

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 18 November 2020

Title of report: Dewsbury Towns Fund Accelerated Grant & Getting Building Fund

Purpose of report: To inform the Cabinet of recent grant approvals totalling £2.715Million and seek the approvals necessary to implement these programmes and projects.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes Expenditure greater than £250,000
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd- 6th November 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston – 5th November 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft – 5th November 2020
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Peter McBride – Regeneration

Electoral wards affected:

Dewsbury East, South and West, Newsome,

Ward councillors consulted:

None

Public or private: Public.

Has GDPR been considered?

GDPR has been considered within the development of the projects.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report is presented to cabinet for four reasons; as set out below:
- To inform Cabinet of the recent grant approvals received from Government for capital works in Dewsbury and Huddersfield totalling £2.715 Million
 - To seek approval to implement the programmes and schemes described or referred to in this report
 - To seek approval to enter into grant and other agreements with third parties to enable the Towns Fund Accelerated Grant programme & projects to be delivered.
 - To note that the intention that the Service Director (Economy and Skills) will exercise her delegated powers to vary the mix of expenditure on projects within the Towns Fund Accelerated Grant should it be necessary to ensure the full grant is spent.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 Cabinet considered a report at its meeting on 22 September 2020 regarding Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centre Finance. The report highlighted that the Council was waiting upon decisions on a number of funding applications. The Council has recently been informed of two grant approvals and this report seeks the necessary authorities from Cabinet to implement the programmes and projects funded by these grants.

Towns Fund Accelerated Grant

- 2.2 The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) informed the Council on 25th September 2020 of an Accelerated Grant of £750,000 from the Towns Fund towards 6 projects/programmes in Dewsbury shown in Table One below. Appendix 1 contains the approval letter. The award was received on behalf of the Dewsbury Town Board who had endorsed the submission. The Council acts as accountable body for the grant and expenditure has to be approved by the Councils section 151 officer. The grant has to be spent by the end of financial year 2020/21.

Towns Fund Intervention Theme	Project Name	Description	Cost £,000	
			Towns Fund (Accelerated Grant)	Total
Local Transport	Station Gateway	Improvements to Dewsbury Railway station inc toilets, waiting area.	110	565
	Improved Pedestrian & cycle routes	Wellington St cycleway, new /improved footpaths, secure cycle parking.	150	410
Urban Regeneration,	Better Spaces Programme	Package of works including pedestrian subway, Library	205	500

planning & land use		area; planting of trees, lighting, tactical urb'ism and public art.		
	Kingsway & Queensway Arcades	Lighting scheme in historic Arcades in the town centre.	80	80
Arts, Culture & heritage	Creative 'Hub'	Adaption, and other works, in conjunction with Creative Scene, to enable 15, Union Street to become a facility for the creative sector.	125	130
Skills Infrastructure	Digital Hubs	Upgrading of 4 community hubs for digital training.	80	80
Total			750	1,765

- 2.3 The £750,000 Towns Fund Accelerated Grant is contributing to schemes with a total estimated cost of £1.76 Million. The majority of this comes from the approved Capital Plan. However, since the Government approval was received, the Council has been informed by First Group (Transpennine Express) that the Station Gateway project is now fully funded from the Rail North Partnership and therefore the £110,000 grant allocated from the Towns Fund will no longer be required. Given the very limited time in which to spend the grant; officers have reviewed the programme and sought assurances that the other projects can fully spend the allocation. This has highlighted the risk that other projects may fall short of spending the allocated funds. Officers therefore suggest reallocating the grant to other projects in the programme and providing flexibility to increase expenditure on other projects within the programme if this should be necessary.
- 2.4 The Better Spaces project has been identified as one project which could be increased to take up the spare funds. This would be achieved by enhancing the open space to the west of Pioneer House. Another project that could utilise an increase in funds is the 'Creative Hub'. Officers are seeking authority to provide grant support to a level that is above the figures currently in Table One. If the recommendations are approved and implemented in full this would increase the Better Spaces allocation from £205,000 to £355,000 and the Creative Hub from £125,000 to £200,000. This flexibility is sought in order help ensure the Town Fund is fully spent up in 2020/21.
- 2.5 The general approach to ensuring the monies are spent has been endorsed by representatives of MHCLG and the Dewsbury Town Board, the latter having considered the matter at the Board meeting on the 22nd October 2020. Given the endorsement of the approach by these two parties; it is proposed that the Service Director (Economy & Skills) will, where necessary, use her delegated powers to vary the mix of expenditure on projects in the programme to ensure that the grant is fully spent.
- Getting Building Fund**
- 2.6 In July 2020 the Council, in response to a call for suitable projects from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), submitted a grant request to the Getting

Building Fund for two projects, Georges Hotel Huddersfield and the Arcade Dewsbury. A key criterion was that the projects were 'shovel ready' and could spend the grant in 2020/21 and 2021/22. The two projects were part of a package of schemes put forward by WYCA to MHCLG. The Council was informed in early August 2020 that the package submitted by WYCA had been successful and that the two Kirklees schemes had been approved in principle. Table 2 below provides details.

Table Two: Getting Building Fund Approvals		
Getting Building Fund	Amount Approved	Comments
George Hotel	£1,365,000	Strip out works, clearance of hazardous materials.
Dewsbury Arcade	£600,000	Initial Stabilisation works
	£1,965,000	

The in-principle grant approval from MHCLG requires Council officers to submit full details to WYCA and to take the two projects through the WYCA quality assurance process, in order to get final approval. Officers are progressing this.

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

The projects that have received in-principle approval for Getting Building funds are contained within the two Blueprints, both of which has been subject to extensive public consultation exercise. The projects within the Towns Fund Accelerated Grant programme have been discussed and endorsed by the Dewsbury Town Board.

- **Working with Partners**

The programme and projects cover a range of projects and initiatives which require working with different partners. The list of Towns Fund Accelerated Grant projects has been considered and endorsed by the Dewsbury Town Board.

- **Place Based Working**

The implementation of the projects described in this report will contribute to place based working.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The reduction of carbon emissions is a key objective across both Blueprints. These issues will be considered as part of the project development process.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

There are no direct benefits.

- **Legal**

The Council has powers to carry out the projects and implement the recommendations.

- **Financial**

All the £2,715 Million funds approved are grant and therefore are additional capital resources that the Council can spend on delivering its regeneration objectives. Cabinet should note that officers will use the delegated service director flexibility to realign funding between projects within the programme, as appropriate, to ensure the funding potential is maximised, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules 3.12.

- **Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?**

An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required at this stage.

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 Both Blueprints have been subject to engagement and consultation exercises. There is a high degree of support for the two Blueprint programmes and the two specific projects; the Arcade and Georges Hotel. The projects with the Towns Fund Accelerated Grant programme have been discussed and endorsed by the Dewsbury Town Board and the need to amend the programme to ensure spend has been agreed.
- 4.2 The relevant Kirklees Portfolio Holders have been consulted on progress to date on a regular basis and are supportive of the programme & these two projects. The relevant ward members will be briefed on the two Getting Building schemes as they develop.

5. Next steps and timelines

- 5.1 Once Cabinet has approved the recommendations set out in this report then individual schemes can be progressed.
- 5.2 Individual projects and programmes in the Towns Fund Accelerated Grant need to be delivered by April 2021. The elements of the George Hotel and Arcade projects funding by Getting Building grant will, subject to WYCA approval, start in 2020/21 and be completed in financial year 2021/22.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 6.1 Cabinet is asked to:
 1. Note the success in receiving the £750,000 Towns Fund Accelerated Grant and the in-principle approval from Government of £1.965 Million from the Getting Building Fund
 2. Approve the implementation of the programmes and projects described in section 2 this report
 3. To delegate to the Strategic Director for Growth & Regeneration the authority to negotiate and agree with Kirklees Theatre Trust, or another organisation supported by the Arts Council, agreements to create a Creative Hub at 15, Union street, Dewsbury; including a grant award of up to a maximum of £200,000

4. To delegate to the Strategic Director for Growth & Regeneration the authority to negotiate and agree with Kirklees College, agreements to enhance open space to the west of Pioneer House as part of the Better Spaces Programme including a grant agreement for a grant award of up to a maximum of £150,000 noted in section 2 this report

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder Regeneration has been briefed on this matter and is supportive of the approach set out above.

8. Contact officer

Peter Thompson – ER Project Manager

Email: peterr.thompson@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Cabinet Report 22 September 2020:- Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centre Finance

10. Service Director responsible

Angela Blake - Service Director (Economy & Skills).

APPENDIX ONE: TOWN FUND APPROVAL LETTER



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

*Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government*

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 0000

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Shabir Pandor
Shabir.Pandor@kirklees.gov.uk

25 September 2020

Dear Shabir Pandor,

On 30 June, the Prime Minister announced that government is bringing forward £5 billion of capital investment projects, supporting jobs and the economic recovery.

Thank you for submitting your proposal for the £750,000 in accelerated funding. This grant is being offered to your town to fund capital projects that are in line with the Towns Fund intervention framework.

We are pleased to confirm that funding will be made available for all the projects listed in your proposal. Your Lead Council should receive payment on or around 30 September via a S31 grant.

We remind you that this funding must be spent this financial year, on the projects approved by your Lead Council's S151 officer.

As you know, the Towns Fund aims to unleash the economic success of towns and high streets across the country, levelling up communities and ensuring everyone can contribute to and benefit from economic growth.

The impact of Covid-19 makes these investments more important than ever. We know the past few months have been hugely challenging for communities across the country and we hope that the funding that government has brought forward to this financial year will make an immediate impact in towns. The capital projects you have identified to receive accelerated funding will be key in supporting the growth and recovery of our towns during the pandemic.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Jenrick
