

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**23 MARCH 2022**

### **TOWNS FUND PROJECTS UPDATE**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update Members on the progress of the identified Towns Fund priority projects.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 On 17 March 2022, a detailed report was taken to the Policy & Finance Committee, setting out specific updates on the Construction College project, the 20 Minute Town and the Southern Link Road. This report also included the below table:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>OBC/FBC Approved</b>
32 Stodman Street	NSDC	FBC Approved
20 Minute Town	NSDC	OBC Approved
Castle Gatehouse	NSDC	Pending P&F Committee Decision
Construction College	Lincoln College Group	Development Complete
Cultural Heart of Newark	Newark Town Council	Pending P&F Committee Decision
IASTI	Lincoln College Group	OBC Approved
Newark Southern Link Road		Heads of Terms for £20m Levelling Up Funds signed with Government on 04.02.22
SiScLog (Newark Gateway site)	NSDC	Expected Summer 2022
YMCA Community & Activity Village	YMCA	FBC Approved. Development on-site. Completion Summer 2022

2.2 As per the table above, Business Cases have been completed and assured and Summary Documents have been submitted to Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), for all projects except the Castle Gatehouse, SiScLog, and Newark Cultural Heart projects. For the Castle Gatehouse and Newark Cultural Heart projects, the business cases have been completed and are with Quod consulting, our independent assurers, to ensure they demonstrate value for money and deliverability. At the Policy and Finance Committee on 17 March 2022, delegated authority was requested to be given to NSDC's S151 officer to sign off these business cases once this assurance process has been completed. The business cases will then be progressed to Summary Document stage, and submitted to DLUHC by the deadline of 30 April 2022.

2.3 For the SiScLog project, the development of the Outline Business Case has been delayed by deferrals to the announcement by the Department for Transport of the preferred route for improvements to the A46 – finally announced on 24 February 2022. An extension to the Summary Document submission deadline has therefore been negotiated with DLUHC until the end of June 2022.

2.4 A verbal update will be provided following the P&F meeting on 17 March, including any relevant updates from DLUHC on the current Project Adjustment Request, and the progress of the Southern Link Road following the inaugural meeting of the Public Grant Governance Board on 18 March 2022.

### **3.0 Equalities Implications**

3.1 Each TIP project is required to specifically address equalities and access implications as they are developed. This will be captured through the scheme and Business Case submissions.

### **4.0 Digital Implications**

4.1 There are digital implications within many of the TIP plans and projects identified, with the need to ensure appropriate digital infrastructure, skills and future innovative and creative employment opportunities being key to many objectives. Each project will be required to identify this as they progress.

### **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 Financial implications for each of the projects has been assessed via each update report to the Policy & Finance Committee. Further updates will be provided via the new governance arrangements from May 2022.

### **6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives**

6.1 The Newark Town Deal and TIP is a direct intervention of such scope and breadth that it significantly contributes to delivering all of the Council's Community Plan objectives.

### **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members welcome and note the update provided on the progress of the identified Towns Fund priority projects.**

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

**To continue the delivery of the identified Towns Fund priority projects.**

#### **Background Papers**

Newark Town Investment Plan 2020

Newark Cultural Heart Outline Business Case 2022

Newark Castle Gatehouse Outline Business Case 2022

Newark Cycle Project Outline Business Case 2022

IASTI Outline Business Case 2022

32 Stodman Street Full Business Case 2022

YMCA Community and Activity Village Full Business Case 2021

For further information please contact Matt Lamb on Ext 5842

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