

Central Winchester Regeneration future outlined in new roadmap

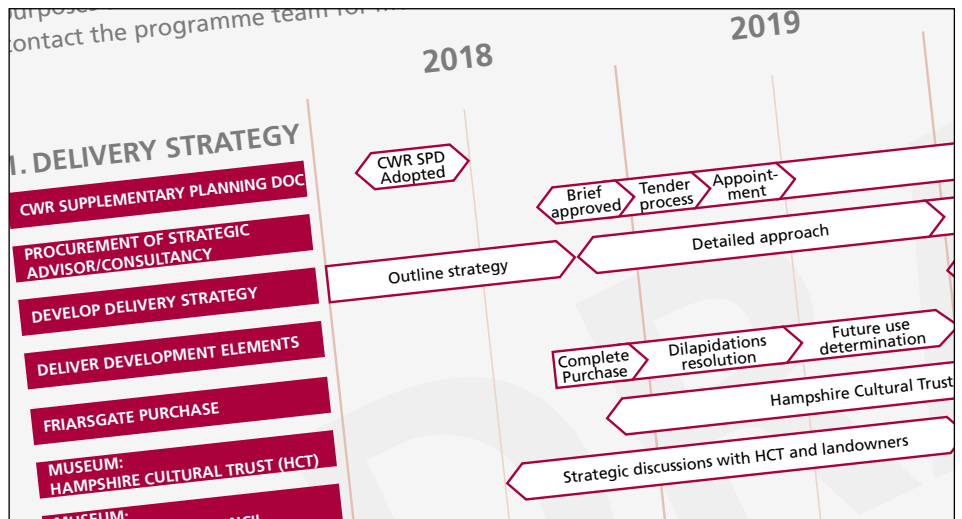
An overview plan for the delivery of the Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR) project has been published.

The project's Delivery Roadmap outlines the next four years of the development and includes the start of the construction phase which could begin by the end of 2021.

It is the first time the Council has released a timetable for the delivery of the project and it was presented to members of the Cabinet (Central Winchester Regeneration) Committee on 22 January.

The Roadmap outlines the timings for key stages of the project including the design, planning and procurement of the development. It also includes investor marketing, funding sources and the overall delivery strategy along with detail around key workstreams such as a new museum, the move of the bus station and ongoing improvements to the area ahead of the final new development.

The Roadmap supports the vision in the CWR Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and will ensure the plans the Council puts forward can be delivered by allocating the appropriate time for each phase of the



project, so the shared vision becomes a reality.

The Roadmap allows sufficient time for the viability and delivery work to be carried out properly before designs are put forward. This will ensure that the project, in its entirety, is achievable, sustainable and will benefit everyone in the city.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Caroline Horrill, who is also Chair of the Committee

responsible for the Central Winchester Regeneration, said: "We are keeping up the pace of progress, but we are determined to ensure that all the groundwork is done to ensure that any plans we put forward can be delivered.

"2018 was an exciting year for the project with many milestones reached, so to begin 2019 with a roadmap that reflects the progress that will be made over the next four years is very exciting."

2018 – A YEAR OF PROGRESS

Last year saw significant progress in the regeneration of central Winchester.

After an extensive public consultation, the Council's Supplementary Planning Document, which sets out the Council's vision, objectives and plans for the area, was given the green light.

Three advisory panels were formed (Coitbury House; Meanwhile Uses and the lower section of the High Street and the Broadway public realm) to consider and provide comment to the CWR Cabinet Committee when making decisions.

Buildings around the area have been given a new lease of life by new business and partnerships occupying them who all share the vision to make central Winchester vibrant, unique and exciting.

Local businesses and the public attended special events and workshops that enabled them to have an open forum to share their views and ideas about the vision, supplementary planning document and archaeology.

Other exciting developments include the purchase of Friarsgate Medical Centre and new plans for the future of Coitbury House.

LOOKING AHEAD KEY MILESTONES IN 2019

- Coitbury House refurbishment
- Bus station meanwhile uses proposals
- Feasibility study for improvements in lower High Street and the Broadway
- Naming the regeneration area



Friarsgate Medical Centre

The disused former Friarsgate Medical Centre and five properties either side of the bus station entrance in the Broadway are now owned by Winchester City Council.

The location is an integral part of the area and the council made the purchases to give it more scope to deliver its vision for the regeneration of central Winchester.

Options for the short-term use of the Friarsgate site will be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet and work will start on refurbishing the High Street properties in 2019.



Former Friarsgate Medical Centre. Inset image: Cllr Horrill and Cllr Miller

New collaboration for the Old Post Office



Left to right: Open House Deli's Rebecca Smith, Cllr Caroline Horrill, The Bike Hub's Heather Evans

The Old Post Office in Middle Brook Street has been given a new lease of life by becoming The Bike Hub at Open House Deli.

The vibrant and unique space is being run by two established and popular Winchester businesses – Bespoke Biking and Open House Deli – who have formed a new and exciting partnership.

The venue, which opened on 10 January, serves fresh and seasonal food and drinks, has a workspace area and hub for all things cycling, including repairs, a shop,

bike hire, secure storage space for cyclists' own bicycles and bike maintenance classes. There is also a specific seating area where people will be encouraged not to open their laptops or phones. Food and drinks will be served seven days a week and people will still be able to hire bikes from Bespoke Biking.

Cllr Caroline Horrill said: "We are thrilled that such a vibrant and exciting partnership has been formed between two local entrepreneurs and that they will become part of the Central Winchester Regeneration family."

Bus Station future

Local businesses, cultural and creative entrepreneurs have urged the Council to be 'big and bold' in its regeneration plans, during a workshop to discuss the future of the Winchester bus station site; bought by the council in April 2017.

The special event was held by the Council to enable local businesses to share their ideas on how best to use the under-utilised section of the bus station, which has been identified as a possible location for meanwhile use opportunities.

The workshop was attended by 18 businesses and there was a real emphasis on listening to each other and openness to the ideas and suggestions shared.

The council will now appoint experts to undertake a business case feasibility study, which will include feedback from the workshop, for a potential pop up hub on the un-used space behind the bus station.

Broadway and lower section of the High Street

Future plans for the Broadway and lower section of the High Street are on the horizon after members of the Cabinet (CWR) Committee agreed the design brief and budget for initial design work for improvements to the area at the latest meeting on 22 January.

The brief stated that the design needs to be deliverable in stages and comprise the lower areas of the High Street, the Broadway and the areas surrounding the King Alfred statue. It needs to be in line with the CWR Supplementary Planning Document and include aspects of pedestrianisation, car parking, history of the area and transport that will be explored at the feasibility stage.

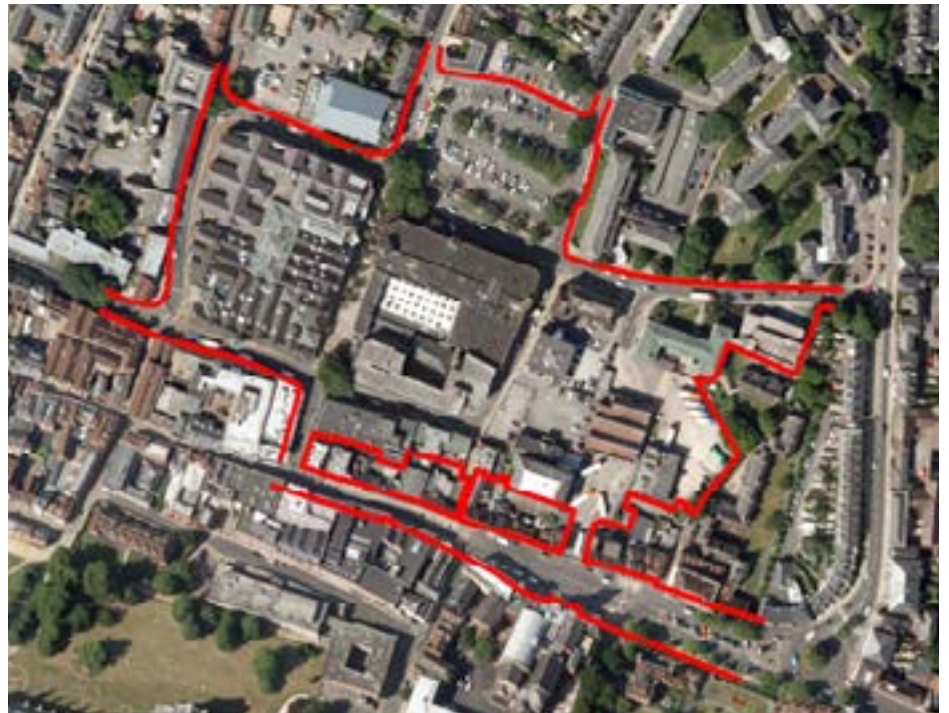
Naming the central Winchester area

Members of the public have been given the chance to give their suggestions for the name of the regeneration area.

Over the years the area included in the Central Winchester Regeneration has had various names with the most well-known being Silver Hill.

However, with an ambitious and exciting new vision for the area, that has been agreed through extensive community engagement over the last two years, the Council now feels a new name is needed to reflect this fresh start and expanded area. This is an opinion that was shared by many people throughout the engagement around the project's supplementary planning document (SPD).

A list of potential names has been put together from suggestions made by the people who attended exhibitions and public events during the consultation period for the Supplementary Planning Document.



The Central Winchester Regeneration area

Names that have already been suggested



Alfie's Backyard
Alfred Quarter
Alfred's Backyard
Alfred's Gate
Alfred's Place
Alfred's View

Anglo Saxon Experience
Bronze Hill
Cultural Quarter
Friarsbrook Place
Friarsgate
Gold Hill

Juliana de la Floude
King Alfred's View
Riverside
Saxonbrooks
Saxon Gate
Saxon Quarter
Silver Hill
Silver Hill 2
SO23
Tannery Place
The Central Quarter
The Friarsgate Development
The Prism
The Saxonbrooks
The Tannery
The Winchester Saxonbrooks
Water Quarter
Winchester Deserves Better
Woolstaplers

The list of names, which you can see here, were circulated by email to everyone who has registered to be kept updated about the project and on the Council's website and social media channels for people to comment on and add to.

Around 80 people gave their comments and/or suggestions. Some people endorsed

some of the names above and others made new suggestions.

The full list of names will be reviewed and shortlisted by the CWR Committee's working group before the final selection is announced in the Spring.

The list is now available on:



winchester.gov.uk/cwr



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Nutshell 2019 programme

The Discarded Nut Theatre Company, the new tenants in the Council-owned former antique market, now known as 'The Nutshell' have released their exciting and ambitious new programme for 2019.

The programme includes an adult acting company, a book club with a difference, youth theatre productions of Robin Hood and Madagascar the Musical and an audition techniques masterclass.

The Nutshell Arts Community Interest Company is the vision of three local

creatives Harriet Morris, Noel Jones and Anna Harding who have rebranded the former Antique Market as an accessible place for creatives to use for rehearsals, workshops, exhibitions and small-scale productions alongside the resident companies The Discarded Nut Theatre Company and ENCORE Youth Theatre.

To find out more about the 2019 programme visit:

www.thenutshellwinchester.com

Archaeology questions answered



Archaeology event, Guildhall, December 2018

Events have taken place to enable people to find out more about the archaeological aspects of the Central Winchester Regeneration project.

On 11 December 2018 local residents and interested groups were invited to attend, hear from the expert archaeology panel and put their questions to the experts.

Two public events were hosted by Winchester City Council: a seminar for those who had written in and commented specifically about archaeology during the formal consultation and an open public event where everyone was invited to come and raise their questions and find out more about the recommendations from the expert archaeology panel.

The Panel also met with members of the CWR Committee and had a private meeting with the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) to discuss their ambitions for a new immersive museum in the area.

More information about what was discussed will be available in a specific archaeology broadsheet.



Archaeology Panel members*: Dr Paul Bennett, Tracy Matthews, Dr Nick Thorpe, Prof Martin Biddle
*Dr Patrick Ottaway not pictured

KEEN TO STAY IN TOUCH?

If you would like to track progress as the rejuvenation of Central Winchester gathers more momentum, then please sign up to our mailing list. You can do this by visiting our website at winchester.gov.uk/cwrsignup

In addition to the Central Winchester Regeneration, we have an ambitious programme of major projects underway which will deliver our key priorities throughout the Winchester District. These include Station Approach, Winchester Sport and Leisure Park, St Maurice's Covert and a New Homes Programme.

Find out more at

winchester.gov.uk/major-projects

