

Dewsbury Town Deal Board

8th January 2021

Item 6: Dewsbury Town Investment Plan (DTIP)

1. Introduction

Dewsbury is one of 101 places to be invited to develop proposals for a new generation of multi-million-pound Town Deals. The town is eligible for support from the £3.6 billion Towns Fund and can access up to £25m. Board Members alongside Council officers and appointed consultants have been inputting into the plan. Principally, setting a vision, identifying projects and assisting with the engagement exercise.

It is the Town Deal Board that is responsible for the drawing up of the Town Investment Plan. Paragraph 4.1 of the Guidance states that:

“Town Deal Boards are responsible for development a Town Investment Plan that sets out a clear vision and strategy for the town”.

The first draft of the DTIP was circulated to Board Members on 14th December 2020 with a drop-in session held on the 22nd December for members to ask questions and make comments. Further email comments have also been received from board Members.

In parallel to this the DTIP is being reported to the Council’s Cabinet – a meeting that will be held on 19th January 2021. This journey has involved briefing Members including local ward Members and the council’s executive team. They are now fully aware of the vision, the projects, the background data underpinning the DTIP and outcomes from the engagement event in November.

This report sets out the proposed Town Investment Plan to be submitted to Government at the end of January 2021, highlights 9 projects to be supported across Dewsbury, including their cost and where Council match funding is required. The report also seeks authority to negotiate and agree the terms of any Town Deal and once approved by Government authorises the Chief Executive to enter into any grant agreement between the Council and MHCLG in respect of any Town Deal. This is in line with current guidance from MHCLG.

The milestones set out at the last Board Meeting – Key Events to Submission – have so far been met. Officers have attached this as a reminder as item 6a to this agenda.

2. Next Stages

The Board has received an updated version of the DTIP. This document has been altered to reflect comments being received but fundamentally the background information, vision and projects remain intact.

There are still a few key milestones to complete before submission to government on 29th January 2021. The most notable is the check and challenge session with towns hub on 15th January 2021. It will be important that we take on board advice at this session and make any adjustments to the DTIP to ensure the maximum opportunity for a successful outcome.

3. What is Required from the Board

The Board is requested to make a number of decisions to allow the DTIP to be completed and submitted: These are:

1. To agree the latest version of the DTIP
2. To allow officers of the Council to make changes to the DTIP ahead of the submission date to ensure that the final submission has maximum chance of a successful outcome.
3. To inform officers whether a further board meeting should be set up ahead of submission – potentially the week commencing 25th January to agree the final DTIP or whether the final DTIP can be signed off by the Chair of the Board ahead of the submission date on 29th January 2021.