

Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 April 2024

Subject:	Levelling Up Partnership Project Change Requests
Report Author	Rebecca Jenkins Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out project change requests for endorsement by the WLUP Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the WLUP Board endorse the project change requests in relation to the milestones for the Masterplan Project and Millennium Centre project and recommend approval by the Assistant Director Spatial Planning and Growth in consultation with the Council's S151 Officer.
- 2.2 That the WLUP Board endorse the project change request to adjust the project budgets within the Public Realm project and recommend approval by the Assistant Director Spatial Planning and Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and West Midlands Combined Authority and Council's S151 Officer.

3. Background



- 3.1 Sandwell Council Cabinet approved the governance arrangements for the LUP programme in September 2023. This included a scheme of delegation which sets out the approval process for project changes. This covers change of outputs, outcomes and milestones.
- 3.2 All changes are recorded in a programme change log which includes information around the current status of changes, the approval route required, impact of changes, and action taken.
- 3.3 There are 2 changes to milestone dates requiring endorsement from the WLUP Board and approval from the Council’s Assistant Director Spatial Planning and Growth in consultation with the S151 Officer, as follows:

Ref	Project	Reason for Change	Date From	Date To	Impact on Mar 25 completion	Impact of Change (incl. dependencies)
4	Masterplan	Re-profiled project plan. Slippage in intended delivery date of March 2024.	Mar 2024	July 2024	No	Project completion beyond intended Mar 2024. The impact on public realm strategy and site improvements is being managed through public realm consultation being undertaken separately to the masterplan consultation. Risk of further slippage in the event that complex issues are raised through the masterplan consultation responses that require longer consideration.



9	Millennium Centre	Re-profiled project plan due to longer time producing initial designs than expected. Agreed design and delivery approach now in place	Mar-2025	June-2025	Yes	Project completion beyond spend deadline of March 2025. The council's capital programme will need to accommodate spend profile to enable delivery in 2025/2026.
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3.4 There is 1 proposed change to project budgets that requires endorsement from the WLUP Board and approval from the Council's Assistant Director Spatial Planning and Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member and S151 Officer, as follows:

Ref	Project	Reason for Change	Impact of Change (incl. dependencies)
16	Public Realm	Move budget within the overall allocation of £4.5m. An internal budget split of £2.5m for site improvements and £2m for public realm works is in place. Request is to transfer £250K to the public realm works budget from the site improvement budget.	Movement of funds between public realm works and site improvement budgets within £4.5m allocation. will enable full scope of works to be achieved on the public realm component whilst retaining sufficient budget to move forward with proposed



			site improvements.
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3.5 Changes agreed by the Programme Manager since the commencement of the programme are included in Appendix 2.

4. Appendices

1. Scheme of Delegation
2. Summary of changes March 2024

3. Background papers

[Sandwell Council Cabinet Report – Levelling Up Partnership 13 September 2023](#)

