down the length of the Mersey.
- Lighting refit - complete the redesigning of the centre's lighting to make our basement space more welcoming, adaptable and energy efficient.
- Lighting desk - enabling their Littlest Theatre to receive nationally touring companies and be a destination attraction, as well as completing the redesigning of the centre's lighting to make the basement space more welcoming, adaptable and energy efficient.

- Active Travel Support - promoting bicycle use and installing bike racks and a installing a fixed community bicycle pump

The intended benefits from this investment include:

- Increased audience numbers at cultural events
- Increased visitors to cultural venues
- Increased footfall, dwell time and economic activity across New Mills

MILESTONE STUDIOS

Milestone Studios is a creative study, workshop and gallery in New Mills. The studios provide local residents, artists and community organisations with freedom to create, share ideas, encourage others and exhibit their art. Milestone Studios is seeking capital funding to expand their offering, becoming a fully equipped, accessible teaching workshop, contemporary exhibition space and artist studio. Their aim is to broaden our offer, with a view to increasing accessibility, inclusion and inspiring current and new creatives.

Since their inception in July 2022, they've empowered over a dozen High Peak based artists to run their first public workshops, with resources and support they would otherwise have been unable to access, and provided much needed studio space to 6 local artists. These workshops, alongside our programme of exhibitions and cultural events have attracted a diverse audience of 500+ attendees.

However, their current capacity limits their reach. So far, the studio has been solely funded by their founders, studio holders and patrons. With this capital funding, they aim to expand their offerings, transforming into the High Peaks' premier open-access specialist printmaking and painting studios.

In summary, the funds will be used to improved signage, fittings and equipment for use in expanding the studio facilities and reach.

Having the necessary equipment to set up an open-access membership scheme will bring in a sustainable revenue stream, allowing them to continue their cultural programme and provide facilities of the same quality to those on offer at city-centre printing and painting studios. Their commitment to merging traditional techniques with modern, environmentally conscious practices drives their mission, and this investment will enable them to procure eco-friendly equipment, elevating their studio's sustainability practices.

The intended benefits from this investment include:

- Increased numbers attending cultural events
- Increased number of visitors to cultural venues