

MAKING MANSFIELD PLACE BOARD

Subject:	Town Fund – Position statement – August 2020	
Presenting authority / representative:	Mansfield District Council	
Report author and contact details:	wrightm@mansfield.gov.uk	
Value of decision: N?A		
Partners affected: Place Board	Date of consultation with relevant authorities: 19/08/2020	
<p>Purpose – This note is intended to provide an update to Place Board members relating to the forthcoming Towns Fund Town Investment Plan due October 2020.</p> <p>Background - On 27 July 2019 the Prime Minister announced that the £3.6 billion Towns Fund would support an initial 101 town deals across England. See further details of the announcement. The Towns Fund is designed to provide the core public investment of up to £25m in Town Deals. The objective of the Fund is to drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth through: Urban regeneration, planning and land use: ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work, including by: increasing density in town centers; strengthening local economic assets including local cultural assets; site acquisition, remediation, preparation, regeneration; and making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change. Skills and enterprise infrastructure: driving private sector investment and ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development. Connectivity: developing local transport schemes that complement regional and national networks, as well as supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity</p> <p>Below outlines work done by the Place Board and subgroups to date.</p> <p>Current Position Wider TIP–</p> <p>At the most recent Place Board meeting (held July 2020) the Board successfully agreed a list of priority projects, as well as a list of projects to be further worked up for inclusion in the Town Investment Plan. These projects fall under the individual themes for the Mansfield Town Investment Plan and also align with the Towns Fund framework. An update on each work area can be found below. You will find a copy of the project list from the most recent Place Board appended.</p> <p>Thematic Areas Update: Work has been progressing well in each of the thematic areas to date as agreed by the place board. There are clear linkages between many of the capital projects and wider thematic improvements to the town that have been developing.</p> <p>Business Support: It is identified that Business Support will play a large part of Covid response and as such, the projects will aim to foster an environment which allows the economy to recover through the creation of new business space, using new models of operation to make these developments as accessible as possible to the wider business community. This may also include the re-purposing of space within the proposed town centre hub for business use.</p> <p>Sustainability Access and Infrastructure:</p>		

Projects to develop increase access to and around the district have been progressing, there are a number of interventions relating to infrastructure that have been put forward by NCC as well as more specific parking infrastructure upgrades being developed. These items are still in the outline stage and costs are being worked up at present to be presented at the next place board. Given the nature of infrastructure projects, we are electing to come forward with a suite of suggestions for review on a sliding scale of cost to best match the requirements of the Place Board.

ICT/Smart City Infrastructure:

Outline SMART City proposals are suggested to be explored by a professional consultant at a cost of £10k at present. Once approved this work will form the basis of our ask to government in terms of SMART infrastructure and what Mansfield requires to become SMART.

Health and Leisure:

Following a series of discussions with partners, it has been suggested that projects under this theme form some of our main priorities of the TIP. Specific sites throughout Mansfield and Warsop are being examined for strategic fit but these projects can be seen in a wider context to also incorporate cultural and tourism elements included in “leveling up” the town. The health and Leisure offer will act as anchor projects for people to visit to encourage exercise and to achieve wider health improvement goals of the district. These projects have been given such focus based upon the health profile of Mansfield and an understanding that radical change is required to improve the health choices overall for the district.

Skills:

As part of the wider TIP aims to increase health and economic performance, projects are also being developed to ensure that the people of Mansfield have the skills required to add to the economy long term, specific developments also go hand in hand with the forthcoming NTU partnership with WNC and the proposed student offer from the town.

The wider goals and aspirations for skills in the area can be found in the skills plan and accessed via the skills sub group leader.

Subgroup Specific Updates:

Health and Wellbeing:

The health and wellbeing subgroup has met, and focused on the delivery of sports and leisure facilities across the district. There are individuals leading on the Template creation for Warsop’s Leisure Hub offer and there is also a project being developed for Berry Hill Park. During the meeting it was discussed that the Berry Hill Park offer could be radically improved to not only include improvements to the existing facilities but also to enhance the park in general and create a “destination” park that includes children’s play and improvements to the café offer as well as improving linkages with the adjacent King George Park – creating an expanded leisure hub and tourism destination.

Identity and Brand:

The Identity and Brand subgroup met with discussion focusing on the added value to Mansfield’s brand that can be captured through the Towns Fund. MDC Marketing & Communications Manager is leading on creation of the project template for this element.

The brand will focus on the existing assets for the town moving into the transformational impact of the TF and the FHSF works. It was discussed that this project may need to be later into the five year programme for delivery to ensure that the offer has sufficiently changed to enable a real impactful re-brand of the town. Essentially the offer needs to change first as not to be received by the public as a rebrand of the same elements.

Skills and Growth:

The Skills and Growth subgroup continued to agree the strong requirement for business startup space post covid-19. The two elements continue to be worked up in terms of business space, there was agreement that the Flexible training Centre (being led by VWNC) will link in with the emerging skills plan in terms of delivering adult learning opportunities within Mansfield focusing primarily on economic sectors where gaps have been identified.

There was also agreement that an element of the funding will be allocated to the delivery of outcomes outlined in the Skills Plan.

Town Centre:

The Town Centre Subgroup has not met at time of writing, it is planned for August 21st.

Transport and Connectivity: – There is still progress required on the majority of transport and connectivity projects. The subgroup is planned for September 8th.

There have been ongoing subgroup meetings happening throughout the course of the projects being worked to outline status with input being sought from all members of the place board through their individual subgroups. This consultation and approach will be evidenced in our submission to government.

There has also been ongoing consultation between subgroup leads and internal MDC departments with the MDC Regeneration Department to grow and improve the projects for the Town Centre Investment plan. In addition projects have been aligned with the #MYTOWN digital public consultation exercise which has received 113 responses to date.

Current Position – Additional accelerated £1m funding

Following the offer of £1,000,000 additional funding for capital projects that can be delivered this financial year from the MHCLG, the Place Board agreed that our submission for this funding should focus on “urban parks, urban greening and cycling”.

You will find appended a feasibility study undertaken by Via Ltd following recommendation from NCC at the last Place Board. Their document outlines specific sites within the town and makes suggestions of interventions. This report along with a letter signed by MDC representatives and the Place Board Chair (also appended). These documents were delivered to the MHCLG by the 14th August deadline and they have confirmed receipt of our proposals.

The next step in delivery of this specific projects is for MHCLG to write back to us with a decision on our submission. At present there is no timeline for this, however with a delivery deadline of the end of the Financial Year, in order for MDC to be able to deliver the project a decision is expected shortly.

Outstanding Projects

Advanced Manufacturing Centre

At time of writing the Advance Manufacturing Hub project has held several conversations regarding template work up. Unfortunately the lead on this work has pulled out of the project due to other commitments. As a result the project has not progressed as much as would have been hoped. This delay may have a knock on effect towards delivery of an outline by the end of October and as a result it is suggested that this project be included in our wider TIP vision for the future but not for this specific round of funding.

Submission Process-

The submission process remains the same in terms of the deadline at the end of October.

Next Steps – The next Place Board will be to review outline project plans as well as the first draft of wording relating to the Towns Fund document.

Exempt information:

None

Recommendation(s):

That the board continue to support the ongoing work of the Town Investment Plan and the wider project commitments.

That the board agrees to still include the premise and long term aspiration to create an advanced manufacturing centre in the district, however they agree that the project is not put forward as part of this funding round or as part of the project long list moving forwards.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Ongoing support to strategic direction of TIP.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

N/A

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 N/A

4 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

4.1 Towns Fund Project Long List

4.2 Towns Fund VIA Feasibility Study

5 REPORT

5.1 N/A