

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 19th January 2021
Title of report: Dewsbury Town Deal - Town investment Plan.

Purpose of report

To update Cabinet on the Dewsbury Town Deal Board and the progress that has been made on the Town Investment Plan (TIP) for Dewsbury. The main recommendation is to note the TIP and the series of projects proposed to be funded and to agree to formally submit to Government the Plan with a request for investment of around £25m by 29th January 2021. It is also to note the impact on the council who will be the accountable body for the projects within the plan

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
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Published 17 th December 2020
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd - 30th December 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston - 7 th January 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 8 th January 2021
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Peter McBride Regeneration Portfolio Holder

Electoral wards affected: Dewsbury East, West, and South

Ward councillors consulted: Yes

Public: An engagement process was carried out in November 2020

(Have you considered GDPR?) Yes.

1. Summary

- 1.1 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. 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 as the accountable body 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 as well as any ancillary documents.

2 Information required to take a decision

Expectations from Government

- 2.1 Dewsbury is one of 101 towns invited to develop proposals for a new generation of multi-million-pound Town Deals.
- 2.2 One of the requirements of Town Deals is that a Town Board is established. As part of this the Council has assisted in setting up a town deal board. This has been created following MHCLG's guidelines and is the vehicle required to prepare and agree a Town Investment Plan (TIP). It has no separate legal status.
- 2.3 The TIP needs to set out a clear vision of the area, focusing on its assets, opportunities and challenges and will be used to establish the business case supporting any funding applications. It also needs to set out investment priorities that will drive economic growth in the short, medium, and long term, and be supported by clear evidence and targeted investment. This should include activity that can be locally funded, projects that could be supported by public investment (including through the Towns Fund) and any ambitions for private sector investment and community involvement. The Government's guidance indicates that this should include urban/physical regeneration activity; skills and enterprise infrastructure; and connectivity.
- 2.4 The amount of investment from the Towns Fund will be determined based on the strength of the TIP amongst other relevant factors. Up to £25m will be made available to each of the 101 towns that are participating in the Towns Fund programme. Most of this funding is expected to be capital rather than revenue. The latter is around 10% of the total.
- 2.5 The TIP will set out how Town Fund support will leverage additional public and private investment and outline the outputs that will be achieved. It is therefore critical that the TIP is well thought through, with a robust evidence base that clearly demonstrates joined up thinking and value for money.
- 2.6 To meet Government's timetable a TIP needs to be agreed and a Town Deal in place by the end of March 2021. The Government has asked for TIP's to be submitted in various tranches with Tranche 3 being the target for the Dewsbury TIP. This needs to be with Government by 29th January 2021.
- 2.7 Anticipated outputs would include a clear articulation of the strategic vision for the area, a prioritised list of targeted and costed projects and investments needed to deliver this vision (including suggested phasing and a clear articulation of the additional value the Towns Fund will bring), and a clear set of outputs or KPI's against which the plan can be measured.

Dewsbury Town Deal Board

- 2.8 At the outset of this process the Council set up a town deal board. This has been operating as a Shadow Board until January 2021. The Shadow board was chaired by the Leader of the Council and included a variety of representatives from across Dewsbury drawn from the private sector, community and business groups, the Combined authority and the LEP as well

as the further education sector. The Leader of the Council and the Local MP are part of the Board.

- 2.9 The Board is now fully constituted. This was carried out on 14th January 2021. The Board also elected an interim private sector chair to align with government guidelines. Cllr Shabir Pandor will remain a Board Member to represent the Council who are the accountable body.

Preparing a Town Investment Plan (TIP)

- 2.10 In this first year the primary focus has been to prepare a TIP. To do this Officers, together with the Board, the Government's Town Hub and consultants have been working towards a TIP for Dewsbury. The main stages for this have been:

- Developing an evidence base
- Public engagement
- Creating a vision
- Identifying and evaluating a shortlist of projects
- Preparing the TIP for submission

- 2.11 The TIP is now at the stage where it needs to be submitted to MHCLG. The Dewsbury Town Deal Board (DTDB) has agreed the content of the draft TIP (attached as Appendix 2) including its vision, engagement process and the set of projects to be invested in. Importantly the TIP includes several projects already being promoted by the Council. An important milestone for the TIP is a further session with the Town Hub from MHCLG to review the content – 15th January 2021. This is one of a number of challenge sessions held along the way to ensure the TIP is of a sufficient standard. The version of the TIP attached to this report may need to be amended after this session to reflect MHCLG requirements. Officers of the Council will oversee these ahead of submission. It is anticipated that any potential changes following this session will relate to improving the chances of success of the TIP submission bid rather than fundamental changes to the range and cost of projects.

Town Investment Plan – Vision

- 2.12 Considerable work has already been undertaken with regards to establishing a vision for Dewsbury. The Strategic Development Framework (SDF), led by the Council, in 2018 set out a 25-year vision for the town supported by a delivery programme. The key themes from the SDF and the Dewsbury Blueprint together with input from the local community (both businesses and residents), were taken and distilled into a vision of what Dewsbury will be in 2030, which is underpinned by three pillars. These are:

- A diverse and vibrant place
- Opportunity for all
- Connected and accessible

- 2.13 The Vision for 2030 agreed by the Board and endorsed through the engagement process is as follows:

“Dewsbury is our town and a town to be proud of, both for its past and its potential for the future. We are a town made up of diverse communities, entrepreneurship, creativity, and beautiful architecture – these are assets that, working together, are greater than their individual parts”.

Town Investment Plan – Engagement

- 2.14 The Town Deal approach to consultation and involvement builds on extensive public engagement exercises such as the Local Plan, Dewsbury Blueprint, regular resident / customer surveys about services and living in Dewsbury and consultation on specific projects.
- 2.15 Most recently the Council conducted a Dewsbury Blueprint public consultation that took place over a 4-week period in Spring of 2020. This consultation sought to gain an understanding

from the public as to how the Blueprint should be shaped, one that works for residents, business, and visitors to the town centre. To reach out to the community KMC opened a Blueprint Shop in the centre of the town where people could come and discuss the Blueprint in more detail.

- 2.16 The Dewsbury Town Deal Board followed up the Dewsbury Blueprint consultation with its “Our Town” consultation. In normal circumstances activities would have taken place in the form of public meetings, street stalls etc. Under Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, however this has not been possible, and this had a more digital and telephone-based approach. Through the Board members this exercise has been able to target a comprehensive cross section of the community and ensure the voices of key stakeholders have been strongly represented.
- 2.17 All stakeholders were asked for their ideas and given the opportunity to set a vision for Dewsbury and share views on project ideas that are well developed. The aim was to ensure plans are made with the communities they affect, to ensure they are genuine partnership arrangements and have the greatest chance of success.
- 2.18 An online survey was run over a period of four weeks and widely publicised through local media, key stakeholder networks, the Council’s website, and social media channels. This exercise generated just over 500 responses.
- 2.19 To gather a richer understanding of people’s views on where funding should be prioritised and to ensure they are heard and invested in the success of projects, we gave key stakeholders further opportunities to have their say. This was in the form of online focus groups where groups of up to 10 people took part in discussions around local needs and individual telephone interviews.
- 2.20 Summarising the key and consistently clear messages about what residents want, these are:
- More access to open/green space
 - More activities and opportunities for young people and families
 - A safe, vibrant, and welcoming town centre
 - Opportunities and activities that bring the community together
 - Residents also talked about their pride in Dewsbury and how they want Dewsbury’s identity to be strengthened.
- 2.21 These priorities are reflected in the strategy and can be clearly seen within and across the projects and associated interventions that make up this investment plan.
- 2.22 A summary of the top 3 themes for investment and projects are as follows:

Themes for Investment

- 76% Want to see Town Centre improvements
- 45% Want to see improvements in Parks and Open Spaces
- 41% Want investment in skills and jobs

Projects

- 75% Favoured bringing the Arcade back into use
- 66% Wanted to see a new Market
- 44% Supported a new Town Park

Town Investment Plan – Projects, Investment and Match Funding

- 2.23 The selected projects are set out in Appendix 1 attached to this report. These have a total Town Fund ask of £26.255m.
- 2.24 However, this is not the total value of the projects. The delivery of this range of projects relies upon match funding to a tune of £33.6m. This will draw from a variety of sources including

Council Capital, Arts Council Grant, Private Sector contributions, Transforming Cities Fund and Getting Building fund.

Town Investment Plan Council - Capital Contributions

- 2.25 A number of these projects are to be match funded from Council capital allocations. This totals £26.4m. At the present time £6.8m is already allocated to the projects identified. This includes commitments to the Arcade; the Market; a Building Revival Grant scheme; public realm schemes and the Fieldhouse project.
- 2.26 In addition, £5.9m remains unallocated within the overall Dewsbury Town Centre capital allocation. This leaves a further £13.7m of additional capital required over a six year period to 2026. It will be required to allocate this within the Council's Capital Plan, and it is expected that this can be found within the existing capital allocations for example strategic acquisitions and the use of future capital receipts. The situation will be monitored overtime as each project receives cabinet approval on its way to delivery and through the Council's own project management framework.
- 2.27 The forthcoming Capital Plan update will make provision for this additional expenditure – this is due to come before Cabinet on 26th January 2021.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

As part of the Dewsbury Blueprint the Council held town centre consultations and workshops in the town centre during the early part of 2020. This included a town centre presence via a blueprint shop. This work has fed into the preparation of the TIP. During November 2020 specific engagement across Dewsbury was undertaken as part of the TIP preparation. This work was carried out by a consultancy on behalf of Dewsbury Town Deal Board to align with Government guidance on the preparation of TIP's. This work was constrained by the latest co-vid restrictions, but it did include a mix of online and focus group communication.

3.2 Working with Partners

Dewsbury Town Deal Board includes a wide of stakeholders from across the Dewsbury area including community, education, business, and development sectors as well as the Council and the local Member of Parliament. The bespoke TIP engagement exercise set out to be as inclusive as possible and reach out to a wide range of audiences.

3.3 Place Based Working

Developing the TIP and the projects within them is part of a place-based approach to regeneration. The board which includes local representation has based the TIP on an established evidence and has sought to engage widely to ensure that the vision and projects are part of the overall solution of improving Dewsbury as a whole. The vision and projects have endorsement from the community and are one strand of the overall package of regeneration and place-based solution.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has adopted a 'net zero' carbon emissions target for 2038. All projects delivered through the Town Investment Plan will be assessed on a case by case basis to ensure that the right principles are applied to ensure they achieve or come as to this objective as possible. The whole TIP programme has been designed to support clean growth by:

- Encouraging active travel by investing in new cycle ways and footpaths along with new public spaces such as a new town park. These investments will encourage residents to make journeys by foot or bike and which will help to improve air quality.

- Creating a vibrant town centre with a revitalised Market, the Arcade, a new town park and a programme of arts and culture activities will encourage residents to choose to stay local for recreational activities.
- The planned upgrades of many of the historical buildings through projects such as the Arcade, the building revival scheme, 15 Union Street and Field House will improve the energy efficiency of the buildings and restore and recycle existing assets.
- The TIP is supporting local town centre housing, close to public transport and other amenities. This will be a key feature of sustainable living for the town and is promoted by the TIP.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The regeneration of Dewsbury, in particular the town centre, has always had a family friendly emphasis. The stakeholder engagement has reconfirmed this. The projects reflect the need encouraging families back into the town. Projects such as the Town Park, the Market and the Union Arts Centre will underpin this as an objective.

3.6 Legal

The Council has the statutory power to apply to MHCLG for a “Town Deal” and has the statutory power to enter into any grant or funding agreement with MHCLG. The council has legal powers to apply for grant and enter into Heads of Terms and any grant agreement under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, and all other enabling powers. Individual projects will need to rely on an assessment of appropriate legal powers on a case by case basis and be compliant with the Council’s public sector equality duty under section 149 Equality Act 2010, State aid rules, Contract Procedure rules, and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

It should be noted as referred to elsewhere in the report that the Council will be the Accountable Body for the projects in the TIP and will be legally responsible for ensuring that the conditions of the funding with MHCLG are met as the Board does not have legal status to do this. The Council will be responsible for oversight and carrying out some of the work as well as match funding the projects. The council therefore needs to be confident that the TIP is achievable and the terms and conditions of the funding agreement with the MHCLG can be met. For that reason, it will be important for the Council to work closely with the DTDB to ensure that this is managed appropriately.

Projects will be overseen by DTDB and managed internally within council by the Dewsbury Blueprint Board chaired by Service Director. Project approvals will be considered by cabinet as appropriate. Further work is underway to finalise these project management arrangements which will be finalised alongside agreeing and finalising the Funding Agreement with MHCLG and any other ancillary documents/ agreements required.

3.7 Finance

The Town fund deal represents an additional £25m of investment into the regeneration of Dewsbury. It is an important catalyst to delivering key projects from the Dewsbury Blueprint and means the vision can be realised earlier. The implications for the Council are set out in sections 2.23 to 2.27 above. It is important to note that the Council is the “Accountable Body” to MHCLG with responsibility for receiving and managing the grant funding and delivery of the projects. Management, governance and delivery of the TIP will be overseen by the Dewsbury Town Deal Board (DTDB) and the Council will be responsible for the delivery of projects in conjunction with the DTDB and other partners.

4 Consultees and their opinions

A full engagement exercise was undertaken in November 2020 this included some interviews with Ward Members and the MP. This is outlined in Section 2.14 to 2.22. In addition, a

session was set up with ward members in Dewsbury on 22nd December 2020. All Members were invited and those who attended were appraised of the TIP and the projects selected.

5 Next steps and timelines

Following a decision by Cabinet, officers will finalise the TIP and submit to MHCLG by 29th January 2021. Once agreed the Council and Board will be expected to enter into a Town Deal with government. To do this it is recommended that the Director of Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Regeneration and the Dewsbury Town Deal Board, negotiate and enter into a Town Deal with Government and to activate any changes to the plan to achieve that aim.

6 Officer recommendations and reasons:

- a. To note and welcome the current version of the Town Investment Plan for Dewsbury proposed by the Dewsbury Town Deal Board.
- b. To note the level of match funding required to deliver projects and that provision for this will be made in the forthcoming Capital Plan.
- c. To note that The Dewsbury Town Deal Board may make final changes to the TIP prior to formal submission at the end of January 2021
- d. To submit the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) before the end of January 2021.
- e. Once submitted to government to authorise that: The Director of Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with, the Portfolio holder for Regeneration and the Dewsbury Town Deal Board, negotiate and agree the terms of any Town Deal and any ancillary agreements required.
- f. Once approved by Government authorise the Chief Executive to enter into any grant agreement between the Council and MHCLG in respect of any Town Deal and any ancillary agreements that are required.
- g. Note and endorse the Council's role as "Accountable Body" for the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan and Dewsbury Town Deal Board

Reason: To ensure that a robust and timely submission is made to government in order to access further financial grant to aid the regeneration of Dewsbury.

7 Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Cllr Peter McBride was briefed on Monday 20th December 2020 and supports the recommendations.

8 Contact officer

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Background Papers and History of Decisions

None specifically

Strategic Director responsible

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Appendix 1 - Dewsbury Town Investment Plan Projects

Project	Capital	Revenue	Total Town Fund Ask	Outputs
The Arcade	£1.00m	£0.31m	£1.31m	997 sq. m of commercial space Increase in share workspace or innovation facilities Space for socialising, arts, events and community activities
Dewsbury Market	£6.60m		£6.60m	Commercial space c200 stalls (1,800 sq m) Upgraded community spaces
Building Revival Scheme	£3.15m		£3.15m	Improvements in shop fronts Vacant building brought back into use Commercial units created
Full Fibre / Digital	£0.25m		£0.25m	Infrastructure to support 5G or full fibre activity
Urban Realm	£6.25m		£6.25m	Formation of new town park – 7,400 sq m Delivery of quality public realm – 4,112 sq m
Build Construction skills	£1.5m		£1.5m	Increase in capacity or accessibility to new training Increase in the breadth of local skills offer that responds to local needs
Union Arts Centre	£1.68m	£0.515m	£2.195m	Significant increase in visitors to arts, cultural and heritage events (42K new visitors in first 3 years)
Daisy Hill	£3.00m		£3.00m	Delivery of quality residential conversion in a key gateway location (23 apartments in phase 1) Site assembly in order to deliver town centre housing
Sustainable Transport	£2.00m		£2.00m	New wider footways (650m) / new zebra crossing Two lane cycle track (400m) / contra flow cycle lane New surface treatment
Total	£25.43	£0.825m	£26.255	

Appendix 2- Dewsbury Town Investment Plan - Latest Draft