

MAKING MANSFIELD PLACE BOARD

Subject:	Town Fund – Position statement – Item 4		
Presenting authority / representative:	Mansfield District Council		
Report author and contact details:	wrightm@mansfield.gov.uk		
Value of decision: N?A		Revenue	Capital
Partners affected: Place Board		Date of consultation 28022020 with relevant authorities:	
<p>Purpose – This note is intended to provide a brief relating to the current situation surrounding the creation and submission of the Town Investment Plan to the £25m Towns Fund.</p> <p>To also agree by exemption the Place Board’s decision to submit to the October co-hort of Investment Plan submissions, allowing the Senior Regeneration Officer to report back to MHCLG ahead of the July 13th deadline.</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 Mansfield District Council was in receipt of a letter on November 1st 2019 which outlined the Towns Funds intention to pass across £173,029 of capacity funding to deliver the requirements of a stage one application towards agreeing a Town Deal for the town. This funding was accepted and work to prepare a TIP has been ongoing. On the 15th of June MDC received further guidance about the fund, projects likely to be funded and the method of submission. Below outlines work done by the Place Board and subgroups to date, a proposed project plan for submission and proposals of submission date. Appended is the long list of projects resulting from work to date.</p> <p>Current Situation – Early in 2020 MDC convened the first Place Board meeting, appointing Andrew Cropley as Chair of the Board and agreed the Heads of Terms for the Place Board. These meeting were initially scheduled to be held bi-Monthly, however in March 2020 the project was hit by setbacks as participating organizations underwent structural changes in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic and moving to a more online way of working.</p> <p>Since then, the Place Board has progressed through a devolved set of subgroups made up of Place Board attendees and aligned (as much as possible) to their specific areas of work and the specific areas of intervention we are looking to progress through the Towns Fund. These groups are:</p>			

Health and Wellbeing
Identity and Brand
Skills and Growth
Town Centre
Transport and Connectivity

To date there has been ongoing consultation between subgroups, subgroup leads and the MDC Regeneration Department to generate potential projects for the Town Centre Investment plan. These projects have been collated into a Potential Project List which has then been fed back to subgroups for comment. In addition projects have been aligned with the #MYTOWN digital public consultation exercise which has received 113 responses to date.

Consultations have also happened in parallel with specific delivery partners: Nottingham Trent University, Nottinghamshire County Council and West Nottinghamshire College about delivery opportunities that can be led by them.

The most up to date long list with attached comments can be found in Appended.

Following the announcement and publishing of further guidance on the fund on the 15th of June the project now has further frameworks to develop within.

Some of the key points raised in the further guidance (Appended) are:

- The TIP must include long-term strategic planning, and be based on sound evidence and analysis, with an understanding of the town's context. It should also include a set of intervention proposals with a clear strategic fit, guided by evidence of 'what works' or by case studies of success from elsewhere.
- Clearly demonstrate how programme- and project-level planning responds to Covid-19 impacts in the short, medium and long term, and how it supports recovery and aligns with the clean growth principle
- The TIP must make clear the unique characteristics and assets of our town and set a path towards a realistic and sustainable future for the local economy, bearing in mind assets, and the efforts and specialisms of other towns, avoiding replication or competition.
- The TIP must maximise the contributions from a variety of local stakeholders, demonstrating their buy-in, not just through their inputs to the TIP priorities, but also by setting ambitions for ongoing collaboration e.g. using collective impact or design thinking approaches.
- The TIP must make a case for an appropriate amount of Towns Fund investment, rather than simply asking for the maximum £25 million regardless of the value of projects. We expect to see private investment and other sources of funding where this is possible and appropriate.
- The Town Deal should also be a 'wrapper' for other investments, whether from other government departments or private investors. We would like the Towns Fund money to provide additionality, and help to bring in other funding, so Town Deals become more than the sum of their parts.
- There is also a new more direct focus on "clean development" and a push within the document towards capital infrastructure projects to encourage alternative modes of transport other than the car to reduce traffic and increase health outcomes for the area.
- The document stipulates a 90% Capital/10% Revenue project split.
- The document also outlined that within 4 weeks of receipt we must respond in writing with our preferred submission date choosing between: July 31st, October 31st or January 31st (2021). The document does make clear that the date chosen will not have a bearing on success of the TIP.

Regarding the final point, MDC have formally responded back to MHCLG notifying them of our intent to submit the TIP to the October cohort following consultation with the Place Board.

Furthermore, Mansfield District Council has also been offered a further grant of £1,000,000 to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year. This grant is intended to be used to support capital spend within the intervention framework as set out in the Towns Fund Further Guidance (Appended).

Government are particularly encouraging projects that will support towns in responding to immediate challenges, including:

- Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
- Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
- Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit

The next step in receiving this £1m requires Place Board to agree in principle the decision on what project to deliver, demonstrate that it can be delivered this financial year and that it demonstrates good value for money. We must respond back to MHCLG by August the 14th with our proposal.

Submission Process-

The submission is a two stage process with TIP's being the catalyst (once approved) to development of detailed business cases in the next stage.

The proposed makeup of the TIP is as follows:

Section one consists of a contextual analysis of the district and outlines our overarching vision and outcomes for the next 30 years as a district.

Section two continues to list our costed priority projects list supported by a Magenta Book Theory of Change.

Proposed Project Plan:

Appended

As outlined in the Project Plan, the next stage of the project is for the Place Board to approve the priority list of projects from within the project long list. This will allow the Project team to progress with costing these projects and beginning write up of the TIP draft.

Exempt information:

None

Recommendation(s):

Relating to the further guidance, there are three specific recommendations:

1. That the Place Board approve all projects with a R/A/G rating of Green to be included within the Town Investment Plan
2. That the Place Board agree to exclude all projects with a R/A/G rating of Red from the Town Investment Plan
3. That the Place Board agree that all projects with a R/A/G rating of Amber require further work to be led by group leads on more detailed costings and outputs. Amber rated projects can be subject to future review via reports and agreed at the next meeting

It is also recommended that The Place Board to approve in principle proposals for the spending of the £1m additional funding ahead of the 14th August deadline in line with the proposals put forward on town center greening in (see separate report)

Once the TIP is drafted there will be a consultation period followed by amendment and submission.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 To comply with the requirements of the Town Fund and to meet the deadline agreed with MHCLG.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

Project Long List
Further Guidance Letter
Project Plan

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 N/A

4 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

4.1 Town Fund Prospectus and current on line #MyTown portal.

5 REPORT

5.1 The objective of the Town Fund is "...to drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic productivity growth through:

- Urban regeneration, planning and land use.
- Drawing on heritage and investing in cultural assets, redevelop vacant sites for business and leisure as well as, making best use of brownfield sites and/or surplus land, creating a future land supply to sustain development.
- Skills and enterprise infrastructure.

Addressing the skills that local employers need. Universities, college and other providers collaborating with businesses to deliver a more highly skilled workforce. Access to high quality education and skills for all.

- Connectivity (transport and digital)

High quality and well-designed infrastructure both in terms of transport or digital. E.g. all road-based investments should now include provision of bus priority and cycling. Reducing barriers to gigabit-capable connectivity, including 5G and fibre.

5.2 Preparing for a Town deal

As Mansfield are already involved in the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF), plans are expected to align whilst still meeting the separate objectives of the Fund. **Timeline for Towns Fund:**

- Capacity funding distributed to lead council in November 2019.

- Readiness checklist completed by 19th November
- All Towns to have held Town Deal Boards by end of January 2020
- Further guidance issued for Stage 2 Early 2020
- All Towns to have completed Town Investment Plans by end of Summer 2020
- Town Deals agreed 2020-2021

Capacity funding and Support

Funding based on population 75,000 - 225,000. **Mansfield will receive £173,029.** This funding is to be used for:

Convening Town Deal Board

Running business and wider community engagement events

Developing Town Investment Plans

Providing technical expertise for business case development.

The Fund is looking for public involvement and have launched the “MyTown Campaign”.