

West Bromwich Town Deal Board 21 February 2022

Subject:	Project Reporting
Contact Officer:	Rina Rahim, Towns Fund Programme Manager

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To receive an update on project progress and monitoring information for the period of October to December 2022.

2. Background and Main Considerations

- 2.1. As West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis enter Phase 3 – Delivery, monitoring will be a key aspect to ensure the Accountable Body and DLUHC track progress of the fund and the projects it is delivering.
- 2.2. The projects submitted the first set of claims up until September 2022 which were collated and submitted to DLUHC in December 2022. These are currently being processed by DLUHC who may undertake further assurance checks prior to being formally approved.
- 2.3. To ensure the Accountable Body and Town Deal Boards receive reporting on a regular basis to monitor project progress, expenditure and risks, it is a requirement set by the Programme Management Office that West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis project leads must submit Monitoring, Evaluation and Claim Returns on a quarterly basis, as a minimum.
- 2.4. Following the Quarter 2 submission, all projects have submitted monitoring returns for the period covering October to December 2022. Financial forecasts from these claims have been reported to Cabinet to inform the spend position and potential carry forward to next financial year.
- 2.5. The monitoring returns have been processed and detailed project progress is reported as Agenda item number 6. Board members are invited to consider the detailed project updated as per Item 7 on the Agenda. Brief summary to date is as follows:
 - The overall Town spend for 2022/23 is forecasted to be in the sum of £9,561,787 resulting in a carry forward of £5,780,925 (38% slippage)
 - No change requests required this quarter.
 - Where applicable, projects are required to forecast and monitor footfall over the lifetime of the programme.
 - **Digital Den** - financial drawdown complete, project in now monitoring outputs and matchfunding

- **Sandwell Mechanical Engineering Centre** – project is on target to spend by the end of March 23.
- **Town Hall Quarter** – contractor has indicated a start date of May 2023. Preliminary works continue to bring the costs within the Towns Fund allocation.
- **Retail Diversification Project** – negotiations ongoing to acquire key sites.
- **Urban Greening** – Phase 1 complete with site visit planned for Board members.

- 2.6. DLUHC have indicated that the 23/24 funds will be allocated in three stages being either April, June or October depending on risk rating. Further details to follow regarding the risk rated by DLUHC on individual projects.
- 2.7. As discussed at the November Town Deal Board meeting, projects have been updating their consultation plans and a forward plan has been created to support marketing and promoting projects. A site visit forward plan is being developed to support updating the projects amongst Board members. All forward plans details are presented as Item 8 on the Agenda.

Appendices

West Bromwich Town Deal Reporting October to December 2022