



Report to: Cabinet : 23 July 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance  
Councillor Matthew Spoons, Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director of Planning & Growth

Lead Officer: Neil Cuttell, Business Manager (Economic Growth & Visitor Economy)

<b>Report Summary</b>	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Key Decision, Open
<b>Report Title</b>	Long Term Plan for Towns – Town Investment Plan 2024-2027
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To support the emerging Newark Long-Term Plan for Town Fund (LTPfT) Vision & Investment Plan by Newark Towns Board to Government before the 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2024.
<b>Report Recommendations</b>	To support the emerging Long-Term Plan for Town Fund emerging proposals as detailed at paragraph 2.3 below and to delegate to the Portfolio holders for Performance & Finance and Sustainable Economic Development endorsement of any final Long Term Plan for Town Investment Plan 2024-2027 following its ratification by Newark Towns Board for submission to Government before the 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2024.
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	It remains open for this Council to not engage with the Newark Towns Board or to contribute to its formulate and ultimate adoption and submission to Government, save for its role as the Accountable Body. This option has been discounted as the Council and its partners wish to continue to achieve the best for residents and business and securing almost £20m for Newark between now and 2034 would be a significant contribution towards this.
<b>Reason for Recommendations</b>	The recommendation is presented on the basis that the Long-Term Plan for Newark 3 Year Investment Plan has been developed with the Newark Town Board and based on evidence from consultation with the community through the Resident Survey, Newark Masterplan Consultation, and targeted consultation with under-represented groups. The Long-Term Plan for Newark 3 Year Investment Plan 2024-2027 aligns with the outlined objectives of the NSDC Community Plan.

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 In November 2023 an announcement was made by Government that Newark was one of 55 towns to be offered the opportunity to apply for a £20m Long Term Town Fund. This fund provides proportionate funding every year for 10 years through to 2033/34 to drive ambitious locally set visions for their Town. To secure this investment Newark Town Board, and Newark & Sherwood District Council as accountable body, are required develop a Long-Term Vision for the Town, based on the priorities of the community and put to local people for consultation. This will be accompanied by a 3-year Investment Plan for 2024-2027. A further Investment Plan would need to be created in 2026/27. The District Council are identified as accountable body for the funding programme.

1.2 The Long Term Plan for Town guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-long-term-plan-for-towns/our-long-term-plan-for-towns>

1.3 As members will understand, it is important to collate data and opinion to understand Newark's challenges therein creating the 'why' for a focus for future priorities. A data pack from Government has been provided ([Long-Term Plan for Towns: data packs for 55 towns - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/long-term-plan-for-towns-data-packs-for-55-towns)) which sits alongside the raft of data sets already captured through the Towns Fund-led Town Investment Plan 1, the Council's Community Plan, Board Members own published priorities, and the aforementioned emerging Masterplan & Design Code work.

1.4 The Town Investment Plan must contain the following:

- The 10-year Vision
- A 3-year Investment Plan, including a financial and output annex and must also contain priorities for investment, narrative explaining the investment themes and the interventions the town intends to pursue in the first year of the programme

Once submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC), it will be assessed prior to funding being released.

1.5 A Town Investment Plan is emerging under the guidance of the Newark Town Board, with the Board meeting monthly since March 2024. Within these meetings, the Town Board have:

- Understood the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the town;
- Agreed the draft vision for the Town;
- Agreed the priorities for investment;
- Submitted potential projects;
- Assessed and shortlisted projects for the three-year investment plan.

## **2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered**

2.1 The 3 Year Investment Plan requires submission to government by the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The proposed Investment Plan for Newark only mandates a need for a high-level requirement for where the funding would be allocated, however the Town Board in working through the creation of the Investment Plan and being an advocate and partner

in the development of the Newark Masterplan have matured the programme to identify specific interventions that will be resourced.

2.2 The Investment Plan has been created on the basis of four pillars, being:

- 1) What the data has evidenced and shown is needed
- 2) What the community has stated through consultation
- 3) What the Town Board has identified as priority interventions
- 4) What the assessment of the interventions has determined by way of deliverability, readiness, outcomes and impacts, match funding and leadership.

This level of collaboration, commitment and assessment means that the impact of delivery is expediated and projects will be able to progress when the resources are provided to Newark & Sherwood District Council.

2.3 The identified example interventions included within the 3 Year Investment Plan are;

- A Community Grant Programme
- A Feasibility Grant Programme for Capital Projects
- The focus on one/two key capital projects within 2024-2027
- The creation of a BID Manager
- Town Centre Event Funding
- A resource allocation for Programme Management and assurance
- Agreement to role forward Capital expenditure for projects that will require time for development and understanding of the Town Board

2.4 The Newark Masterplan process is currently due to undertake the second round of community consultation in Summer and the proposed Vision within the submission to Government will be based on the consulted version of the Master planning process. The government will be informed of this within the submission on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, with a view to a refinement later in the year.

2.5 Cabinet are recommended to approve the submission of the 3-year Investment Plan for Newark before the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

### **3.0 Implications**

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

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.