

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject:

Signing of Heads of Terms (HoT's) with the Government for a £25m Newark Towns Deal as part of the Towns Fund program.

Appropriate Committee:

Policy & Finance

Details of Item (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

Members will be aware of the Council's endorsement of the Newark Towns Board Newark Town Investment Plan (TIP) submission to Government in 2020. The TIP identified, following extensive consultation with stakeholders and members of the public, a number of catalyst and transformation projects for the town across the thematic areas of 1) Business, Education & Skills, 2) Connectivity, 3) Town Centre Culture and Curatorship, and 4) Residential (in a town centre and edge-of-centre context).

The Chancellors announcement on 3 March 2021 confirmed that Newark was successful in securing a £25m 'ask' from Government to deliver the priority projects identified in the TIP.

Members will recall that the TIP strategy and associated priority projects were endorsed, in addition to the Towns Board, by all Members and Town/Parish Council's within the TIP boundary as part of online briefings given during the Covid-19 pandemic due to the initial suspension of the Committee cycle.

The Council has now been invited to sign Heads of Terms (HoT's) with the Government, alongside the Chair of the Towns Board. This document is a memorandum of understanding and commitment between the parties including in relation to match funding (as detailed in the Town Investment Plan and approved in the Council's Capital Program with respect to the Stodman Street and Castle Gatehouse schemes); the Government's offer is subject to various conditions being satisfied. The HoTs confirm an ability for identified projects (the priority projects – see table below) to be able to access up to £25m of funding, subject to completion of Green Book compliant Full Business Cases by each project sponsor within the next 12 months. The Council will take the role of 'accountable body' in administering the funds on behalf of the Towns Board. All projects will need 'sign-off' of Full Business Cases by both the Towns Board and the Council as accountable body. This Council is also the Project Sponsor for

a number of the proposed schemes. Progress updates and decisions on each of these projects as they are developed will be presented to the relevant Committees (notably Economic Development and Policy & Finance) in due course.

Project	Project Sponsor/Lead
IASTI	Lincoln College Group
SiScLog (Newark Gateway site)	University of Lincoln/NSDC
32 Stodman Street	NSDC
Castle Gatehouse	NSDC
YMCA Community & Activity Village	YMCA
Construction College Expansion	Lincoln College Group
Cultural Heart of Newark	NSDC
Police Station Relocation	Nottinghamshire Police/NSDC
20 Minute Town	NSDC
Newark Southern Link Road	Urban & Civic

Equalities Implications

The are no equality implications

Financial Implications (FIN20-21/9926)

There are no financial implication in the Council entering into Heads of Terms (HoT). There are, however, consequential impacts to performing an accountable body role. There are also likely financial considerations to developing each of the Council-led priority projects although this will be for each Committee to consider as the projects and associated Full Business Cases are developed.

As the ‘accountable body’ the Council will be required to assess and provide advice on any Green Book Full Business Cases submitted to it by project sponsors. It is anticipated that capacity funding will be provided by Government for the Council to undertake this function via specialist consultancy support, albeit at the current time the detail has yet to be confirmed. The Council has completed a tender process to secure this support across all projects, which has confirmed that a total of £20,000 budget is required. This could be funded from the Capital Projects Feasibility Reserve in the event that the capacity funding is not forthcoming. To date there is one completed Full Business Case to assess for the YMCA Community and Activity Village.

In the interests of maintaining momentum it is recommended that budget of £117,000 is allocated to allow formal appointment of consultancy support to develop and appraise any Full Business Cases submitted to the Board and Council, as accountable body.

Decision

- a) For the Chief Executive of the Council to the sign the Newark Town Deal Heads of Terms on behalf of the Council; and
- b) In the event Capacity Funding is not awarded to the Council, to create a budget of £117,000 from the Capital Projects Feasibility Reserve to allow the Council to instruct

specialist consultancy support to develop, appraise and advise on any Green Book Business Cases developed by project sponsors for identified TIP priority projects

Reason for Decision

Urgent decision to enable execution of the Heads of Terms within the deadline set, which is in advance of the necessary Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 1st April 2021.

Members Consulted:

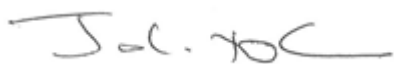
Councillor David Lloyd - Chairman and Leader of the Council (24/03/21)

Councillor Paul Peacock - Opposition Spokesperson (24/03/21)

Councillor Peter Harris - Leader of the Liberal Democrats (24/03/21)

Councillor Gill Dawn - Leader of the Independent Group (24/03/21)

Signed:



Date: 24 March 2021

John Robinson
Chief Executive