



Dewsbury Town Board

Dewsbury Town Fund Investment Plan overview

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Presented by:

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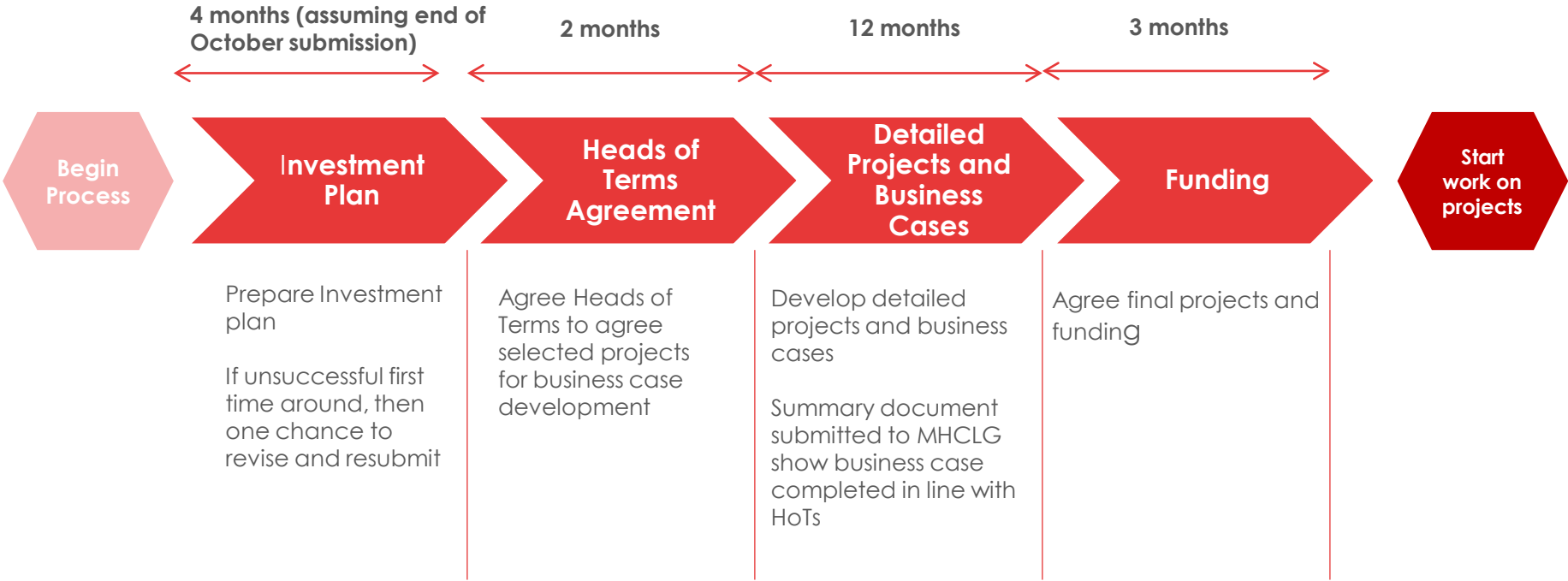
Agenda

- The Towns Fund and process
- Roles and responsibilities
- Investment Plan requirements
- Key issues for the Board to consider

The Towns Fund

- **National programme** - 100 places in England invited to develop proposals for a Town Deal, forming part of £3.6bn Towns Fund announced in July 2019
- **Focussed on towns in North and Midlands where there are particular challenges** e.g. ageing population without skills to attract new firms, fewer people going to and returning from higher education, few economic opportunities
- **Up to £25million available**
- **90% capital focussed**
- **Recognised that impact of Covid-19 has been particularly acute for those towns with vulnerabilities and weakness that Town Fund was set up to address**
 - Need to outline within the Investment Plan how Covid-19 has impacted local economy and how this is reflected in strategy and prioritisation
 - Town Deal can be used as a key part of Covid-19 recovery plans
- **Focus on capital projects**, however, provides opportunity to wrap and align with other planned investment and interventions.

The Town Fund process – Timeline following MHCLG guidance



Investment Plan Roles and Responsibilities

Town Fund Board

Role: Will own and sign off each stage of Investment Plan

Responsible for:

- Developing and agreeing an evidence-based Town Investment Plan
- Establish a clear programme of interventions
- Embedding arrangements in local plans
- Coordinating resources and engaging stakeholders
- Ensuring communities' voices are involved in shaping design and decision making at each phase of development
- Ensuring diversity in engagement with local communities & businesses
- Helping develop detailed business cases
- Overseeing each step of agreeing Town Deal, and over seeing compliance with the HoTs Agreement with Government

The Council

Role: Acting as the Accountable Body

Responsible for:

- Developing a delivery team, delivery arrangements, and agreements
- Ensuring that decisions are made by the Board in accordance with good governance principles
- Ensuring transparency requirements are met
- Developing agreed projects in detail and undertaking any feasibility studies
- Undertaking any EIAs or Public Sector Equality duties.
- Helping develop details business cases
- Liaising with private investors in identified local projects and schemes
- Signing HoTs Agreement with government
- Monitoring and evaluating delivery of individual Town Fund Projects
- Submitting regular monitoring reports to Town Hub
- Receiving and accounting for the Town's funding allocation

Town Fund Hub

Role: Provide support with aim that every Town is able to submit a high-quality proposal for funding of up to £25m (Hub consists of Cities and Local Growth Units in MHCLG and the Towns Fund Delivery Partnership led by Arup)

Responsible for:

- Supporting Town Fund plans which might include advice on:
 - Town boundaries
 - Town Deal Boards
 - Investment Plans
 - Scope of projects
 - Approval process

Avison Young – lead consultant

Role: Retained by Council to lead the preparation of the Investment Plan

Responsible for:

- Undertaking the socioeconomic baseline assessment
- Undertaking stakeholder engagement exercise (not community engagement)
- Supporting project appraisals
- Facilitating workshops with Council and Town Board
- Lead on preparation of the Investment Plan Submission

Investment Plan Requirements

	Criteria	Examples of Evidence
Impact	Level of Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of (un)employment, income levels, deprivation and wellbeing. • Low-level employment. • Details of town transport challenges (e.g. insufficient links to existing assets, congestion and air quality issues) • Town centre vacancy rate and footfall • Business growth challenges • Skills shortage and low educational attainment • Crime and anti-social behaviour
	Scale of opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to benefit from capital funding towards: urban regeneration, planning and land use, skills and enterprise infrastructure; and connectivity. • Demonstration that project proposals address / capitalise on the major challenges / opportunities in the town. • Details of local commercial / industrial demand • Level of private sector co-funding • Evidence that the differential impacts of proposed interventions have been considered. • Potential impact e.g. jobs created, GVA increase

Investment Plan Requirements

	Criteria	Examples of Evidence
Strategy	Strength of vision, strategy and realism of economic narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A compelling vision for the future that is built around the town's unique circumstances with alignment to the objectives of the fund. • A clear strategy balancing realism and ambition, overcoming key challenges to address needs and harness opportunities. • Clear use of local knowledge to produce an investment plan grounded in its context. • Clear indication that the vision is aligned with Covid-19 recovery and the clean growth principle. • An indication that the process followed to prioritise interventions has included an element of spatial analysis, with a clear explanation of how the strategy will benefit the town centre. • Reference to strategic plans Inc. housing, transport, local growth, local industrial strategy etc. • Evidence of learning from best practice
	Coherence of TIP – strength of linkages and rationale between need / opportunity, vision, strengths and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear rationale for the vision in its context. • Coherent set of proposals forming a broader strategy which clearly addresses the challenges identified • Theories of Change developed for each project proposal, including a comprehensive set of inputs / resources, outputs and outcomes / impacts, setting out clearly the assumptions and external factors. • Wider strategy that is geared towards alleviating private sector investment bottlenecks and / or targeting the most disadvantaged groups.
	Capacity and alignment of proposed projects with existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of existing and planned work in the town and wider region • Alignment with Covid recovery needs and plans • Demonstration of the additionality • Details of co-funding for intervention proposals • Delivery capacity and accountability arrangements

Investment Plan Requirements

	Criteria	Examples of Evidence
Partnerships	Strength of past and planned collaboration with local communities and civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of past and on-going engagement / consultation and evidence it has been acted upon. • Evidence of buy-in support and / or ownership of the top priorities in the TIP. • Level of collaboration in the production of the TIP (e.g. joint projects) • Level of representation and institutional collaboration both in the production of the TIP and planned for the future
	Strength of past and planned collaboration with the private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of past and ongoing engagement, consultation and collaboration with business in the town • Level of collaboration in the productions of the TIP (e.g. joint projects) or otherwise demonstrable support for TIP priority areas Level of representation and institutional collaboration both in the production of the TIP and planned for the future.

Investment Plan – Key issues for the Board to consider

- **Establishing a clear vision and objectives**

- Agreeing key objectives for Dewsbury e.g. a vibrant town centre, addressing the skills gap,
- Selecting potential projects that help to deliver those objectives
- Identifying issues to test with stakeholders

- **Effective Governance**

- Ensuring clear governance arrangements (checks will be undertaken to ensure Town Deal Boards are meeting all the governance expectations set out in the guidance)
- Level of engagement – frequency, sub-groups e.g. task and finish group

- **Establishing a realistic timetable**

- **An impactful Investment Plan**

- Clear focus on core capital projects (alignment to town fund funding)
- Alignment to supporting investment and leverage (public and private)
- A key step on Dewsbury's revitalisation journey

Indicative timeline for Investment Plan submission in October

July			August				September					October			
Week commencing															
13 th	20 th	27 th	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th	31 st	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th

