



Report to: Cabinet Meeting – 6 December 2022

Portfolio Holders: Councillor Rhona Holloway, Economic Development & Visitors
Councillor David Lloyd, Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth

Lead Officers: Neil Cuttall – Business Manager, Economic Growth & Tourism, Ext. 5853
Frances Davies – Town Investment Plan Program Manager, Ext. 5874

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open, Non-Key Decision
Report Title	A46 Northern Town Bypass and Newark Towns Fund
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the A46 Newark Northern Bypass, including inter-dependencies with the Newark Towns Fund program.
Recommendations	That Cabinet note the update provided in the report.
Alternative Options Considered	<p>No alternatives are considered appropriate at this time. The A46 Newark Northern Bypass proposals have long been an important aspiration of this Council, an aspiration supported by a raft of partners including Midlands Connect, Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, and a number of highway, LEP, and Local Planning Authorities from the Humber Ports to Tewkesbury.</p> <p>The development of the Newark Town Investment Plan and selection of priority Towns Fund projects was equally part of a significant assessment process undertaken by the Newark Towns Board, in consultation with a range of partners and industry, including this Council. The redevelopment of the Gateway site and relocation of the existing Newark Lorry Park remain an important part of this program.</p>
Reason for Recommendations	To keep Members updated on the A46 Northern Town Bypass and the Newark Towns Fund Program.

1.0 Background

Towns Fund

- 1.1 Members will recall that work to develop the Newark Town Investment Plan took place in the first half of 2020. This involved working with a range of partners, the newly formed Newark Towns Board, and undertaking consultation just as the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns took hold. The lockdowns were an opportunity to innovate, with Schools running on-line forums to seek the ideas of children and families; the CVS undertaking telephone interviews with clients; and the Council and its Consultancy Team hosting multiple on-line groups, briefings and workshops. In July 2020 the Council-backed Newark Town Investment Plan was submitted to Government as part of cohort 1 applications for Towns Fund Grant.
- 1.2 The March 2021 budget confirmed the welcome news that Newark had been successful in its bid for £25m of grant funding for 10 priority projects (now 9 following the removal of the Police Station relocation, with funds having been approved by Government for re-allocation across other Towns Fund projects). The Council was invited to enter into Heads of Terms with Government, which were executed on 20 April 2021.
- 1.3 Since that time the Council and its partners have worked tirelessly to ensure delivery, developing robust Assurance Frameworks and progressing Business Cases for each project. Upon completion of the first Business Case for a project (Outline or Full) the Council, on behalf of the Newark Towns Board, submits to Government a 'Summary Document' and 'Monitoring & Evaluation' form which has been assured by the Council's S151 Officer (with support from the independent Quod consulting). Upon submission of these documents funding is released from Government to the Council in accordance with the prescribed funding profile for the project and grant release dates identified by Government. No funding has been withheld to date, with all projects progressing as envisaged. Regular reporting on each project, and importantly outputs delivered will continue to be presented to the Portfolio Holder, Economic Development & Visitors.

Table 1: Progress to date

Project	OBC Assured	Summary Doc Approved by Government	FBC Assured
Construction College	Implemented prior to signing of the Newark Town Deal via accelerated funding. Approval process via Newark Town Board, Policy & Finance Committee on the 24.09.20, s151 officer and Grant Funding Agreement, (February 2021)		
YMCA Activity Village	N/A	December 2021	December 2021
Air and Space Institute	January 2022	January 2022	September 2022
20 Minute Cycle Town	December 2021	January 2022	Not required given OBC detail
Stodman Street	N/A	May 2022	February 2022
Newark Cultural Heart	April 2022	May 2022	Expected March 2023
SISCLOG	Expected Nov 2022	Exp Nov/Dec 2022	Expected summer 2023
Castle Gatehouse	May 2022	July 2022	Expected December 2023

A46 Newark Northern Bypass

- 1.4 Members will be aware that the A46 Newark Northern Bypass Statutory Consultation is currently live, with a deadline for comments of 12th December 2022. In accordance with

the October meeting the Council's reply is delegated to the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Visitors, subject to strong support for the scheme being maintained, alongside the Council ensuring that its aspirations of the Towns Fund and retaining its lorry park provision for the Town are met. At the time of writing Officers are liaising with a range of internal and external consultees to draft a reply. It is not anticipated that any new issues will arise, in which case the Council's reply will be dealt with via the delegated process already approved. However, should this not be the case a further update report will be provided at the meeting.

- 1.5 The A46 Newark Northern Bypass could lead to a reduced Lorry Park offer for the Town. It therefore remains a priority for relocation and reconfiguration options to be concluded for presentation to a future Cabinet. Officers have considered other options including leaving the Lorry Park where it is with a reduced capacity, or doing nothing, which both significantly reduce the Council's income and importantly the capacity for the Lorry Park and its contribution to the sector and wider economy.
- 1.6 The ASI, Lorry Park (existing and expanded as part of relocation), and Gateway/SiSCLog are central to delivery of the Newark Town Investment Plan and raising aspiration and opportunity for young people, residents, and businesses within the Town. The projects, given their ambition and depth, accordingly contribute to all Community Plan objectives.

2.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding, Sustainability, and Crime and Disorder and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications (FIN22-23/7519)

- 3.1 Of the Towns Fund schemes listed in section 2 of the report, all the schemes with full business case approval are now included (or if completed were included) in the Council's Capital Programme, along with the Castle Gatehouse, which is still at Outline Business Case Stage.
- 3.2 Once the two schemes have Full Business Case approval and an associated Capital budget is set up, any eligible capital expenditure can be transferred to the Capital Programme and the unused funds returned to the reserve.

Equality & Diversity

- 3.3 The creation of a new Lorry Park and development proposals at Newark Gateway will require a full Equalities and Impact Assessment (EIA), which will be completed as part of the development planning process.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Newark Town Investment Plan 2020

YMCA Community and Activity Village Full Business Case 2021
32 Stodman Street Full Business Case 2022
Newark Cultural Heart Outline Business Case 2022
Newark Castle Gatehouse Outline Business Case 2022
Newark Cycle Project Outline Business Case 2022
Air & Space Institute Outline Business Case 2022
Air & Space Institute Full Business Case 2022
Memorandum of Understanding (Dept. For Transport & NSDC) - Newark Southern Link Road
2022
Economic Development Committee Report, January 2022
Policy & Finance Committee Report, 17 March 2022
Cabinet Report, June 2022