

## West Bromwich Town Deal Board

### 16 May 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Project Reporting</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	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 January – March 2023.
- 1.2. For Board members to approve the DLUHC return to be submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> June

#### 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. 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.
- 2.3. The projects submitted the first set of claims up until September 2022 which were collated and submitted to DLUHC in December 2022. These have been reviewed and a further project progress update was undertaken with DLUHC in April 2023 to determine the timing of releasing payment for 23/24 which is as follows:

Project	Proposed payment date	Rationale
Town Hall Quarter	Oct 23	Awaiting final costing for restoration works
Retail Diversification Project	Oct 23	Await approval of CPO from SMBC Cabinet
West Bromwich Connected	April 23	Payment received.
Urban Greening		Payment received

- 2.4. The monitoring returns relating to January – March 2023 are being 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 Towns Fund spend for 2022/23 forecasted from December 2022 claims to be in the sum of £9,561,787 resulting in a carry forward of £5,780,925 (38% slippage)
- Actual spend to March 2023 was £6,679,888 resulting in £8,672,824, a 56% underspend carried forward to 23/24
- No change requests required this quarter.
- **Digital Den** - financial drawdown complete, project in now monitoring outputs and matchfunding
- **Sandwell Mechanical Engineering Centre** – project spend now forecasted to be completed by August 2023.
- **Town Hall Quarter** – scaffolding is currently being erected with main restoration works anticipated to start in October. Preliminary works continue to bring the costs within the Towns Fund allocation.
- **Retail Diversification Project** – negotiations ongoing to acquire key sites. Completion of Indoor Market moved from Dec 23 to March 24
- **Urban Greening** – Phase 1 complete with Phase 2 on site
- **West Bromwich Connected** – project on site and progressing with works as planned.

2.5. The next reporting period to DLUHC for spend and progress for the year ending March 2023 is due on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Further progress reports may be requested as part of assurance activities as the underspend carried forward is above 40%. DLUHC may require the achievement of key milestones prior to releasing funding for 23/24 such as Cabinet approvals, planning permissions etc.

## **Appendices**

West Bromwich Town Deal Reporting January – March 2023 (to be emailed as private pack)