

Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard Agenda

Monday 17 May 2021 at 12:00 hours

This meeting will be held online.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair will welcome attendees to the meeting and make opening remarks.

2. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from members relating to any item on the agenda.

5. Towns Fund Project Confirmation Stage

- To agree the Project Confirmation Tables for signing by the Chair of the Superboard (including consideration of Smethwick Project Funding following Heads of Terms)
- To receive the Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plans for comment and recommend to the S151 Officer

6. Full Business Cases for Tranche 1 Projects

To discuss and input into the Full Business Cases for Tranche 1 Projects:

- West Bromwich Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre
- West Bromwich Digital Den
- Smethwick Ron Davis Centre

7. Governance Review

To discuss options around the governance arrangements for the Towns Fund

8. Stakeholder Engagement Arrangements for Phase 2

To consider and agree an engagement strategy and plan for Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme

9. Towns Fund Accelerated Programme Update

To receive an update on the Accelerated Programme Projects for West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis.

10. Update on Towns Fund Timeline

To receive an update on the timeline for Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme



Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

David Stevens
Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Representative	Organisation	Individual
Chair	Jude Thompson - President of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce	
Board Members	Federation of Small Businesses (FSP) Homes England Rep LEP/ Local Business Leader Liberty Group – CEO Jahama Group Local Board Chair – West Bromwich Local Board Chair – Smethwick Local Board Chair – Rowley Regis MP (Halesowen and Rowley Regis) MP (Warley) MP (West Bromwich East) MP (West Bromwich West) Sandwell College CEO SCVO CEO SVCO Board Member SMBC Leader SMBC Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economic Growth Transport for West Midlands WMCA Sandwell Youth Parliament Police Representative	Karen Woolley Philip Farrell Geoff Layer Dilip Awtani Chris Hinson Alan Taylor Adrian Eggington James Morris John Spellar Nicola Richards Shaun Bailey Graham Pennington Mark Davis Geoff Foster Cllr Maria Crompton Cllr Danny Millard Sandeep Shingadia Gareth Bradford Vacancy Keeley Bevington
SMBC Officers (attending in advisory capacity)	SMBC CEO SMBC Executive Director, Children Services SMBC Interim Director - Regeneration and Growth SMBC Monitoring Officer	David Stevens Lesley Hagger Tammy Stokes Surjit Tour

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Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard

18 March 2021 at 14:00

Present:

- Jude Thompson, Black Country Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
- Geoff Layer, Local Enterprise Partnership
- Chris Hinson, Local Board Chair- West Bromwich
- Adrian Eggington, Local Board Chair- Rowley Regis
- James Morris, MP Halesowen and Rowley Regis
- Nicola Richards, MP West Bromwich East
- Shaun Bailey, MP West Bromwich West
- John Spellar, MP for Warley
- Graham Pennington, Sandwell College
- Cllr Danny Millard, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Mark Davis, SCVO
- Geoff Foster, SCVO
- Sandeep Shingadia, Transport for West Midlands
- Gareth Bradford, West Midlands Combined Authority
- Keeley Bevington, West Midlands Police
- Jo Nugent, Homes England

SMBC Officers:

- Surjit Tour, Director - Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
- Rebecca Jenkins, Towns Fund Programme Manager
- Alex Oxley, Planning Regeneration Officer
- Alan Reynolds, Senior Planning Regeneration Officer
- Hayley Insley, Planning Regeneration Team Leader
- Tariq Karim, Area Manager Youth Service
- Santokh Singh, Neighbourhood Engagement Manager
- Chloe King, Planning Regeneration Support Officer
- Clinton Felicio, Planning Regeneration Support Officer
- Lesley Hagger, Director- Childrens Services

Also present: Aaron Toussaint, Cities and Local Growth

27/21 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting of the Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard.

28/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the following Superboard members:
-

Karen Woolley, Federation of Small Businesses
Dilip Awtani, Liberty Group
Alan Taylor, Local Board Chair- Smethwick
Cllr Maria Crompton, Sandwell MBC
Tammy Stokes, Sandwell MBC (Officer)

29/21 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

30/21 **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interests were made at the meeting:

Nicola Richards MP- Trustee of the Albion Foundation

In addition to the existing and continued declarations from previous meetings:

Alan Taylor – in relation to any matters relating to Sandwell College;
Tom Hawley – as Homes England was sometimes asked by other Government Departments for feedback on applications and submissions.
Geoff Layer – in relation to any matters relating to University of Wolverhampton;
Graham Pennington – in relation to any matters relating to Sandwell College;

31/21 **Approval of Heads of Terms for a Town Deal for Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich**

Rebecca Jenkins introduced the tabled HoT report circulated to Superboard members within the meeting documentation and provided an overview of the offers received for each of the three towns (£25m West Bromwich, £23.5m Smethwick and £19m Rowley Regis). Further information was given as to the contents of each of the HoTs.

Cllr Danny Millard advised that a report seeking an onward recommendation to the Towns Fund Superboard for the approval of the HoTs was taken to SMBC Cabinet on 17/03/21 and was subsequently agreed.

Local board chairs were invited to comment on the receipt of HoTs.

Adrian Eggington reported that Local Board members were pleased with the outcome of £19m of funding for the area, despite being disappointed to learn that £6m funding was not approved for the Air Source Heat Pump project. Alternative delivery mechanisms are being explored to deliver this scheme separately to the Towns Fund.

Chris Hinson advised that West Bromwich members were pleased with the results of the funding and look forward to commencing project delivery of the full £25m. Chris raised the importance of, and connection with, the emerging West Bromwich Masterplan which will provide an up-to-date policy framework for delivery of the projects outlined in the Town Investment Plan (TIP).

Jude Thompson spoke on behalf of Alan Taylor and acknowledged the achievements of the Smethwick Local Board in securing £23.5m of funding for the area.

All chairs thanked Local Board members, officers and wider stakeholders for contributions to this point. The floor was opened to comments or discussion from board members.

James Morris MP thanked and congratulated members for the achievements to date. Raised a question with regards the Air Source Heat Pump scheme and whether any feedback had been received as to why this project was not funded.

Aaron Toussaint, CLGU, advised that this particular project was not funded given that the specific skills outputs/outcomes were not viewed by Government as favourable compared with other asks across both Sandwell and external TIPs for similar levels of financial commitment. This project was confirmed as being the sole reason for the £6m reduction within the Rowley Regis HoT.

Jude Thompson made comment that this project has potential for private investment and it would be prudent to seek views from the local business community, in partnership with central Government, on this.

Nicola Richards MP thanks and congratulated members. Reaffirmed a desire to be involved on a more granular level with proposals for the Indoor Market, West Bromwich, and asked about timescales for stakeholder engagement.

Rebecca Jenkins advised that there is due to be discussions at future Superboard meetings with regards stakeholder engagement and further information will be circulated to members in due course.

James Morris MP pointed to the fact that Rowley Regis was mentioned in the recent budget speech which will further help to establish the area.

Aaron Toussaint confirmed that following confirmation of HoTs there is 12 months to confirm projects with central government through the full business case process.

Agreed to receive and agree the Heads of Terms for Town Deals for Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich; and approve that the Chair of the Superboard alongside the Chair of the relevant Local Board sign the Heads of Terms.

32/21 **Update on Towns Fund Timelines**

Rebecca Jenkins provided an update on the Timelines for phase two of the Towns Fund programme. The next steps and key milestones are outlined in the appended report '**Towns Fund Programme Timeline**', which can be found in the meeting documentation.

33/21 **Closing Comments**

Aaron Toussaint advised that there should be an announcement coming shortly with regards the capacity building funding and money should be with LA's in the coming weeks where applicable.

Graham Pennington asked about potential communication strategy and would like to promote the success of the programme to date. Rebecca Jenkins advised that there is a draft publicity protocol and will arrange for SMBC communications to make contact with counterparts at Sandwell College separately to this meeting in order to arrange.

Jude Thompson reflected positively on the achievements across the three TIPs thus far, thanked board members and officers for their input and assistance respectively.

Meeting ended at 2.33pm.

**Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard
Towns Fund Project Confirmation Stage**

May 2021

Subject:	Towns Fund Project Confirmation Stage
Presenter:	Rebecca Jenkins
Contact:	Tammy Stokes@Sandwell.gov.uk / Rebecca Jenkins@Sandwell.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. To consider and agree the approach to all Smethwick Projects proceeding within the £23.5m allocation.
- 1.2. To agree that the Chair of the Superboard sign the project confirmation tables & recommend them for signature and submission by the SMBC Chief Executive / S151 Officer.
- 1.3. To receive the draft monitoring and evaluation plans for comment and recommend them to the S151 Officer for submission

2. Purpose of the report

- 2.1. To outline the requirements from MHCLG of the project confirmation stage.
- 2.2. To propose to Superboard an approach to proceed with all Smethwick projects follow the signing of Heads of Terms for £23.5m.
- 2.3. To provide details of the project confirmation tables and draft monitoring and evaluation plans for submission to MHCLG.

3. Background and Main Consideration

Project Confirmation Stage Requirements

- 3.1. After agreeing Heads of Terms, Towns have two months to confirm which projects will be taken forward as part of their Town Deal, this should include the following information on each project: -
 - Towns Fund ask
 - Match-funding total and breakdown
 - Expected outputs and outcomes
 - Plan for addressing key conditions
 - Whether the project will be fast-tracked
 - Proposed financial profile and the Revenue/Capital split (approval at MHCLG's discretion)
 - A draft monitoring and evaluation plan

- 3.2. This information is to be submitted in the form of a Project Confirmation Table and a draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (1 per project) and must be submitted to MHCLG by 24 May 2021. A final monitoring and evaluation plan is required at the Summary Business Case Stage (after local approval of a project FBC).

Response to Heads of Terms General Conditions

- 3.3. Each Town received a set of general conditions as part of the Town Deal which we are required to respond to at project confirmation stage. These general conditions and the draft response is as follows:

- **Local Assurance of FBCs**

- 3.4. The Heads of Terms set out that project assurance should be conducted in line with agreed routes for each individual project, that Towns must complete business cases for the projects being taken forward and that Towns must submit a Summary Document within 12 months of the deal being agreed.

- 3.5. Assurance of Towns Fund Full Business Cases will be conducted by the Council's Strategic Finance Team in accordance with the Councils Financial Regulations and Procedures and established process for Capital Projects. This will ensure green book compliance, compliance with Towns Fund Heads of Terms, compliance with Towns Fund Guidance and will assess risk to the council of delivering and completing the project. A minimum threshold must be passed for a project to be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

- **Equality Impact Assessment to be conducted at Town Level**

- 3.6. The Heads of Terms set out that an Equality Impact Assessment must be conducted at Town level incorporating impacts across all projects

- 3.7. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken for each Town. The Draft will be reviewed by the Superboard at an early opportunity and will be finalised following completion of all project Full Business Cases.

- **Each Project to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment as required**

- 3.8. The Heads of Terms set out that each project must conduct an Equality Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment as required.

- 3.9. As part of the Full Business Case requirements, each Sandwell Towns Fund project will be required to conduct an equality impact screening and an environmental impact screening as a minimum, and a full assessment if this is required as a result of the screening. The screening/assessment will be reviewed as part of the assurance process and will be included as part of the approvals required on the Full Business Case.

- **West Bromwich specific condition**

- 3.10. In addition to the above general conditions for all three Towns, West Bromwich Heads of Terms included an additional condition which was that more detail should be provided on the private sector engagement and how this has informed the Town Investment Plan and projects.
- 3.11. Building on previous business engagement data through the Vision 2030 / Inclusive Economic Development work, a selection of West Bromwich companies across the West Bromwich TIP boundary area were directly contacted as part of the Business engagement strategy to develop the Evidence base which contributed to the TIP. Below is a list of the specific businesses that were targeted.
- Forkers - Construction
 - Jacopa Ltd - Environmental Technologies
 - Sandwell Community Caring Trust - Health & Social Care
 - Steel & Alloy - Manufacturing
 - Robinson Brothers – Manufacturing
 - William King Ltd - Manufacturing
 - Sheldon Clayton - Transport
 - Transervice - Transport
 - Espirit - Construction
 - Kingspan - Construction
- 3.12. Furthermore, Town Centre business representation was included on the West Bromwich Local Board in the form of Lisa Hill, Lead Officer, West Bromwich BID. This was to ensure one voice represented the wide views of the Town Centre businesses which operate in West Bromwich to assist in the TIP development.
- 3.13. A workshop also was carried out on Wednesday 30th September 2020 during which a number of local businesses from the High Street attended, to provide their views and input into the TIP development. Lisa Hill also provided the keynote speech to this workshop.

Response to Smethwick Project Funding Allocation

- 3.14. The Heads of Terms Offer that has been accepted for Smethwick is for £23.5m. The ask across the 6 Smethwick projects was for £25m and all projects are eligible for the full funding amount they asked for. This represents an overall funding pressure of 6%.
- 3.15. Options have been explored for how to proceed with Smethwick projects in light of the funding offer without reducing the outputs desired. Following review, the proposal is for a 6% budget reduction to be applied to all Smethwick Projects. This target can be achieved through attracting additional match funding, use of other funding streams, cost refinement or in the last instance, altering scope. (nb/ Where any change of scope is proposed that impacts on project outputs this will need to be raised through the change request process with MHCLG).

- 3.16. This proposal is felt to offer a solution that enables all projects to continue their FBC development without dependency on other projects. It is intended that this is kept under review, and the approach revised in the event that it renders any of the projects unviable.
- 3.17. The table within the appendix sets out the funds following the application of the 6% target.
- 3.18. The proposal was presented to Smethwick Project Leads on 20 April 2021 and will be presented to Smethwick Local Board on 13 May 2021. Comments from the Smethwick Local Board meeting taking place on 13 May 2021 will be relayed during the Superboard meeting.
- 3.19. The project confirmation tables for Smethwick reflect this proposed approach to funding.

Other changes reflected in the Project Confirmation Tables

- 3.20. West Bromwich project confirmation tables reflect a reallocation of £310,000 between the Walking and Cycling Scheme Project and the Town Hall Quarter Project due to changes that were made within the Accelerated Funding Programme to bring forward Phase 1 of the Walking and Cycling Scheme in place of the Town Hall Tower works.

Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plans

- 3.21. In April 2021, guidance was received around the Monitoring and Evaluation for Towns Fund which is a single framework covering both the requirements on Town Deal areas and Future High Streets Fund areas. The guidance details the approach, evaluation process, mandatory reporting requirements, frequency of reporting and how data should be collected.
- 3.22. The Towns Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is grounded in an overarching Theory of Change (ToC) and sets out pathways to achieving both the funds objectives as well as the underlying assumptions from activities undertaken, through the outputs they deliver, the outcomes achieved and the targeted impact.
- 3.23. As the accountable body, the council is responsible for reporting twice a year on inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes. This includes several mandatory indicators along with selection of optional indicators from the framework that are relevant to each project. Local Evaluation and Monitoring can take place alongside the Government's framework.
- 3.24. Where projects are being delivered by Partner Organisations, a Partnership Agreement between the Council and the Partner Organisation will be agreed which will include the monitoring and reporting requirements.
- 3.25. An overview of the mandatory reporting requirements is outlined below in tables 1 and 2: -

Table 1 – Overview of what we are required to report on across the ToC (Theory of Change) Levels

ToC Level	What you are required to report on:	When
Level 1 Inputs & Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount spent directly on project delivery (either local authority or implementation partners) • The amount of co-funding spent on project delivery (private and public) • The amount of co-funding committed (private and public) • The percentage of projects starting on time according to contract 	Semi-annually through the monitoring form
Level 2 Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of temporary full-time jobs supported during project implementation • The number of projects successfully completed • The percentage of projects completed within budget • The percentage of projects completed on time 	Semi-annually through the monitoring form
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of staff in the regeneration team at the local authority • The amount budgeted for economic development teams and functions • Project specific output indicators (see 5.6 and 5.7 below) 	Annually through the monitoring form
Level 3 Intermediate outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment on: - • Leadership and Vision • Delivery capacity and capability • Financial viability and ability to attract investment • Accountability, collaboration, and responsive governance. <p><i>Please note that the collection of qualitative data is for learning purposes only and will not be used for performance management.</i></p>	Annually through the monitoring form
Level 4 Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs created through the projects • The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs safeguarded through the projects • Year on Year monthly percentage change in footfall (mandatory for Future High Streets Fund places) 	Annually through the monitoring form

Table 2 – Overview of what we are required to provide updates on.

What you are required to provide updates on:	When
<p>Project Expenditure: Expenditure on project activities by local authorities or, in the case where a partner is implementing the project, their expenditure on project activities to date. This will also include forecasted spend.</p> <p>Project Progress: A brief narrative to explain the below progress you are reporting on.</p> <p>Project Changes: Any material changes to project designs or plans should be disclosed and described, including any timing delays.</p> <p>Risks: Updates should be made to the project risk schedule using a RAG rating, as well as an explanation of the risks and required mitigation steps. The RAG rating will be used to flag any issues that require action or amendments. This will also allow changes in risk to be tracked over time.</p>	Semi-annually through the monitoring form
<p>Feedback on local engagements and how your overall investment strategy is progressing. Questions to aid the qualitative feedback will be provided in the monitoring forms.</p>	Annually through the monitoring form

3.26. An overview of the project-specific indicators that have been proposed by Project Leads is included below for each town. Targets have been included where it has been possible to quantify them ahead of FBC development.

West Bromwich Draft Project Level Measures

Project	Draft Measures	Target
Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	390
	Number of closer collaborations with employers	TBC
	# of learners/trainees/students enrolled at new education and training facilities	TBC
	% of learners gaining relevant experience/being 'job ready' (as assessed by employers) (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	TBC
Digital Den	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	TBC
	# of learners/trainees/students enrolled at new education and training facilities	TBC
	% of learners gaining relevant experience/being 'job ready' (as assessed by employers) (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	TBC
Retail Diversification Programme	# of sites cleared	TBC
	Amount of rehabilitated land	TBC
	Amount of floorspace rationalised	TBC
	Amount of land brought into public ownership	TBC
Urban Greening	Amount of new parks/greenspace/outdoor space	TBC
	# of trees planted	TBC
	# of learners enrolled in new education and training courses	TBC
Town Hall Quarter	Number of improved community/sports centres	TBC
	# of heritage buildings renovated/restored	TBC
	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	TBC
	Number of visitors to arts, cultural and heritage events and venues (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	TBC
Cycling and Walking Provision	Total length of resurfaced/improved road	TBC
	Total length of new cycle ways	TBC
	Total length of new pedestrian paths	TBC
	Usage of new walking and cycling routes (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	TBC

Smethwick Draft Project Level Measures

Project	Draft Measures	Target
Albion Family in the Park	Number of new community/sports centres	1
	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	2000
	Number of visitors to arts, cultural and heritage events and venues (<i>Local measure will need to be defined therefore suggest we mark target as tbc until FBC</i>)	TBC
	# of learners/trainees/students enrolled at improved education and training facilities	2000
	Amount of new office space	259
	# of learners/students/trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses	1500
Midland Met Learning Campus	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	1280
	# of learners/trainees/students enrolled at improved education and training facilities	1280
	Number of closer collaborations with employers	TBC

Project	Draft Measures	Target
	# of learners/students/trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses	TBC
	% of learners gaining relevant experience/being 'job ready' (as assessed by employers) (<i>Local Measure definition to be agreed</i>)	TBC
Grove Lane Regeneration	# of residential units provided	100
	Amount of rehabilitated land	12000m2
	Land values (<i>local measure proposed</i>)	TBC
Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration	# of residential units provided	125
	Amount of rehabilitated land	10000m2
	Land values (<i>local measure proposed</i>)	TBC
Ron Davis Centre Expansion	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	400
	# of learners/trainees/students enrolled at improved education and training facilities	200
	# of learners/students/trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses	200
Cycling and Walking Provision	Total length of resurfaced/improved road	TBC
	Total length of new cycle ways	TBC
	Total length of new pedestrian paths	TBC
	Usage of new walking and cycling routes (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	TBC

Rowley Regis Draft Project Level Measures

Project	Draft Measures	Target
Rowley Regis College	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	505
	Number of closer collaborations with employers	TBC
	# of learners/trainees/students enrolled at new education and training facilities	505
	% of learners gaining relevant experience/being 'job ready' (as assessed by employers) <i>Local measure proposed</i>	TBC
Canal Network Connectivity	Increase in cycling journeys on canal towpath (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	40%
	Increase in overall visitor numbers to canal (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	40%
	Total length of pedestrian paths improved	7.13km
	Total length of new cycle ways	7.13km
	Automatic / manual counts of pedestrians and cyclists (for active travel schemes)	40%
Britannia Park Community Hub and Greenspace	Number of new community/sports centres	1
	Amount of existing parks/greenspace/outdoor improved	TBC
	Visitors to park (<i>Proposed Local Measure to be defined</i>)	TBC
	# trees planted	TBC
Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm	Total length of resurfaced/improved road	TBC
	# of improved public transport routes	TBC
	Total length of new cycle ways	TBC
	Amount of public realm improved	TBC
	# of transport nodes with new multimodal connection points	TBC
	Road traffic flows in corridors of interest (for road schemes)	TBC
Cycling and Walking Provision	Total length of resurfaced/improved road	TBC
	Total length of new cycle ways	TBC
	Total length of new pedestrian paths	TBC
	Usage of new walking and cycling routes (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)	TBC

3.27. The draft project measures and framework were introduced to Local Boards for input.

Rowley Regis Local Board	In relation to the Rowley Regis College project a suggestion was made for monitoring to be conducted in relation to the number of collaborations made with VCS organisations. Following discussion with the Project Leads and a review of the monitoring framework, it is proposed that this is initially managed as part of the steer for the project rather than reported through the monitoring and evaluation framework. This approach will be reviewed during FBC development and a local metric can be included within the final version if required.
West Bromwich Local Board	<p>A discussion was held around the importance of understanding residents' perceptions of the area and how these might change over time as a result of the Towns Fund and other interventions. This is not part of the Towns Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Framework but would provide useful additional insight.</p> <p>This measure has been proposed within the Monitoring and Evaluation plans. Further discussions will take place to identify a potential methodology to collect this insight for all 3 Towns, linked to the Council's review of a Performance Management Framework.</p> <p>A discussion was held in relation to Community Wealth Building and monitoring local jobs created. The mandatory reporting includes jobs created through project implementation along with jobs created as a result of the project. A proposal for capturing information relating to local employment will be developed and this will be applicable to all 3 Towns.</p>
Smethwick Local Board	<i>Smethwick Local Board are due to meet on 13/05/21 and a verbal update will be provided during the meeting</i>

4. Source Documents

Project Confirmation Tables

Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plans

MHCLG Guidance for Business Cases (Dec 2020) and Monitoring and Evaluation (April 2021)

**Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard
Towns Fund Projects Discussion – Tranche 1 projects**

17 May 2021

Subject:	Towns Fund Tranche 1 Projects
Presenter:	Jane Bailey & Shaun Hunt – Sandwell College Wendy Brookfield – Greets Green Community Enterprise Erroll Blackwood – Sandwell Council
Contact:	Tammy_Stokes@sandwell.gov.uk Rebecca_Jenkins@sandwell.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. To receive an update on the development of the Full Business Cases for Tranche 1 Projects and provide opportunity for Superboard Members to discuss the developing details and input, as required; and
- 1.2. To agree that the 3 projects proceed to finalise FBC details on the basis of consultation already undertaken.

2. Purpose of the report

- 2.1. To provide an update on the progress of the development of the Full Business Cases for the following Towns Fund Projects:
 - West Bromwich Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre
 - West Bromwich Digital Den
 - Smethwick Ron Davis Centre Expansion
- 2.2 To outline that a presentation will be delivered during the meeting by each of the Project Leads.

3. Background and Main Considerations

- 3.1. Once Heads of Terms have been agreed, towns have 12 months to develop Full Business Cases for each project and submit a Summary Document to MHCLG. The Summary Document will contain an overview of each Business Case and confirmation that key conditions have been addressed (where applicable). The Summary Document will be assessed by MHCLG before funding is released.
- 3.2. Full Business Cases should address the five cases set out in the HM Treasury Green Book; Strategic Case, Economic Case, Commercial Case, Financial Case and Management Case. The Full Business Cases must pass through the council's assurance process.

- 3.3. Collectively, there are 17 Towns Fund projects that have been approved by MHCLG. To co-ordinate the process across the 17 Towns Fund projects, Sandwell's Towns Fund projects will be organised into 3 tranches. This will enable projects to proceed to Phase 3 (delivery) when they are ready.
- 3.4. The Tranche 1 projects were originally marked as fast-tracked projects within the Town Investment Plans due to their preparedness for Full Business Case Stage and due to the proposals being founded on a body of existing consultation and engagement.
- 3.5. The Tranche 1 projects have been presented to the relevant Local Board prior to the Superboard meeting.
- 3.6. The Superboard discussion is intended to be exploratory in nature and the projects within Tranche 1 are scheduled to return to Superboard for agreement to the finalised Full Business Cases.

West Bromwich Tranche 1 Projects

3.7. Sandwell Civil Mechanical Engineering Centre

Towns Fund Amount	Match Funding Amount	Overall Project Value
£2.7m	£0.33m	£3.03m
Project Description	The project will regenerate Sandwell' College's 'Engineering Centre', based in Phoenix Street in West Bromwich. A centre offering opportunity in Construction and Engineering for Adults and young people in programmes for the unemployed, reskilling of the workforce and apprenticeships.	
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1064 sq. m teaching and learning space via a new Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre • Redevelopment of 0.54 acres of brownfield land • Delivering new T-Level qualifications in high value sectors • Engage and provide training for 50-70 SMEs • 150 x Apprenticeships • 40 T levels. • 200 new construction related activities • 75% learners classified as job ready • 90% learners with new qualifications achieved 	
Link to Town Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support good quality jobs • Reinvigorate the town centre • Stimulate Covid recovery 	

Draft Project Monitoring and Evaluation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities • Number of closer collaborations with employers • # of learners/trainees/students enrolled at new education and training facilities • % of learners gaining relevant experience/being 'job ready' (as assessed by employers) (<i>Proposed Local measure</i>)
Discussion points raised by West Bromwich Local Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification if there is built in protection for local procurement, aiming to procure locally as possible in order to generate more local employment and increase in the local economy. Sandwell College advised when looking at contractors to delivery schemes at this/ similar size and value, it is important to ensure they are sufficiently well resourced to manage the project. This is something that can be specified within the Procurement Exercise, to use local sub contract labour to ensure they exhaust the opportunities to use local resource within a certain radius first. In addition, the opportunity to recruit local residents to create temporary jobs or apprenticeship roles which will be part of the evaluation process of the project. Sandwell College will also look to use existing learners, e.g. photography students to produce a photo diary of works on the project whilst supporting the work experience for the students. • The Shaftsbury site would bring the college campus into the Town Centre and bring added value to the location and compliment the Town Hall Quarter project. A concern was raised should the project sit on Shaftsbury site, would the existing building on Pheonix Street not be utilised. Sandwell College confirmed that this site would be utilised in other ways should the location change.

3.8. Digital Den

Towns Fund Amount	Match Funding Amount	Overall Project Value
£0.0426m	£0.112m	£0.1546m
Project Description	This project creates free to use and supported access to digital and online service, training and qualifications and careers and education support. The overall aim is to reduce digital exclusion and in doing so, reduce financial exclusion.	
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 beneficiaries annually. • 70 users complete accredited training. 	

Link to Town Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support good quality jobs • Stimulate Covid recovery
Draft Project Monitoring and Evaluation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities • # of learners/trainees/students enrolled at new education and training facilities • % of learners gaining relevant experience/being 'job ready' (as assessed by employers) (<i>Proposed Local Measure</i>)
Discussion Points raised by West Bromwich Local Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on the capacity of the Digital Den Project. The project is flexible and can accommodate 20 learners within a dedicated Digital Den Area. Should additional space be required/ when the programme expands, Wood Lane Community Centre has a large hall, conference room and offices that could be utilised, collectively accommodating up to 100 learners. • Clarification on how partners are engaged with. A number of training providers/ agencies currently use the facilities at Wood Lane Community Centre. Where online learning requires face to face support (e.g. Online English Language), the project will provide partners with allocated times to allow them to use the facility to provide face to face and online training support. • Clarification if learner progress will be tracked e.g. A level 1 learner is successful in finding employment. This will be picked up as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation requirements. For those completing Level 1 - 2, the project can help identify learners are work ready with the support from agencies. Further work is required to identify the longer-term measurement and tracking of young people e.g. homework clubs. Conversations will take place with Board Members and Sandwell Council to see who and how other agencies record this measurement.

Smethwick Tranche 1 Project

3.9. Ron Davis Centre Expansion

Towns Fund Amount	Match Funding Amount	Overall Project Value
£0.3384m	£0	£0.3384m
Project Description	The expansion of the Ron Davis centre through the addition of three extra classrooms, enabling the expansion of the successful Sandwell Adult Family Learning services.	

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 new community assets • 3 new educational spaces • 1,100 new learners assisted over academic years 2023-2025 • 600 additional learners per annum specifically enrolled on digital courses of which 400 will be accredited qualifications over academic years 2023-2025 • 16% of learners being job ready • 32.6% of learners gaining relevant experience
Link to Town Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support good quality jobs
Draft Project Monitoring and Evaluation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities • # of learners/trainees/students enrolled at improved education and training facilities • # of learners/students/trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses
Discussion Points raised by Smethwick Local Board	<i>These will be relayed during the Superboard meeting due to the Local Board meeting taking place on 13/05/21 after the agenda dispatch.</i>

3.10. A presentation will be delivered to Superboard by each of the Project Leads explaining the current position of the Full Business Case and the next steps required to finalise the FBC.

Appendices

Source Documents

**Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard
Towns Fund Programme Governance**

17 May 2021

Subject:	Towns Fund Programme Governance
Presenter:	
Contact:	Surjit_Tour@Sandwell.gov.uk Tammy_Stokes@Sandwell.gov.uk Rebecca_Jenkins@Sandwell.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. For Superboard to discuss the governance options for Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme as part of the consultation process ahead of Cabinet's consideration.

2. Purpose of the report

- 2.1. To outline the background and main considerations to a review of the governance arrangements for the Towns Fund

3. Background and Main Considerations

- 3.1. Governance arrangements for the Towns Fund Programme were approved by Cabinet in July 2020. To co-ordinate the three Towns Deals in Sandwell, an overarching Towns Fund Superboard was established with three Town-level Local Boards established as working groups of the Superboard.
- 3.2. These arrangements reflected the requirements of the first Phase of the Towns Fund Programme (development of the Town Investment Plans), and MHCLG Towns Fund Guidance, June 2020.
- 3.3. Additional guidance from MHCLG in December 2020, and April 2021 has provided updates to the roles and responsibilities of the Town Deal Board.
- 3.4. With the signing of the Heads Terms in March 2021, the Towns Fund Programme has now moved into Phase 2 - Business Case Development Phase. The focus of the next 12 months is about developing these projects to Full Business Case stage and making preparations for their delivery. This will involve considerations such as assessing options, ensuring viability and ensuring the deliverability of the project
- 3.5. With the programme entering Phase 2, this has also provided opportunity to review the existing governance arrangements and reflect on lessons learnt, including providing opportunities to Superboard Members for a greater level of involvement in the formative stages of Towns Fund work, if desired.
- 3.6. MHCLG Guidance (Dec 2020 and April 2021) sets out the following requirements of the Superboard and the Council:

Full Business Case Stage (Stage 2)

- The Council should take responsibility for delivery arrangements, undertake business case assurance and ensure that decisions are made in collaboration with the Town Deal Board.
- The Superboard should have an ongoing role and sight of decisions, and should ensure compliance with the Heads of Terms agreements

Project Delivery Stage (Stage 3)

- The Council should take responsibility for delivery arrangements and work with appropriate partners to ensure effective delivery
 - The Superboard should see through the Town Vision, take ownership of their proposed projects and provide a level of accountability through independent 'on-the-ground' monitoring of the deal delivery and acting as a 'critical friend' throughout the programme lifecycle.
- 3.7 Clarity needs to be given to the Terms of Reference for any local governance structure (e.g. the Local Boards) in light of the nature of business over Stage 2 and Stage 3 and to ensure that individuals on multiple boards and/or where there are overlaps with project delivery roles are managed appropriately.
- 3.8 There is a need for a robust approach to engagement, and ensuring effective input from Superboard and Local Board Members at a formative stage of proposals.
- 3.9 Governance options considered as part of this review and consultation are:
- Re-focus Local Boards as Consultative Panels to focus on the consultation requirements of the next Phase
 - Continuation of Local Boards as working groups of Superboard
 - Reconstitute Local Boards as the Town Deal Boards and Membership changed to include Superboard Members
 - No local structure in place
- 3.10 As part of the consultation around these options, Superboard Members will be invited to an individual discussion alongside the discussion that is scheduled during the Superboard meeting. Views will also be invited from Local Board Members ahead of a proposal being put to Cabinet for their consideration.

Source Documents

MHCLG Towns Fund Guidance December 2020 and April 2021

**Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard
Towns Fund Engagement and Consultation Approach for Phase 2**

17 May 2020

Subject:	Engagement and Consultation Approach for Phase 2
Presenter:	
Contact:	Santokh Singh – Neighbourhoods Engagement Manager Tariq Karim – Children and Young Peoples Services Rebecca Jenkins, Towns Fund Programme Manager rebecca_jenkins@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Superboard consider and approve the draft Engagement Strategy and Plan for Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme; and
- 1.2 That Superboard agree that each project develops a tailored consultation and engagement plan for sign-off by Superboard, following input from the relevant Local Board.

2 Purpose of the report

- 2.1 To outline an engagement strategy and plan for Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme for consideration and approval by the Superboard.
- 2.2 To outline the proposed approach that each project develops a tailored consultation and engagement plan to reflect the details of the project and the relevant stakeholder groups.

3 Current position/Background Details

- 3.1 At its meetings of 7 February 2020 and 5 August 2020 the Superboard considered its priorities for engagement and agreed a strategy for Phase 1 of the Towns Fund Programme which involved the development of a Town Investment Plan for each Town.



- 3.2 Key stakeholders were identified and invited to participate in the governance structure of the Towns Fund through membership of the Superboard and Local Boards.
- 3.3 There was a gap identified in young people's participation within the Towns Fund Programme and a young-people's participation workstream was formed led by the Council's youth services.
- 3.4 The Town Investment Plans were based on extensive data from previous engagement and consultation (e.g. gathered through Vision 2030 consultation, Inclusive Economy Deal and regular survey work). New engagement focused initially on generating ideas and priorities for the Town Investment Plans and then focused on the development of the proposed interventions. Engagement took place with Superboard and Local Board Members, targeted sessions with young people, workshops with partners, and two residents' surveys.
- 3.5 Phase 2 (Full Business Case Development) of the Towns Fund Programme involves the finalisation of project details and there is a need across most of the projects for further detailed engagement and consultation to aid project options and finalisation of details.
- 3.6 The TIP submissions included a proposed engagement approach for Phase 2. This has been updated following the receipt of the Heads of Terms and is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 3.7 The draft strategy outlines a set of principles to guide engagement activity throughout the next phases of programme, as follows:
- Communicate and Inform
 - Build on existing information, data and insight
 - Co-design
 - Inclusive
 - Proportionate
 - Compliant
 - Assurance
- 3.8 Each project will have their own requirements for the level of detail required from consultation and engagement and the main stakeholder

groups for each project will differ. Specific consultation activity will therefore need to be developed on a project-by project basis.

- 3.9 The proposal is for each project to develop a tailored consultation and engagement plan to aid the development of the project Full Business Case. This project level engagement plan will be considered and agreed by Superboard, following input from the Local Board, to ensure that plans are in keeping with the engagement strategy and involve relevant stakeholder groups at project-level.
- 3.10 When Superboard give consideration to final versions of Full Business Cases, a consultation report will be included outlining the activity undertaken, findings from this and how it has informed the Full Business Case. Projects will also identify any consultation and engagement proposals to take place after the FBC approval (e.g. statutory consultations connected with Planning Approvals may be sequenced following FBC submission).
- 3.11 Tranche 1 projects (Smethwick Ron Davis Centre, West Bromwich Digital Den, and West Bromwich Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre) are already well-developed based on consultation undertaken to date. As part of their presentation to Local Board and then to Superboard, the proposal will be made that these projects progress to Full Business Case finalisation without additional engagement activity.
- 3.12 Assurance around engagement methodology and the quality of engagement will be provided through: -
- Local Board Members' input to draft plans,
 - Superboard's input to and approval of plans before consultation commences
 - A report being produced outlining the consultation findings, which will include a breakdown of participation.
- 3.13 To support ongoing effective and consistent communication from the range of organisations set to deliver Towns Fund Projects, a Joint Publicity Protocol will be developed and agreed between Lead Delivery Partners and the Council.

4. Appendices

Draft Engagement Strategy and High Level Plan for Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme

5. Source Documents

Sandwell Towns Fund Phase 1 Engagement and Consultation Plan

Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard Phase 2 High Level Engagement Plan for Phase 2

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to outline a strategy and plan for engagement and consultation over for Phase 2 (Business Case Development) for the Towns Fund Programme.

Objectives

The objective of engagement activity during Phase 2 is to engage with residents, partners and stakeholders to assist in shaping the details of projects, and continue an open dialogue to inform them about the progress of the projects through the delivery phase.

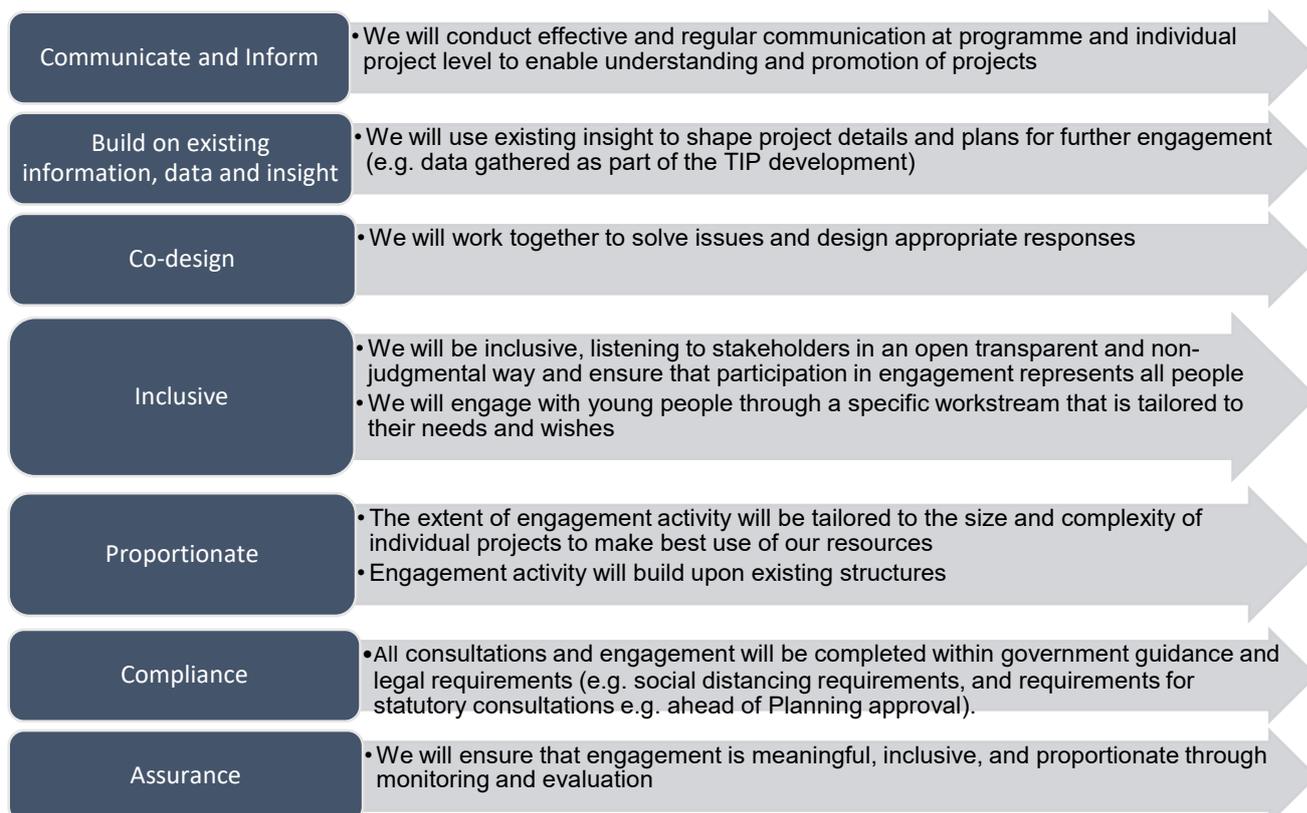
Context

During Phase 1 of the Towns Fund Programme, engagement activity informed the development of the TIP and was broken down into two key stages: **Ideas Generation and Intervention Development**. The engagement work to date has drawn heavily on engagement through our Superboard and Local Board structures, targeted sessions with young people and partners, and two residents' surveys. It built on insight gained from our body of previous engagement and consultation e.g. through Vision 2030 and the Inclusive Economy Deal.

The information already gained through phase 1 will be used to support the full business case development of Towns Fund projects.

Guiding Principles

The principles that will guide Towns Fund engagement activity:



Young People's Specific Engagement Workstream

Sandwell is a young and diverse borough and ongoing engagement with young people is integral to our plans for delivering on our Towns Fund Programme. We will have an open and ongoing dialogue with young people around some of the key projects that will have a direct impact on them.

Young people will help us shape some of the detail and ensure we deliver what they want and need from design concept through to delivery and beyond. We will keep them informed and engaged through a range of methods including engagement through virtual and where possible socially distanced sessions through our youth work teams, local youth forums, schools and through relevant social media.

We have adopted a five 'I's' model for our youth engagement:

- **Involve** – Ensuring our young people can co-design, co-develop and co-review the services they receive
- **Invest** – Making sure we understand the importance of participation and co-production and value young people's input
- **Inform** - We will make sure they understand and know what their rights are
- **Influence** - We will make sure that the feedback they give us makes a difference
- **Impact** - We will recognise progress and ensure the voice of the child is a priority

Sequence for Project Level Engagement to aid FBC development:

1. Local Board are consulted and Input to Draft Project Consultation and Engagement Plan
2. Superboard are consulted and input to Draft Project Consultation and Engagement Plan and sign off plan
3. Consultation and Engagement Undertaken
4. Findings collated and used to shape final version of FBC
5. Findings reported to Superboard alongside final version of FBC
6. Press Release/ Social Media following approval of FBC from SMBC Cabinet and response provided to consultation participants

Consultation and Engagement Plan and Timeline

			2021								2022			
			May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Project Level engagement Activities	Tranche 1 Projects	Local Board	Consulted on the proposals & comment on proposal for project to proceed to FBC on basis of consultation to date			Following approval of Summary Document from MHCLG Project Delivery Commences								
		Superboard	Consulted on the proposals and agree to project proceeding on basis of consultation to date	Final version of FBC agreed by Superboard										
	Tranche 2 Projects	Local Board		Consulted on the proposals and input to consultation plan	Tranche 2 engagement and consultation undertaken (as per agreed plan)					Following approval of Summary Document from MHCLG Project Delivery Commences				
		Superboard		Consulted on the proposals and agree the consultation plan				Consultation findings reported to Superboard alongside final version of FBC	Cabinet approval of FBC & Press Release					
	Tranche 3 Projects	Local Board			Consulted on the proposals and input to consultation plan	Tranche 3 engagement and consultation (as per agreed plan)							Following approval of Summary Document from MHCLG Project Delivery Commences	
		Superboard			Consulted on the proposals and agree the consultation plan				Consultation findings reported to Superboard alongside final version of FBC			Cabinet approval of FBC & Press Release		
General Project and Programme Communication & Information	Press Releases /Social Media			Introductory video from Jude and Local Board Chairs introducing Town Deals and Projects	*Details of engagement activity at Town Leavel and how to get involved *specific social media releases when surveys launched * Press release (one per project) once approval of FBC reached									
	Website Updates		Ongoing (monthly updates to content)											
	Regular Communication Channels		Ongoing (incl. updates via Ward Councillor Meetings, Business Ambassadors Forum, BID newsletters, Sandwell Herald)											

**Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard
Towns Fund Accelerated Programme Update Report**

17 May 2021

Subject:	Towns Fund Accelerated Programme Update Report
Presenter:	Rebecca_Jenkins@Sandwell.gov.uk
Contact:	Tammy_Stokes@Sandwell.gov.uk Rebecca_Jenkins@Sandwell.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. To receive an update on the Accelerated Funding Programme for Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich

2. Purpose of the report

- 2.1. To provide an update against progress of the Accelerated Funding Programme for Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich

3. Background and Main Considerations

- 3.1. On 30 June 2020 the Government announced grants of £750,000 to Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich to fund capital projects that could be delivered within the financial year.
- 3.2. The accelerated funding was confirmed as additional to the main Towns Fund Programme of up to £25m per town.
- 3.3. The criteria outlined was to bring forward projects that would respond to immediate challenges, including:
 - a) Improvements to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
 - b) Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
 - c) Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit
- 3.4. Following discussion at Local Board, Superboard considered proposals for projects that could be put forward, and confirmation was received from Government at the end of September that the applications had been accepted.
- 3.5. Work commenced on delivering each of the schemes in line with the completion date of March 2021. A number of the schemes have experienced unforeseen delays due primarily to Covid impacts which have impacted in a range of ways including on contractor capacity and timescales, and delivery of equipment. On some projects, delays have been experienced due initial consultation leading to the need for an extended period of consultation with residents. Sandwell's position is in line with other Towns Fund areas, and MHCLG confirmed that the grants will not be subject to clawback.

3.6 In the initial application for West Bromwich Accelerated Programme, a project was put forward to renovate the Town Hall Tower. The Town Hall was subsequently needed for use a Covid-19 test centre. Following a review, the project was felt to be unfeasible to be completed within timescale due to the increased public access to the building. A change request was therefore made to MHCLG in December 2020 to replace the accelerated funding project with Phase 1 of a cycling and walking programme that had been included within the TIP. MHCLG approved this change. The implication for the West Bromwich Town Deal is that the financial amounts to each of these Town Deal projects need to be amended accordingly.

4. Accelerated Programme Projects

4.1. West Bromwich Accelerated Projects

Project Title	Project Description	Update
Outdoor Market Redevelopment	To undertake a programme of inventive, comprehensive and transformational improvement works to these to ensure that market stalls are fit for purpose and no longer detract from the area.	Detailed designs, consultation, temporary relocation of traders and demolition of previous stalls have been completed. The manufacturing of new stalls commenced off site and the stalls have been installed. Traders were invited back and were operational from 24 April 2021. Snagging issues are currently being identified and resolved.
Cycling and Walking Infrastructure (Phase 1)	To widen the existing footway on Europa Avenue to accommodate the National Cycle Network Route 5 into Sandwell Valley.	Detailed designs, surveys and road audits are complete. Initial resident consultation presented some concerns around the scheme. Further work and consultation with residents took place prior to the scheme proceeding which in turn caused delays. Work has commenced on the highway element (Europa Avenue) and will be completed on 14 May 2021.

4.2. Smethwick Accelerated Projects

Project Title	Project Description	Update
Tollhouse Way Cycle and Walking Scheme	To deliver a cycle path along A457 Tollhouse Way to Smethwick Galton Bridge station with improved crossing points and footway enhancements along the High Street, including pedestrian footway improvements to the entrance of all side roads.	All gables/ retaining structures and ducting are in place along the entire length of the route. Lighting columns have been replaced and relocated to the back of the cycle route and signals on Holly Lane/ St Pauls Road has been completed by contractors, however further work is commissioned on the cycle priority at the junction. The remaining works on the high street, bus stop areas on Tollhouse way and sub base/ binder course for the entire route is underway. It is envisaged the programme will be completed on 30 June 2021.

4.3. Rowley Regis Accelerated Projects

Project Title	Project Description	Update
Connectivity - Blackheath Town Centre	Avenue Road link from Blackheath town centre to Rowley Regis Station improved for pedestrians/ cyclists: new lighting on re-sited columns, side-road crossings, resurfacing, signs and lines.	Work has progressed significantly, with the cycleway on Archer Way now complete (from Avenue Road to Park Street West). Lighting columns have been installed in Avenue Road and Cardale Street. The remaining works for the cycle way on Archer Way from Park Street to Oldbury are ongoing.
Connectivity - Oldbury Town Centre	Upgrade Ringway crossing to toucan spec, install tiger crossing on Rounds Green Rd; add marked cycle paths around Ringway to build on recent traffic calming, pedestrian and cycle priority schemes	The pedestrian Refuge on Dudley Road, Oldbury is completed. The Tiger Crossing on Rounds Green Road & Cycle Link to Oldbury Ringway will be completed this month (currently waiting for the delivery of Belisha Beacons).
Tividale Park Improvements	Renovate disused changing rooms; accessibility improvements to adjoining community hub; create new car park, lighting, security bollards	The new car park and markings are complete and security bollards have been installed. A new tarmac surface has been installed to make the surface flat and level access to the community hub. In regard to the changing rooms, pipework alterations and mechanical works are complete and new showers have been installed. The boiler room alterations and internal decoration are ongoing. The completion date for this scheme is June 2021.
Britannia Park Improvements	Demolition of existing changing rooms.	The scheme experienced delays with contractors regarding the disconnection of services between the changing rooms and supply points in the road, however this work is now complete. Site meetings have been held with contractors in preparation of the demolition. The demolition will commence on 7 May 2021 and the completion date for this scheme is Mid-May 2021.
Bearmore Open Space Improvements	Installation of play equipment to complement existing infrastructure	Detailed designs are complete and several site visits have taken place to confirm the location and set up of play equipment. The delivery of the play equipment is expected at the end of May 2021. The completion date for this scheme is Mid-June 2021.
Warrens Hall Improvements	Upgrade to key paths around the park to all-weather surfaces, improvements to entrances and creation of fishing platforms at Swan Pool.	Achieving a confirmed design and securing a contractor have both been delayed by year-end capacity issues. The contract is let and work should begin imminently, on regrading and resurfacing the main link between the canalside and Swan Pool, to make it more suitable for visitors, making Springfield Lane entrance safer and more welcoming and providing new safer fishing

Project Title	Project Description	Update
		platforms around Swan Pool. The project is due for completion in mid-June 2021.
Haden Hill Park Improvements	Development of sensory garden providing facilities for people with a range of disabilities including mobile impairments.	The tarmac base has been laid for the new picnic area. Picnic benches and bench planters are being installed. The completion date for this scheme is Mid-May 2021.

Appendices

N/A

Source Documents

**Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard
Towns Fund Programme Timeline**

17 May 2021

Subject:	Towns Fund Programme Timeline
Presenter:	Rebecca Jenkins - Sandwell Towns Fund Programme Manager
Contact:	rebecca_jenkins@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

1.1 That the Superboard notes the update on the timeline.

2 Purpose of the report

2.1 To outline the timeline for Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme.

3. Background and Main Considerations

3.1 The Towns Fund Programme is split into 3 key Phases.

Phase 1 - The first phase involved the development of the Town Investment Plans and concludes with signing Heads of Terms for a Town Deal with Government.

Phase 2 – The second phase involves developing the Full Business Case for each of the projects.

Phase 3 – The third phase involves the release of funding and project delivery.

3.2 Following the agreement of a Town Deal for Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich, Phase 2 of the Towns Fund Programme has commenced.

- 3.3 Phase 2 involves detailed work to finalise arrangements for each of the projects including demonstrating the feasibility, viability and value for money of the projects and finalising design details and delivery arrangements.
- 3.4 There is a maximum of 12 months from signing the Heads of Terms with Government to the completion of Phase 2.
- 3.5 The key milestones for each project during Phase 2 are as follows: -
- Project Confirmation Table submitted
 - Project-level proposals for consultation and engagement agreed
 - Project input discussions with Local Boards and Superboard
 - Finalisation of Full Business Case
 - Full Business Case appraised by SMBC
 - Full Business Case approval by SMBC Cabinet (following recommendation from Superboard)
 - Submission of Summary Document to MHCLG
- 3.6 MHCLG requires the following submissions with deadlines as follows:

Submission to Government	Purpose	Deadline
Project Confirmation Table (1 per project)	To confirm to Government anticipated outputs and outcomes of each project, financial profile, and any changes since TIP submission	By 24 May 2021
Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	To outline a proposed set of measures to aid monitoring and evaluation	By 24 May 2021
Project Summary Document	To provide Government with a summary of the Full Business Case, details of how local assurance of the business case has been conducted, and finalised financial details.	By 24 March 2022

- 3.7 To co-ordinate the process across the 17 Towns Fund projects, Sandwell's Towns Fund projects will be organised into 3 tranches. This will enable projects to proceed to Phase 3 (delivery) when they are ready. The tranches have initially been identified as follows: -

Tranche	Town	Project	Planned FBC approval
1	West Bromwich	Digital Den Mechanical Engineering Centre	By July 2021
	Smethwick	Ron Davis Centre Expansion	
2	Rowley Regis	Connectivity	By October 2021
		Canal Connectivity	
	West Bromwich	Urban Greening	
		Connectivity	
	Smethwick	Albion Family in the Park	
		Connectivity	
3	Rowley Regis	Britannia Park Improvements	By February 2022
		Blackheath Town Centre Improvements	
		Satellite Education Hub	
	West Bromwich	Retail Diversification Programme	
		Town Hall Quarter	
	Smethwick	Midland Met Learning Campus	
		Grove Lane Regeneration	
		Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration	

3.8 An updated version of the Superboard forward plan will be created following the conclusion of the Governance review.

4. Source Documents

Towns Fund Guidance, June 2020, December 2020 and April 2021