

DEWSBURY TOWN BOARD

24th June 2021

ITEM 5 TOWN DEAL NEXT STEPS

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Dewsbury Investment Plan (TIP) was submitted to Government at the end of January 2021. It bid for £25.58m of Government grant and was submitted by Kirklees Council on behalf of the Dewsbury Town Deal Board. Kirklees Council will be the accountable body for the implementation of the TIP.

1.2 In June 2021 Government announced a Town Deal for Dewsbury to a value of up to £24.8 million. This paper set to outline how the Council will deliver its obligations as accountable body and ensure that the appropriate governance and procedures are put in place that support the effective and efficient delivery of the programme

2.0 Background

2.1 Following on from the submission of the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan in January 2021, Government have carried out a full assessment of the overall submission and individual projects that comprise the TIP.

2.2 In June 2021 Government announced a Town Deal for Dewsbury to a value of up to £24.8 million

2.3 Now that Government have carried out a full assessment and have announced a Town Deal for Dewsbury the next step is to approve Heads of Terms.

3.0 Heads of Terms

3.1 The Heads of Terms will act as a Memorandum of Understanding for the future development and delivery of Dewsbury's Town Investment Plan and project proposals. It sets out joint expectations as Dewsbury enters the business case development phase. Heads of Terms is not a contractual binding document as its offer is subject to various conditions being met.

3.2 On the 8th June the MHCLG sent a Heads of Terms offer to the Council. The Council as the accountable body recommend that the Heads of Terms are accepted and will therefore seek sign off in the form of signatures from the following parties –

- Chair of the Town Deal Board
- Chief Executive of lead Council
- MHCLG Secretary of State/Minister

4.0 Project Development and Assurance

4.1 At the 18th March meeting the Town Board considered a report on Project Development and Assurance. The paper outlined some issues and options as to how

this might best be achieved. Since that paper was produced there has been some development around some of the proposals put forward, these include the following

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4.2 2.3 of the March report proposed that Avison Young are retained to assist in the negotiation of the Heads of Terms if required.

The Board agreed that Avison Young should be retained to support negotiation of Heads of Terms, if required.

The Council will retain Avison Young in the event that they are required to assist in the negotiation of the Heads of Terms

4.3 The next phase of the Town Deal is for towns to develop business cases for each project and to also submit a Summary Document to the MHCLG. The MHCLG will need to review and be satisfied with the Summary Document before funding can be released. The Council will now progress in the completion of the Summary Document. MHCLG guidance notes that locally, ultimate decision-making responsibility will lie with the accountable body, but the Town Deal Board Chair will be a signatory to the Summary Document and should make decisions in partnership and collaboration with the Town Deal Board going forward.

4.4 3.10 & 3.12 of the March report recommended that external expertise is procured to provide the technical aspects of the business plans that are required that cannot be provided by Kirklees officers. It was also proposed that the Council examine the options more closely to establish the best way forward around project assurance and development.

4.5 At the meeting on the 18th March Board Members agreed for KC officers to start the procurement exercise to bring on board consultants to deliver the business case stage investment process.

4.6 Kirklees officers have progressed this and will be shortly be procuring consultants

4.7 Once the consultant(s) has been appointed work will begin to develop a Green Book compliant business case for each of the TIP projects. The MHCLG guidance outlines exactly what they expect business cases to include. The Town Fund guidance Stage Two business case development can be found on the .Gov website - [TOWNS FUND: stage 2 guidance \(business case development\) \(wakefield.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/towns-fund-stage-2-guidance-business-case-development-wakefield)

5.0 Project Confirmation Table

5.1 Ahead of submitting business cases the MHCLG require the Council as the accountable body to complete a project confirmation table for each of the projects and submit this to the MHCLG within two months of agreeing Heads of Terms. The Town Board as noted in the MHCLG guidance should have an ongoing role and have

sight of decisions as projects are developed in more detail or possible changes are made.

- 5.2 There will therefore be a requirement of the Town Board chair to sign off each of the project confirmation tables before submission to the MHCLG.
- 5.3 The MHCLG have provided a project adjustment form which can be used in the event were towns propose to make changes to a project.

6.0 Summary of Next Steps

- 6.1 Agree Heads of Terms and submit to MHCLG by the 29th June 2021
- 6.2 Appointment of consultants to progress with Stage 2 Business Case development for TIP projects by the end of July 2021
- 6.3 Complete and submit Project Confirmation Table within two months of Heads of Terms being agreed. Target date end of August
- 6.4 Complete and submit Summary Document to MHCLG within 12 months of agreed Heads of Terms- Start date 29th June and end date June 2022