

Rowley Regis Town Deal Board 23 February 2022 at 1pm

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. Summary to date is as follows:
 - The cumulative Town Fund spend until March 2023 is forecasted to be £3,066,701 resulting in a carry forward of £1,603,738 (34% slippage)
 - No change requests required this quarter.
 - Where applicable, projects are required to forecast and monitor footfall over the lifetime of the programme.
 - **Canal Network Connectivity** – Project progressing ahead of target milestones and to cost plan.

- **Brittania Park** – Ongoing works to car park and footpath continue with planning application for changing rooms to be submitted in March.
- **Blackheath Bus Interchange** - consultations on first draft of plans undertaken, feedback currently being collated to finalise plans prior to final designs and consultation.
- **Satellite Education Hub** – Fixed exhibition taken place and planning application submitted. Procurement of contractor to take place in March 2023
- **Rowley Regis Connected** – Design works progressing with works due to start on Phase 1 in July 2023

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

Town Deal Reporting October to December 2022