

DEWSBURY TOWN BOARD

REQUEST FROM MHCLG TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR ACCELERATED PROJECTS TO SPEND IN 2020/21

1.0 Introduction

1.1 On the 1st July the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) wrote to Councils which have a town that has been identified as a potential recipient of Town Fund support. In the case of Kirklees MHCLG have allocated £750,000 of capital funding for Dewsbury and are inviting the Town Board to put forward proposals for a project (or projects) that can spend this grant in this financial year i.e. by end March 2021.

1.2 The Government are particularly encouraging projects that will support towns in responding to immediate challenges, including:

- Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
- Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
- Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit

1.3 However any project that fits within the scope of interventions (see pages 10-11) of the further guidance should be eligible. For information on the Towns Fund further guidance visit the Gov website where you can locate the information under the following sections –

- Government
- Publications
- Towns fund further guidance

1.4 The Council will, on behalf of the Town Board, need to write to MHCLG by the 14 August 2020 confirming how it wishes to spend the potential grant. It will need to include confirmation from the Council's S151 officer that this spending is in line with the Towns Fund intervention framework, will achieve good value for money and that the project can be delivered this financial year. Following receipt of the letter MHCLG will review the proposal to ensure it satisfies the requirements above, before releasing the funding. This suggests that the approval process will be relatively streamlined.

2.0 Potential Projects

2.1 Appendix One overleaf has a list of potential projects that could be started in 2020/21 and expend monies in 2020/21 using this short term Town Fund grant. The Board should note however that only a small number of the projects will physically be completed by the end of March 2021. These are denoted by 'Complete by March 2021' in the comments section. The majority will continue into 2021/22 and therefore

delivery will be dependent on other funds being available to finance the expenditure in 2021/22.

- 2.2 The projects have been presented in the context of the themes outlined in the MHCLG further guidance. Not all projects are in the 3 categories that MHCLG identified as being particularly favoured. The schemes identified in Appendix One have a funding requirement of £1,035,000 in 2020/21 and a total value of £2,550,000.
- 2.3 The Board should note that although the Arcade is included in this list, the Council is in the process of securing 'Getting Building' funding for the initial repair works and if this is successful it would not propose to include it in any bid to the MHCLG for accelerated Town Fund grant in 2020/21. However if, for whatever reason, this were to change then this would need to be considered.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 The Town Board will need to consider whether there are other projects not included in Appendix One which they feel meet the criteria and should be considered alongside those in the table.
- 3.2 Given the above which projects the Town Board wishes the Council to submit to MHCLG and any priority it wishes to attach to those projects.

APPENDIX ONE: PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Potential Projects by theme area					
Intervention Theme MHCLG	Project Name	Description	Est. Cost £,000		Comment
			2020/1	Total	
Local Transport	Electric Car Charging Points	Installation of up to 10 'fast' EVCP in Dewsbury Town centre.	50	50	Complete by March 2021.
	Station Gateway	Improvements to railway station inc toilets, waiting area.	110	600	Part of larger package inc TPE.
	Improved Pedestrian & cycle routes	Bond Street, Wellington St, or Church St & Greenway identified as possible projects.	250	500	Public consultation in Sept. 20 on town centre schemes.
	Cycle 'parking'	Installation of secure cycle lockers/racks	10	10	Complete by March 2021.
Digital Connectivity	Gigabyte town	Roll out of full fibre in Town Centre	Information not available	Information not available	Deliverability in 2020/21 uncertain.
Urban Regeneration, planning & land use	Better Spaces Programme	Package of works including pedestrian subway, Library area; planting of semi mature trees, lighting, tactical urbanism and public art.	200	500	Variety of measures to improve & reimagine the public realm in the town Centre.
	Kingsway & Queensw	New flooring and lighting scheme to complement	150	200	Complements investment in this

Potential Projects by theme area					
	ay Arcades	the recently completed roof works.			area, THI, Pioneer.
Arts, Culture & heritage	Creative 'Hub'	Adaption, and other works to enable 15, Union street to become a facility for the creative sector/ community.	90	90	Repurposing of empty building for meanwhile use. Potential partnership between Kirklees Council and Creative Scene. Complete by March 2021.
Skills Infrastructure	None.				Pioneer work already committed.
Enterprise infrastructure	The Arcade	Initial works to stabilise the building, including roofing repairs, drainage, and removal of dry rot.	175	600	Subject to 'Getting Building' grant application .
Total			1,035	2,550	

APPENDIX TWO: ELIGIBLE INTERVENTIONS

Intervention Theme	Outputs	Target Outcomes
Local transport	<i>Increase in the number of bus services; new or upgraded cycle and walking routes; new or upgraded road infrastructure; pedestrianised streets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved affordability, convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options to and from places of work • Improved affordability, convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options

		<p>to and from places of interest (especially shops and amenities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced congestion within the town • Enhanced high street and town centre experience that prioritises the health, safety and mobility of pedestrians
Digital connectivity	<i>Provision of full fibre infrastructure with local authority as anchor tenant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased utilisation of digital channels, by businesses, to access and/or supply goods and services • Increased ability for individuals to work remotely/flexibly • Encouraging further investment from network operators
Urban regeneration, planning and land use	<i>Remediation and/or development of previously abandoned or dilapidated sites</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced townscape that is more attractive and more accessible to residents, businesses and visitors
Arts, culture and heritage	<i>New or upgraded museums, theatres, community spaces, etc.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved arts, cultural and heritage offer that is more visible and easier for residents/visitors to access
Skills infrastructure	<i>Increase in the capacity and accessibility to new or improved skills facilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased share of young people and adults who have relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship
Enterprise infrastructure	<i>Increase in the amount of high-quality and affordable commercial floorspace; increase in the number of shared workspaces or innovation facilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of enterprises utilising high-quality, affordable and sustainable commercial spaces • Increased number of start-ups and/or scale-ups utilising business incubation, acceleration and co-working spaces