

Dewsbury Town Board

Project prioritisation process

22 October 2020

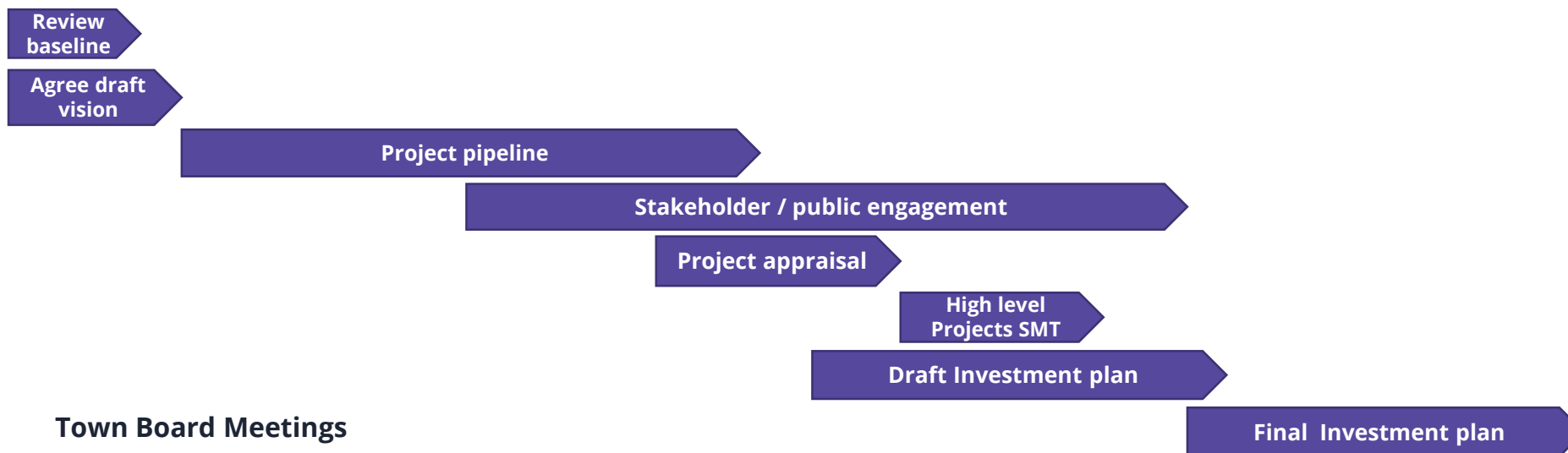
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Agenda

1. Context / project plan
2. Responses to questionnaire
3. Indicative evaluation criteria
4. Update on project long list

Project plan for completing investment plan

September 2020			October 2020				November 2020					December 2020			January 2021				
Week commencing																			
14th	21st	28th	5th	12th	19th	26th	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th	7th	14th	21st	28th	4th	11th	18th	25th



Town Board Meetings

16th Sep

- Discuss Baseline
- Agree draft vision
- Project pipeline process
- Engagement strategy
- Governance

Oct 22

- Stakeholder engagement / Communications plan
- Indicative evaluation criteria for short-listing projects
- Update of project pipeline

19 Nov

- Present short-listed projects
- Review coherence and alignment of projects to vision and baseline and identify gaps

Mid Dec

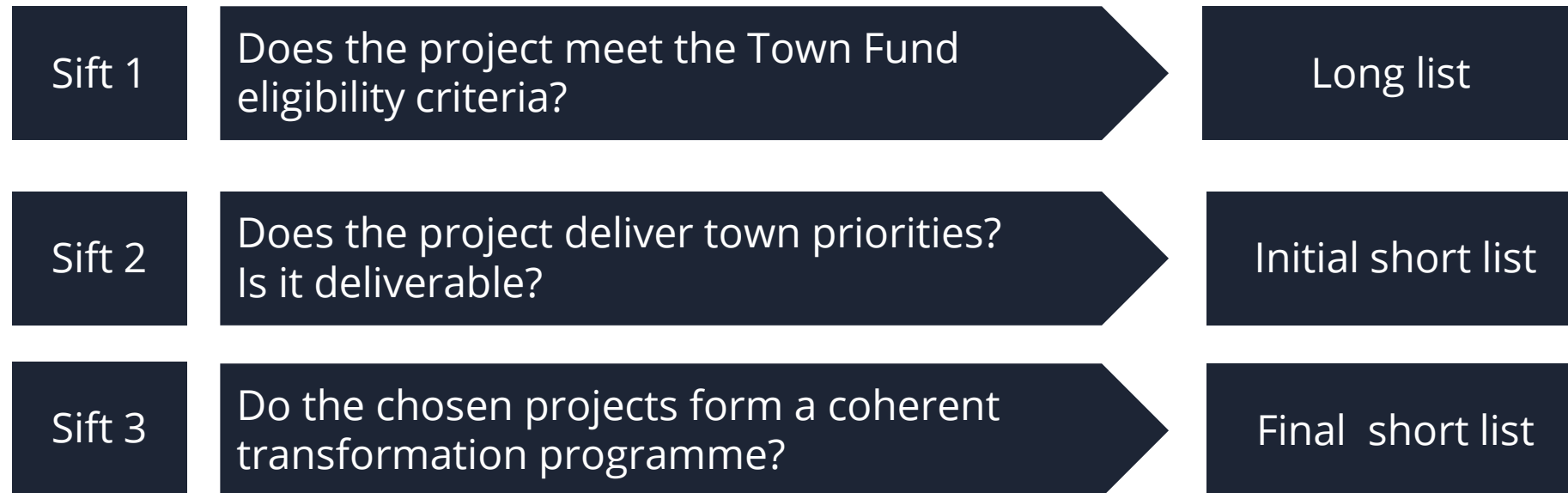
- Board review and feedback on draft Investment Plan

Mid Jan

- Sign off of final Investment Plan

Project pipeline process

- Need to demonstrate a clear evidence base linking the project selection process to delivery of the vision
- Clear guidance from MHCLG on how to prioritise projects.



Project pipeline process

Sift 1 - Town Fund eligibility criteria

Key Requirements

Capital	Is the project capital? If the project is revenue, could it form 10% or less of the overall Town Fund ask?
Geography	Does the project fit within the Town Fund boundary?
Ask	Is the project Ask within the Town Fund financial limit (cost of all projects within £25m)
Vision and strategy	Does the project fit within the town's vision or strategy?
Project status	Is the project sufficiently well developed to appraise and can funds be deployed within a reasonable timeframe?
Co-funding	Does the project represent opportunities for co-funding and match funding (Not a requirement)
Intervention themes	Local transport Digital connectivity Regeneration, planning and land use Arts, culture and heritage Skills infrastructure Enterprise infrastructure

Project pipeline process

Sift 2 – How do we evaluate the projects?

- Guidance by MHCLG on how to evaluate projects:

1) Standard Treasury 'Green Book' appraisal criteria

- Value for money
- Affordability
- Achievability
- Commercial viability
- Stakeholder support

Recommended for use by Towns but can be tailored to Town's specific needs

2) Town specific criteria against which projects should be assessed

- No more than ten criteria
- Town specific criteria should link to priorities and vision
- In order to inform the criteria, Board members have been asked to respond to a questionnaire that weights / ranks importance of priorities.

Combining needs of the town and deliverability

Responses to questionnaire

- Just over half of Board members responded with a good cross section of expertise / interest
- Average weightings for the 3 pillars of the vision were:
 - Diverse and vibrant place **46%**
 - Opportunity for all – **26%**
 - Connected and accessible **28%**
- The questionnaire sparked a number of comments:

“Creating the infrastructure for success rather than trying to second guess exactly what form the success will take”

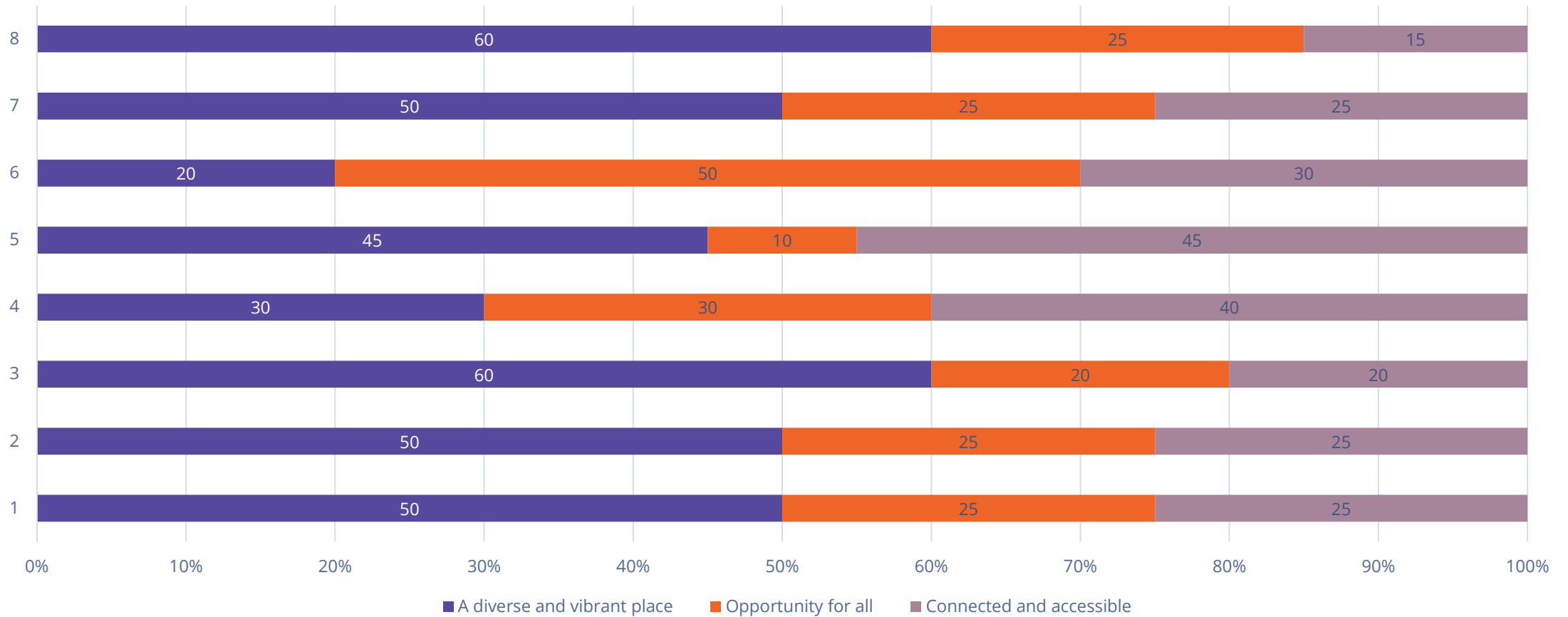
“We need to get the pillar 1 things right to create conditions”

“There is certainly potential to make more of the diversity of cultures that exist in the town....this is Dewsbury's USP”

“I have interviewed really good engineers and chemists who were interested in the job but didn't want to move here because Dewsbury was not somewhere where they would like to live, if we can make this city an attracting and a safe place to live that will bring a lot of benefits to the town.”

The Three Pillars

Survey Results



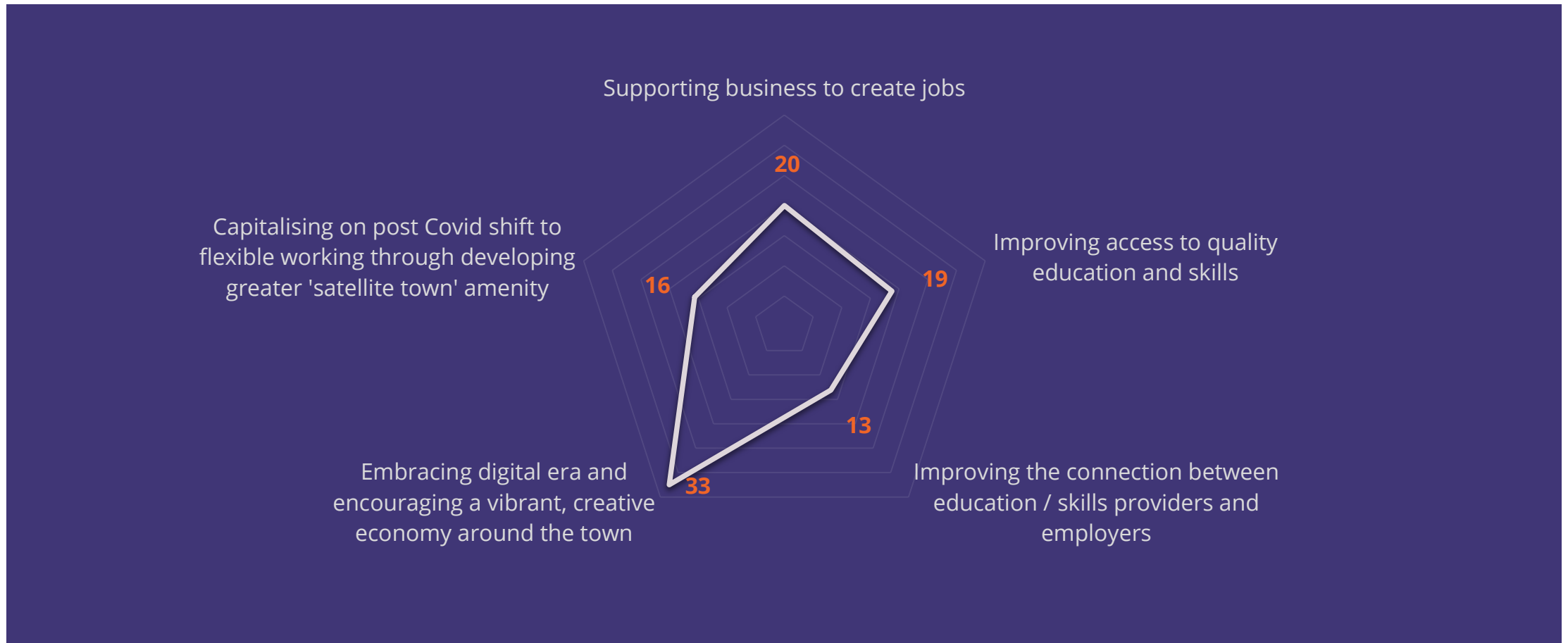
Pillar 1 – A Diverse and Vibrant Place

Average weighting of priorities



Pillar 2 – Opportunity for All

Average weighting of priorities



Pillar 3 – Connected and Accessible

Average weighting of priorities



Responses to questionnaire - summary

- Respondents saw a diverse and vibrant place overwhelmingly the most important (in broad terms pillars split 50/25/25)
- In achieving a **diverse and vibrant place**, its about bringing vacant buildings back in to use and creating footfall (through improved public realm, town centre living and developing a creative and cultural offer)
- In terms of achieving **opportunity for all**, its about embracing a creative / digital presence in the town (33%) with an offer that supports businesses to create jobs and improves access to quality education and skills
- In terms of delivering a **connected and accessible** town, a strong preference for digital / full fibre connectivity (33%) compared to physical / transport-based connectivity.
- Preference for more sustainable methods of connectivity such as cycling / pedestrian networks rather than public transport / roads. Probably a reflection of 1) link to a vibrant town centre, 2) greener town / healthier residents 3) other funding pots available for transport.

Indicative evaluation criteria

Town specific criteria 50%		Score	Deliverability criteria 50%	Score
1	Increasing footfall in the town centre		Value for money (likeliness to deliver social value in terms costs, benefits and risks)	
2	Bringing vacant buildings and sites back into productive use		Affordability (financing and affordability given existing budgets)	
3	Improvements to public realm and green spaces that will encourage dwell time and creative expression		Achievability (deliverability given organisational capability and capacity)	
4	Enhancing the creative and cultural offer and a vibrant night time economy (dining / leisure)		Commercial viability	
5	Improving access to quality, high value jobs through improvements to education and skills		Stakeholder support	
6	Providing the environment to attract business and create new start-ups			
7	Providing a high quality digital network			
8	Reconnecting Dewsbury with more sustainable modes of transport (e.g. cycle routes, pedestrian walkways, electric vehicle infrastructure etc)			

Current project long list

A diverse and vibrant place		Opportunity for all		Connected and accessible	
Town Park	£5m-£8m	Skills / projects programme (revenue)	£250k pa	Full fibre into the town centre & digital hubs	£0.6m
Dewsbury Market	£7m	Managed workspace /business support (revenue)	£100k pa	Electric vehicle points	£1m to £2m
The Arcade - Council already bought and committed £1.7m and secured (provisionally) £600k from WYCA. Not decided on the precise mix of use	£0.9m	Dewsbury Revival grant scheme (Conversion of buildings to office/ workspace & residential. Improved shop fronts)	£1.2m	TCF fund – Wellington Street (Cycle track and crossing)	£0.4m
Better spaces programmes Programme of improvements to the public realm areas to, include 1) infrastructure development, improved ped./cycle connectivity (inc programme of public art). 2) works to outside of leisure centre to incorporate a better pedestrian link to the town centre 3) paving works to include appearance of Kingsway and Queensway arcade	£2.5m	Business work space (still a concept)	TBD	Railway Street/ Long causeway South (Cycle track & safety)	£0.75m
Creative spaces - Art Studios, exhibition, workshop and digital space- redevelopment/restoration of vacant heritage buildings (e.g. 15 Union street).	£0.5m to £2m	Old Arrow Squash club (conversion to workspace / creative space (still a concept)	TBD	Westgate/ Church Street (Pedestrian, cycle and public realm improvements)	£0.4m
Daisy Hill (Site acquisition & assembly of major TC residential scheme)	£5m			TCF Fund - Walk/ Cycle Way Bradford Rd-Leeds Rd Junctions (New footway and cycle track on Ring Road)	£0.5m
Field House (Conversion of this historic building to residential and office space)	£1m			TCF Fund – Bond street (widened footway – key link)	£0.5m
Package of arts and culture projects (revenue)	£0.6m			Leeds Road/ Challenge Way (Shawcross) - Major highway junction upgrade to unlock strategic sites	£1m
TOTAL	£22,5m - £27m	TOTAL	>£2.3m	TOTAL	£5.2m - £6.2m

Project long list – next steps

Timetable for developing project pipeline

Task	Date
Board meeting – feedback responses to questionnaire and arrive at an indicative evaluation criteria	22 nd October
Feed into engagement process	26 th October to mid Nov
Council officers are in the process of completing the TIP templates for their respective projects to establish information gaps and readiness for project appraisal	27 th October
Undertake evaluation of projects and select short-list	Mid November
Present short-list for sign off at November Board meeting	19 th November

- Call for projects – are there any additional projects to include on the long list? (need to meet sifting criteria to be considered)
- Sub-group of Council officers and Board members to undertake evaluation?

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