

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

13 JANUARY 2021

NEWARK TOWNS FUND

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on funding discussions and progress with individual projects.

2.0 Updates

Funding

2.1 Members will be aware from previous updates to Committee that confirmation is awaited from Government that Newark's submitted Town Investment Plan (TIP) will be supported in principle, allowing the agreement of formal Heads of Terms (HoT's) for the development of formal Business Cases to be able to access agreed grant. At the time of writing a decision remains pending, albeit it is hoped that by the time the Committee meets a formal announcement will have been made. Officers and the Town Board remain hopeful that significant investment from the Towns Fund will be committed. As has been previously reported the Newark TIP is strong, ambitious, transformative and importantly deliverable. This is reflected in feedback from the government's own commissioned professional team via TIP 'check and challenge' sessions prior to formal submission.

TIP Projects

Newark Gateway Site

2.2 Following the respective decisions of the November Economic Development Committee and Policy & Finance Committees officers are now progressing with works to secure the demolition and safe holding of the existing cattlemarket site, in addition to feasibility studies and negotiations for the redevelopment of the whole Newark Gateway site, to include securing the IASTI and hotel as previously identified.

2.3 Associated work is also progressing with options for the relocation of the Lorry Park and Livestock market (the latter to be delivered by the third party interest involved as previously advised) elsewhere, with Newark Showground being preferred. Further updates will be provided to the March cycle of Committees on this work.

International Air & Space Training Institute (IASTI)

2.4 Members will recall the IASTI project, which seeks to provide, in conjunction with the Lincoln College Group, Aviation 360, a University Partner, and Military and Civil aviation industries, a new post 16 education facility for students to access ground, engineering, and pilot programmes.

2.5 All partners have continued to progress with the project in anticipation of funding being secured, with the preferred site remaining the Newark Gateway site. A public announcement on the scheme, alongside all partners involved, is expected within the first quarter of 2021.

Smart Innovation, Supply Chain & Logistics Enterprise Zone (SiSLog)

- 2.6 Members will recall that this is a project jointly developed between the Council, the University of Lincoln and the Universities for Nottingham and focussed around possible opportunities with respect to the logistics and supply chain sector given the strategic significance of Newark to the road, rail, and air networks. The jointly commissioned work between the Council and Universities has now been concluded, with findings being presented prior to the Committee meeting. A verbal update will therefore be provided.

32 Stodman Street (former M&S store)

- 2.7 Members will be aware that this project continues to progress, supported by funds provided by the £750,000 'accelerated funding' from the Towns Fund. The commissioned architect and commercial teams continue to evolve the proposed design with a view to undertaking public consultation and submitting for planning permission by the end of March 2021. Further detail on these proposals are detailed elsewhere on this agenda in an Exempt Report.

YMCA Community and Activity Village

- 2.8 Members will be aware of this project, not only via the Newark TIP but also from the previous updates and decisions taken to support the scheme and its overall aspirations to support children and young people and address the social mobility challenges of the town. The YMCA intend to let the contract to build phase II of the project works imminently. This represents over £15m investment in the Town and will deliver a raft of additional activity on the site, housed in a state-of-the-art building. The scheme will deliver sports and leisure facilities, PC labs, music and art spaces, conferencing and function facilities, childcare and a wellbeing and health delivery service suite, mental health support, physical rehabilitation, culinary training, the largest outdoor skate park in the East Midlands, and an Olympic climbing centre.

Newark College Construction Expansion

- 2.9 This is the second of three projects which the Newark TIP identifies as being supported with 'accelerated' funding. The project will introduce stone masonry and expand gas, joinery and bricklaying alongside growing links with new methods of construction. The project is expected to welcome over 1000 New Students (16-18, Degree, Adult) over the first 5 years, and increase on the previously expected c700 students expected.

- 2.10 Planning permission was granted in November 2020, with tenders for the build being received in December 2020. I am pleased to report that the Lincoln College Group have made a start on site, in anticipation of receipt of the previously identified maximum grant of £389,000 funding (project costs are £522,109.58) from the 'Accelerated Fund'. Formal approval is pending at the time of writing from the Council's s151 Officer, acting on behalf of the Council as the 'accountable body'.

- 3.14 The Newark TIP comprises many other projects, which will be subject to updates at future meetings subject to confirmation of funding from the Government.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 Each of the projects detailed above will be required, if and when they proceed to have regarding to equalities and access implications.

5.0 Digital Implications

5.1 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.

6.0 Financial Implications (FIN20-21/6365)

6.1 The £750,000 accelerated Capital Funding was added to the Capital Programme following reports to Policy and Finance Committee on 24 September 2020. Spend against budget is being monitored closely to ensure the deadlines are met.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 The Newark TIP is a direct intervention of such scope and breath that it will significantly contribute to delivering all of the Council's Community Plan objectives.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- a) Members note the ongoing negotiations with Government to secure a capital contribution from the Towns Fund of up to £25m;**
- b) Members note the ongoing progress of the Newark Town Investment Plan projects listed in section 2.0 above.**

Reason for Recommendations

To continue the development the Newark Towns Strategy and Investment Plan.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Matt Lamb on Ext. 5842

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