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Tameside Metropolitan Borough

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DUKINFIELD AND STALYBRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

Day: Tuesday
Date: 24 November 2026
Time: 6.30 pm
Place: George Hatton Hall - Dukinfield Town Hall

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No.
1.	**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING (5 MINUTES)**	
2.	**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (30 MINUTES)** To discuss the Council's annual budget-setting process and priorities for regeneration and growth in Dukinfield and Stalybridge.	
3.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of the Community Forum.	
4.	**MINUTES AND ACTIONS** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Dukinfield and Stalybridge Community Forum held on 23 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 Head of Development and Major Programmes.	7 - 32
6.	**COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: PRIDE IN PLACE IMPACT FUND (20 MINUTES)** To hear from representatives of The Old Chapel Unitarians and Tameside Community Computers C.I.C.	33 - 34
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.	35 - 38

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

8. QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

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

DUKINFIELD AND STALYBRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM
23 June 2026

Commenced: 18:30 **Terminated:** 20:20

Present:	Councillors N Sharif (Chair), Ardron-Adams, Barton, Dickinson, Feeley, Lane, Rhodes, Tilbrook and Wills	
In Attendance:	Zoe Evans	Strategic Director of Finance (S151)
	Julian Jackson	Strategic Director of Housing, Environment and Estates
	Tom Hoghton	Policy and Scrutiny Service Manager
	Alec Milner	Senior Policy Officer
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors Beardmore, Duff and Frater	

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 MINUTES)

The Chair began by welcoming attendees to the meeting and highlighted housekeeping arrangements. The Chair advised that the Community Forums would serve as an important platform for councillors, residents and partner organisations to exchange view and work collaboratively in a constructive manner to achieve positive outcomes for Dukinfield and Stalybridge. The Chair looked forward working to inviting residents to raise comments regarding opportunities for the Council to improve the local area.

2. WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY FORUM (30 MINUTES)

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Chair of the Dukinfield and Stalybridge Community Forum. The presentation introduced the Community Forums and set out the context of how the forums were developed and outlined the Council's approach to community engagement.

The Chair explained that the previous Neighbourhood Forums had primarily been information-sharing meetings, with limited opportunities for residents to participate in discussions. Following feedback received through the Cabinet in the Community programme, 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.

The Chair provided an overview of the arrangements for the Community Forums. It was explained that meeting agendas would have three sections;

- Borough items, discussions that are important to all parts of Tameside or key updates;
- Community items, focusing on local issues or developments. Local partners and community groups were encouraged to submit proposals for any items they wished to present;
- Question time: the formal Q and A session where the Council and partners will answer questions. It was encouraged that questions were submitted in advance of the meeting. All questions and answers would be published online.

It was explained that the Community Forums would meet three times annually, in June, November and March, with meetings rotating between venues across the borough. It was also noted that community groups and partner organisations would be able to propose agenda items for future meetings through Democratic Services.

The Chair then asked both Members of the Forum and residents in attendance to propose items for future agendas.

Residents raised concerns over the choice of venue, its suitability for forum meetings and how widely the forum meeting had been publicised. In response Councillor Wills stated that every online platform the Council was on had been used to publicise the forums further there had been awareness raised through the radio local new outlets and banners had been put up in Town Centres. The Chair encouraged residents to contact Members if they felt here were any areas not covered that the Council could use to raise awareness of the Forum. In regards to the venue, the Chair acknowledged the challenges posed by the poor acoustics and stated that should the venue be used again that microphones would be looked at the mitigate this issue.

In response to questions on the former Neighbourhood Forums and the arrangements of Community Forums it was explained that residents have the right to speak at Community Forums. Residents were encouraged to ask questions on the items on the agenda and raise questions during the Q and A session where the Council and partners would answer questions and where questions could not be answered in the meeting they will be answered following the meeting and published online.

RESOLVED
That the Presentation be noted.

3. PRIDE IN PLACE AND IMPACT FUND (30 MINUTES)

The Policy and Scrutiny Service Manager attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the Pride in Place Impact Fund.

The Policy and Scrutiny Service Manager advised that the programme was funded by central Government, which allowed residents and community groups to submit proposals for a share of £1.5 million to deliver visible improvements that rebuild community pride. It was explained that all residents and community groups could apply for funding. Funding was focussed on three types of improvements:

- Community spaces, by enhancing local facilities and supporting organisations to restore underused areas
- Public spaces, through upgrades to parks, play areas, lighting and street furniture
- High streets and town centres, by revitalising shopfronts, improvements to markets and enhancing streetscapes.

It was noted that, as separate Pride in Place funding had been secured for Hattersley and Ashton, applications to the Impact Fund would be prioritised for the remaining seven towns and surrounding neighbourhoods not covered by those programmes.

Community groups, residents and partners were encouraged to submit investment proposals for the next round that was taking place between 1 June – 31 July 2026. Details of the application process were provided to the Forum. The Forum were advised that the funding was available only for capital expenditure i.e. for the purchase or improvements of assets. In response to resident questions I was explained that should cabinet approve the proposals in the round 1 pride in place report then there would be 860k left for the following round of funding. It was also explained that officers were available to support with bids, on the first round a number of ideas were put forward which required further development. Councillor Wills highlighted that over previous years the local authority had seen their budgets cut and now there was a pot of money available which the VCSE sector had available to make bids which would support them in delivering in the community.

A resident questioned the metric used to assess bids for pride in place funding. It was explained by the Policy and Scrutiny Service Manager that there is a criteria which had been provided by Government. There were a number of criteria's used to assess bids and these would be made available on the Councils website.

RESOLVED
That the presentation be noted.

4. CIVIC PRIDE, CLEAN STREETS, LOCAL HERITAGE AND LEISURE PROVISION (20 MINUTES)

The Chair explained that the purpose of this item was to allow residents to have the opportunity to tell the Forum their concerns and thoughts about where they lived. The Chair provided an update on recent successes around Dukinfield and Stalybridge undertaken by the housing, Environment and Estates Service, including work undertaken by the waste and fleet services, preventative measures taken to prevent fly tipping and recent fly tipping prosecutions.

An update was then provided on the Strategic Growth Service, it was reported that Phase 1 of new heritage street lighting were installed and public realm improvements underway at Old Town Hall gardens and Armentieres Square. The programme to deliver Street Fest every month had continued during delivery of improvement works. Further public realm works planned for Market Street Phase 2 and the next phase of heritage street lighting. The main hall in Victoria Market Hall had been refurbished and delivery of cultural programme was underway further work was completing shortly on the remainder of the building. The Construction of a new ramp and accessible entrance to the Astley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library was on site with the main internal restoration works to commence in the Autumn. Councillor Feeley commented on the Art Gallery stating that it was a fantastic building and part of the heritage of Stalybridge, which is being brought back to life. The Forum discussed the performances that had taken place in the building and future performances that were planned and had sold well.

Attendees were then invited to share their thoughts and concerns about their local area.

A question was asked on the multistorey car park being built in Stalybridge and the forum were asked whether four charging points was seen as sufficient with increasing EV usage and whether when designed these car parks were considered for solar panels. The Strategic Director of Housing, Environment and Estates stated that there was a piece of work taking place with GMCA on charging infrastructure across the Borough with opportunities in particular with on street parking and that additional EV charging points in car parks is something that is considered when designed.

In response to a question on the future of regeneration and public realm investment in Dukinfield and investment that had been received for other towns in the Borough. The Councillor Wills explained that Asthon had received significant investment in public realm through Levelling Up Funding and also Pride in Place. Dukinfield Town Hall had received significant investment from the Council and this was during a time when the Council has had budgets cut. Further it was stated that Dukinfield was complex in that it doesn't have a centre in the same way Ashton does. The Council was building back pride in place and members wanted to work with residents to achieve this.

RESOLVED
That the update be noted.

5. QUESTION TIME (30 MINUTES)

No questions were received in advance of the meeting. The following questions were received at the meeting.

"Why has Armentieres Square not got dropped kerbs that are not a trip hazard?" In response the Chair said that a response would be provided following the meeting with more details on the designs however the designs did meet the safety standards and were finalised following consultation with residents.

"Why was the gas works not planned properly and work carried out with 24 hour working, as it has closed the town for more than two weeks?"
The Chair explained that the emergency road works were carried out by the utility provider and needed to be completed immediately. Unfortunately, these works overlapped with planned roadworks being conducted by the Council which were already underway.

"Could the Cllrs please articulate the vision for investments and improvements for the town of Dukinfield? Are monies spent in other towns equitable?"
In response the Chair stated that the Council was working to support growth and regeneration in all nine towns, and Dukinfield was benefiting from funding such as the Pride in Place Impact Fund, with improvements to Dukinfield Park and the public realm around the Town Hall. If residents were interested in more information about the Council's plans for Dukinfield, this was something we could look to bring to the next meeting, which would be held in Dukinfield.

"Who approves the opening of barbers shops and kebab shops?"
The Chair advised that businesses are generally not required to apply for permission to open unless they require planning permission or alcohol licensing. These issues were outside the remit of the committee but if residents had concerns about any specific businesses they were encouraged to speak to officers after the meeting and they could raise them with the relevant teams.

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Tameside Metropolitan Borough

Growth, Regeneration, and Development

Updates on local developments, regeneration activity and future plans



Dukinfield & Stalybridge Community Forum Development Update

1. Dukinfield

Homes Spaces Places

Homes Spaces Places (Publication Consultation Draft Local Plan) identifies a vision for the Dukinfield neighbourhood up to 2042 as follows:

- Maintain and enhance Dukinfield as an attractive and sustainable residential neighbourhood, accommodating relatively limited change outside identified development opportunities over the Plan period.
- Maintain and enhance the diverse range of housing across the neighbourhood, delivering a net increase of around 100 new homes
- Protect, sustain and enhance key employment locations, particularly within the Tame Valley corridor, recognising their importance in providing industrial activity, inward investment opportunities and local employment for residents.

- Support the delivery of a new Dukinfield (Dewsnap) railway station to improve public transport accessibility, strengthen sustainable connections and support wider regeneration and investment opportunities.
- Conserve and enhance the designated and non-designated heritage assets of Dukinfield, including the Grade II listed Dukinfield Town Hall and its setting, supporting improvements to the adjoining public realm and civic space.
- Support the vitality, viability and environmental quality of the local shopping areas at King Street and Concord Way, promoting a balanced mix of uses and avoiding overconcentration.
- Support the enhancement of the River Tame and Peak Forest Canal corridors as important recreation, leisure and active travel routes, whilst protecting and enhancing their landscape, ecological and biodiversity value.
- Support the enhancement of Blocksages and Astley as strategic hubs for sport, recreation, leisure and physical activity, improving accessibility and strengthening their role as community assets.

Tame Valley Employment Corridor

- The employment corridor is part of a broader strategy aimed at enhancing the local economy through inclusive growth. The MDC will provide a platform for significant new employment opportunities by aligning public and private sector investment.
- Employment development of c140,000 sq.ft being progressed by Oryx / Pembury subject to planning considerations.
- To support further delivery the Tame Valley Employment Area growth study will be commissioned in early 2027.





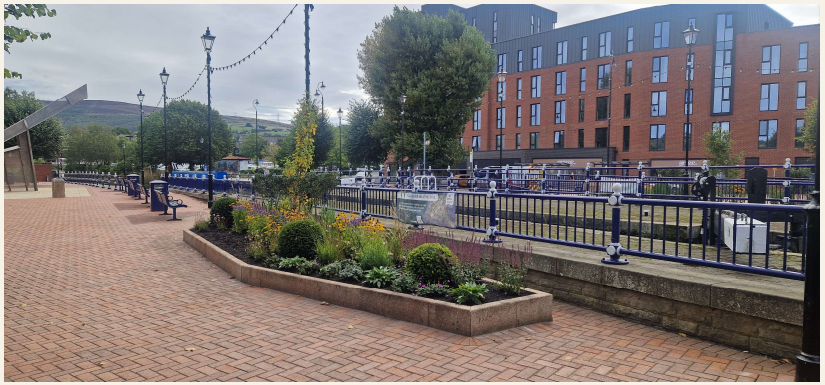
Pride in Place & Civic Pride

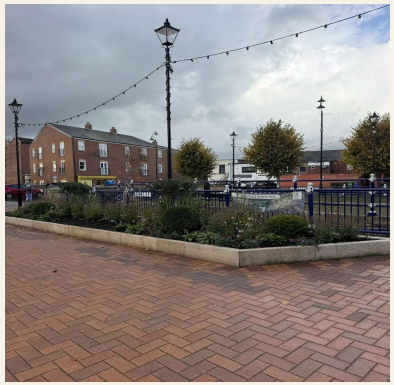
- Further improvements have been delivered in the Dukinfield neighbourhood which will be covered in the Pride in Place and Civic Pride agenda items

2. Stalybridge Public Realm

Armentieres Square

- Public realm improvements in Stalybridge Town Centre are being delivered with external grant funding from the UK Capital Regeneration Projects Fund.
- Enhancement of Armentieres Square completed with new heritage lighting, improved activation to the canal; improved connections to Melbourne Street; new street furniture; enhanced street trees and planting; de-clutter of the existing spaces; and repair and replacement of paving.









Old Town Hall Gardens

- Works completed to enhance the greenspace at the Old Town Hall site to frame a new eastern arrival into the town centre and provide an enhanced gateway to the historic Trinity Street corridor.
- Provides a useable and function space for events; more accessible greenspace; improved lighting provision; and a design that references the heritage of the site and historic use.







Corporation Street / Melbourne Street



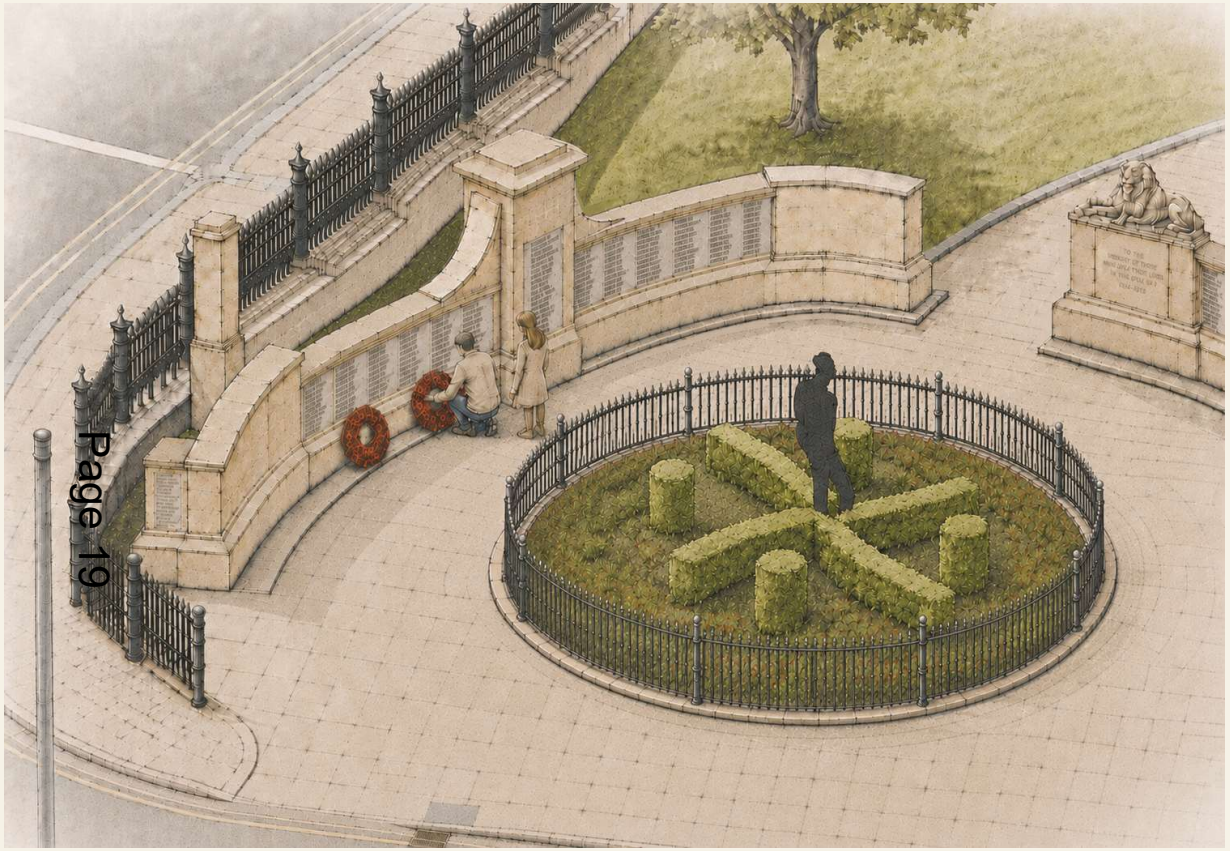
- Scheme will improving the physical environment for pedestrians with footway widening and repair whilst maintaining existing vehicle movements.
- Works commenced in September 2026 and are due to complete in January 2027.

Market Street, Phase 2



- Scheme will reduce the size of Market Street / Waterloo Road Junction; provide a more attractive entrance to the town wider and consistent footpath and new crossing points; and introduce one-way movement along the remainder of Market Street.
- Work underway and will be delivered in phases to minimise disruption as much as possible.
- Scheduled for completion in Summer 2027.

Stalybridge War Memorial Extension



- Detailed design work on the War Memorial scheme has been completed, with support from partners at The Friends of Stalybridge War Memorial.
- Additional CRSTS funding for public realm in Stalybridge has allowed for the cost to be met from the existing Capital Regeneration Projects funding. Collaboration with The Friends of Stalybridge War Memorial, Tameside Local Studies and Tameside Council Operations and Greenspaces officers to finalise the list of missing names.
- Delivery planned for 2027.

2. Stalybridge Cultural Quarter

Victoria Market Hall

- Programme of activity under way within the Victoria Market Hall following completion of works
- Management of the building brought back in house to TMBC Facilities Team









Astley Cheetham Art Gallery & Library

- Work underway to deliver internal restoration and improved accessibility at the Astley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library.
- Temporary library provision is available in the Victoria Market Hall until March 2027.
- A new entrance and access ramp has been completed with works to the interior now underway.





Internal Restoration

- Internal restoration are underway with a focus on enhancing the heritage aspects of the building, creating a destination space and better integrating the art gallery with the library provision..









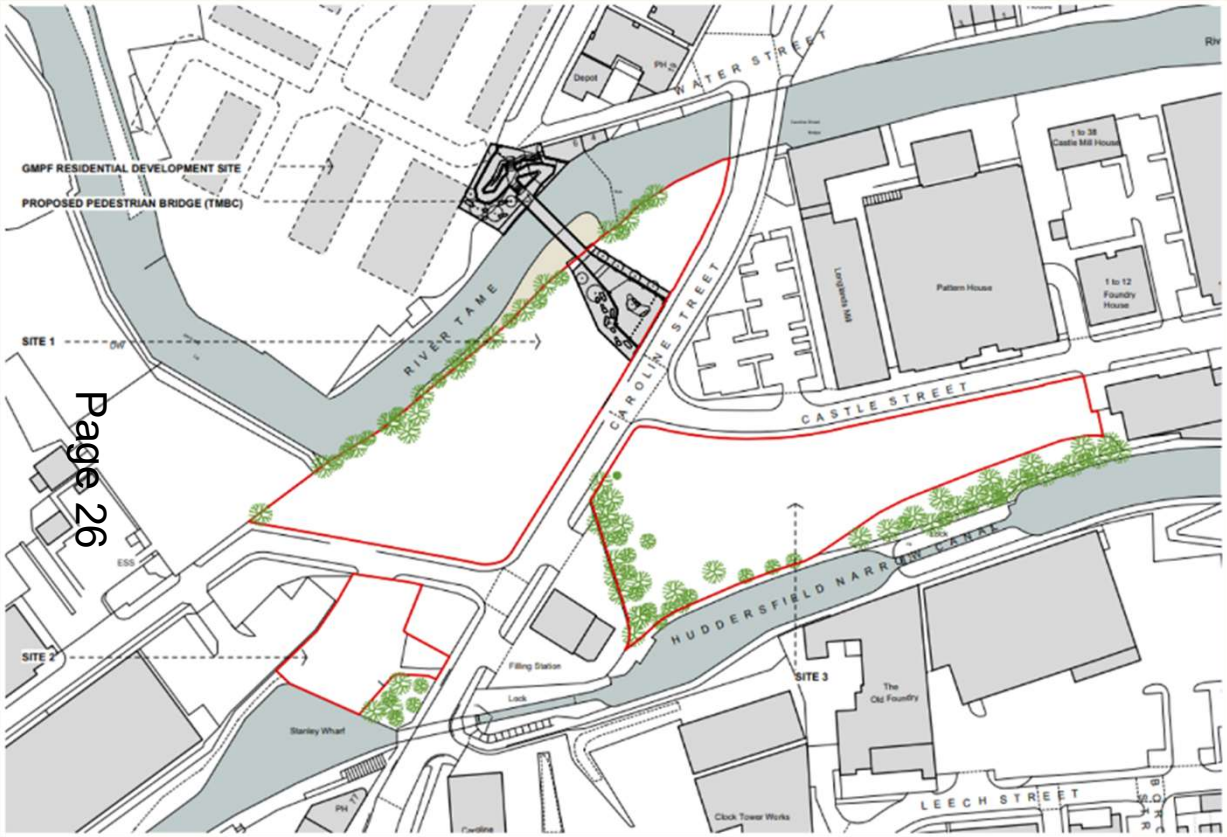
3. Stalybridge West

Stalybridge West

- Funding for enabling infrastructure to bring forward vacant sites for redevelopment
- Ownership largely Council or GMPF
- Consent for 102 residential units on GMPF sites
- Capacity for c250 residential units on Council land



Stalybridge West: Council Sites



- Council preparing to commence remediation works on the Council owned sites at Stalybridge West – Castle Street, Caroline Street and Bridge Street.
- Will provide opportunities for new town centre residential on brownfield land.

Stalybridge West MSCP

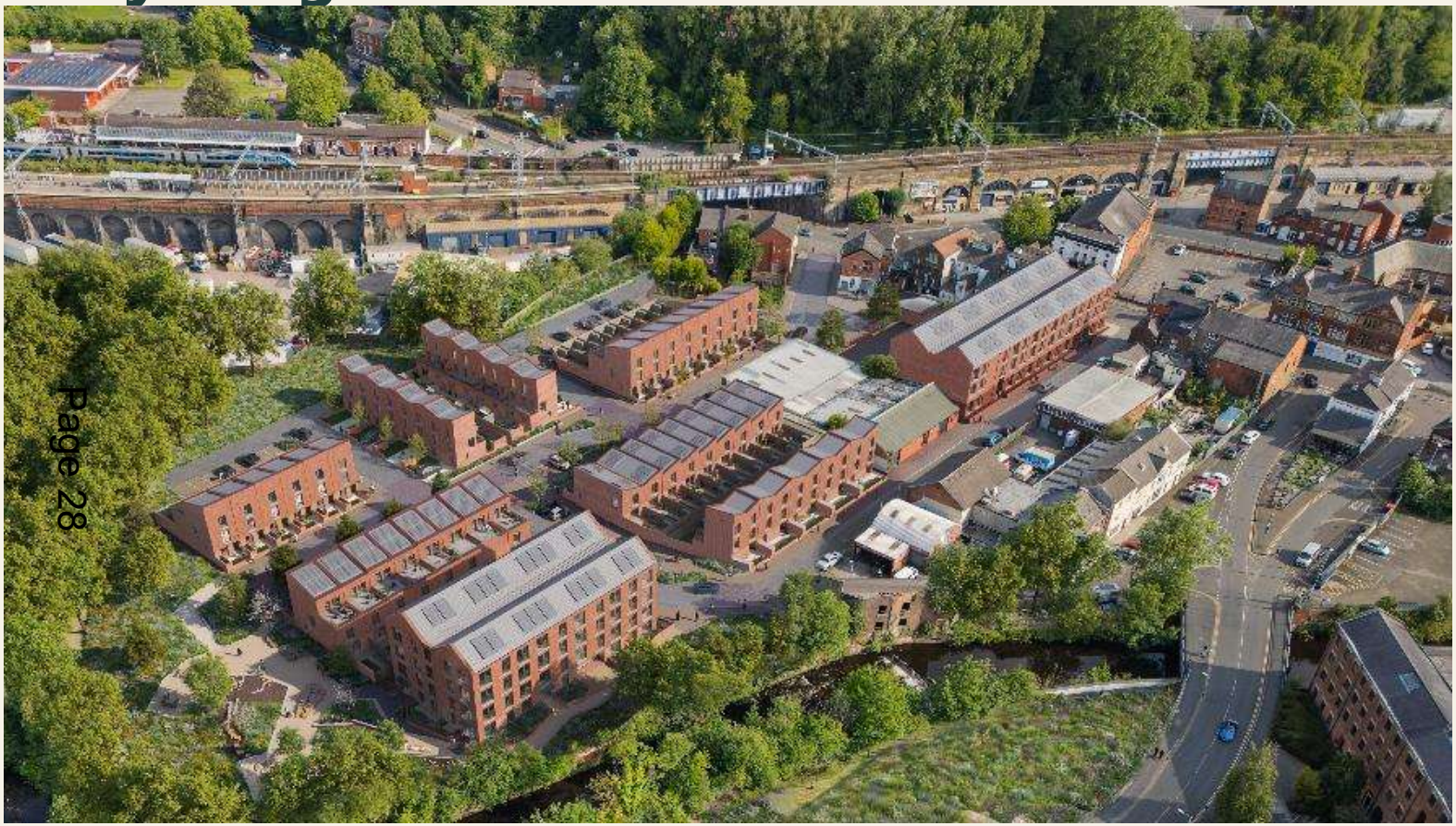
- The proposed redevelopment of Castle Street for residential use will remove 80 town centre car parking spaces.
- To maintain car parking provision a MSCP will be delivered on Waterloo Road.







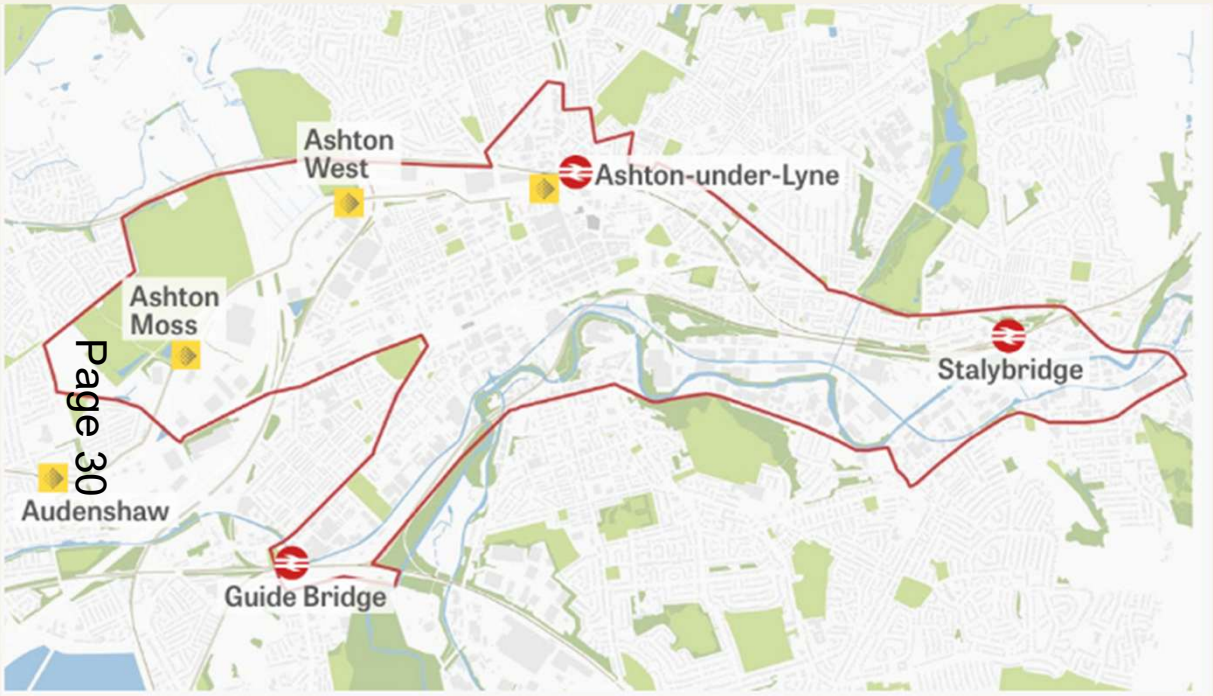
Stalybridge West: GMPF Site



- Planning secured for 102 new affordable homes on land owned by GMPF.
- Demolition works of existing buildings now underway.

4. Ashton and Stalybridge MDC

Ashton and Stalybridge MDC Background



- The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), launched in July 2025, included a proposal to establish an MDC for Ashton & Stalybridge that provides a national exemplar for transport led-regeneration.
- The MDC will provide the necessary governance and resource arrangements to accelerate delivery.
- Regeneration activity within the MDC boundary will generate significant economic and market spillover, ensuring the surrounding areas benefit.

Next Steps to Formalise the MDC



Subject to subsequent Secretary of State approval, MDC is anticipated to be formed early 2027.



The Council will continue to progress the business plan for the MDC in Ashton & Stalybridge.



Work to continue with Transport Working Group program through the Autumn.

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Tameside Metropolitan Borough

Community Spotlight

Pride in Place Impact Fund:

Tameside Community Computers C.I.C. and The Old Chapel Unitarians

Pride in Place Impact Fund

Funded Projects in Dukinfield

- Play Equipment Upgrades at Dukinfield Park
- Dukinfield Public Realm
- Tameside Digital Community Hub
- Church Family Garden Project
- Old Chapel Unitarians
- The Together Centre

Funded Projects in Stalybridge

- Play Equipment Upgrades at Stamford Park and Cheetham Park
- Ridge Hill Community Medical Centre
- 7th Stalybridge Scouts
- Stalybridge Archery Club
- 2nd Stalybridge Scouts

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

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

Recent Activity and Reporting Issues

Stalybridge and Dukinfield

- Achieved the highest fly tipping enforcement performance of any council in the North West.
- Two new litter hubs launched at Stalybridge Town Team Volunteers Hub & Heyrod Community Centre.
- 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.
- New Friends Group established in Stamford Park.
- Three Fixed Penalty Notices for flytipping issued in Stalybridge and Dukinfield over three months.
- 18 highway trees planted across Dukinfield and Stalybridge.
- Four Acceptable Behaviour Contracts issued and a case review conducted to address anti-social behaviour issues in Stalybridge.



Tameside Metropolitan Borough

Report Issues Online



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

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