

Mining Heritage Project**£50,000**

The Council is close to finalising negotiations for the development of the former Houghton Colliery site as a mixed commercial scheme with supermarket and ancillary retail space including drive through coffee and food outlets. The scheme is being considered for Planning Consent. Although there may be minor amendments to the layout of the scheme it should not materially change. The development is scheduled to commence in late 2020 with completion scheduled to enable the store to open prior to December 2021. This is of course subject to planning permission being granted.

A key element of the site's development is the requirement to include a sculpture commemorating the Colliery's history and heritage. The location of the proposed structure will be at the entrance to the development. The intention is for it to be visible from the North end of Newbottle Street, the main shopping thoroughfare in Houghton le Spring, and the main A183 road. Subject to the size and scale of the sculpture, planning consent may be required. This will be dealt with by the Council and based on approved designs during the concept development stage. Further details will become available once funding and procurement arrangements are in place. The final design will be agreed with Elected Members as part of the procurement process.

As part of the capital receipt received for the sale of the site, a sum of £25,000 is available as a contribution to the artwork/sculpture. Area Committee's Work Plan includes a proposal to award Neighbourhood Fund or Capital Programme funding to the project. Therefore, to ensure the sculpture is a fitting tribute to the Houghton le Spring area the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend a contribution of £50,000 is approved from the Capital Investment Programme.

Recommendation: Approve