

MAKING MANSFIELD PLACE BOARD

Agenda Item 4

Subject:	Towns Fund Update
Presenting authority / representative:	Mansfield District Council Geoff George Regeneration Programmes and Projects Manager
Report author and contact details:	Geoff George ggeorge@mansfield.gov.uk

Value of decision: n/a

Partners affected: All

Date of consultation: 6th April 2022

Purpose

This report provides an update on the Towns Fund, including:

- the latest on the development of the Full Business Cases (FBC) for each project
- the process for assurance and for approval and
- the role of the Place Board in endorsing each project.

Background

The report to the January Board meeting set out the background of the Government's award of £12.3M to support the Town Investment Plan. At that meeting, an overview on the status of each project was offered, requesting that the Board note the ambition to finalise all of the FBCs by or around the end of March 2022.

Full Business Case Progress

Work on drafting of the FBCs was then accelerated, being the subject of intense activity since last reporting and at the time of writing, the position may be summarised as follows:

- Destination Parks (Berry Hill). Requirements largely met, on target for completion of final draft by the end of March and subject to overview week commencing 4th April.
- Destination Branding. Completed.
- Mansfield Woodhouse Station Gateway. One significant issue outstanding, the remainder largely met and otherwise on target for completion by early April.
- SMART Mansfield. Requirements largely met, on target for completion by the end of March.
- Warsop Health Hub. Requirements met, overview of the draft to be undertaken week commencing 4th April.
- Future Technology and Skills Exchange. Requirements met, on target for completion by the end of March.

The Board will be offered a further update at the meeting. It is suggested that the above represents significant progress since last reporting. Place Board members are welcome to ask questions about any of the projects.

Assurance and Approval Process

Each project's FBC will be the subject of assessment by the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) allowing for an external check and review, with the Council's Section 151 Officer having responsibility for the

final sign-off and approval. Each project will also be subject to review by the Place Board, securing their endorsement and this process is outlined in the section below.

Finally, a Summary and a Monitoring & Evaluation Plan will be offered to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). It is anticipated that this process will be facilitated over the next few weeks.

The majority of the projects are currently phased to commence within the 2022/23 financial year, subject to the detail within the respective FBCs and any appropriate conditions to be addressed.

The Place Board Role

In order to facilitate the Place Board's engagement in reviewing and endorsing the respective projects, a number of stages have been factored into the process, as follows.

Firstly, the current sub-group leads plus one other Place Board member have each been requested to support the overview of one of the FBCs each, having been introduced to the project lead. They will be offered the opportunity to comment on completion and the sharing of a project summary and any additional details. This will be facilitated at a meeting with each, accompanied by a presentation on the project. The "linked" Place Board members involved are as follows:

- Jane Box – Future Skills and Technology Centre
- Richard Crisp – Destination Branding project
- Michael Fisher – Berry Hill Park
- Steve Morris – SMART Mansfield
- David Ainsworth – Warsop Health Hub
- David Smith – MW Station Gateway

Secondly, on conclusion of the above and after consideration and anticipated approval by the Section 151 Officer, an opportunity will be offered to the Board to endorse the decision taken. This will be facilitated through a special meeting considering one or a number of projects together, with each of the above linked members hopefully supporting the Board in their considerations. These special meetings will be supported by the project leaders and will take the form of a presentation with a question and answer session.

The process for assuring, approving and endorsing the Towns Fund projects is summarised at **Appendix A** of this report.

Support and guidance on developing this process has been gratefully received from the Cities and Local Growth Unit.

Accelerated Funding

Under the accelerated funding, the contractor for delivering the Urban Greening project has been appointed and work is due to commence on the 4th April. Works are expected to be completed on all five sites by the 9th September. The five sites that are included in this project are:

- Memorial garden (former Old Town Hall car park)
- Walkden Street pocket park (formerly known as Tesco Valley, between Four Seasons and old bus station)
- Quaker Way (area in front of the entrance ramp to the car park)
- Stockwell Gate road bridge (lighting scheme)
- Concourse (old bus station between Walkden Street car park façade and hotel / leisure development site)

The memorial garden will include a sculpture and will incorporate sustainable drainage systems with rain gardens and permeable paving in partnership with Severn Trent to manage rainwater and reduce the risk of flooding.

Exempt information:

None

Recommendation(s): It is recommended that the Board notes:

- **The positive progress towards completion of the Full Business Cases;**
- **The process for assurance and approval as summarised above and at Appendix A;**
- **The Place Board's role in endorsing the respective projects and welcomes the opportunity to review them through a presentation on each to special meetings of the Board to be arranged over forthcoming weeks;**
- **The positive progress in delivering the accelerated funded projects.**

1 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

N/A

2 **BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

N/A

3 **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 N/A

4 **DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

4.1 N/A

Appendix A

