

Smethwick Town Deal Board 23 May 2023

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 January – March 2023.
- 1.2. For Board members to approve the DLUHC return to be submitted by 9th 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
Grove Lane	TBC	Review in September for update on CPO proceedings
Rolfe Street	October 2023	Await site works to commence
Midland Met Learning Campus	October 2023	Awaiting decision from Planning application
Smethwick Connected		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 was expected to be £4,756,582.51 resulting in a carry forward of £2,660,867.49 (34% slippage)
- Actual spend to March 2023 was £2,609,127.27 resulting in £4,808,322.73, a 65% underspend carried forward to 23/24
- Several projects have been required to carry forward spend into 23/24:
 Rolfe Street forecast slipped to October 2023 due to compulsory ecology surveys required during Spring 2023.
 Midland Met Learning Campus underspent against forecast; however, this should be back on track in the current financial year.
 Smethwick Connected aimed to bring forward spend from future year, however, this was not possible and works started in April 23.
- No change requests required this quarter.
- **Ron Davis Expansion** – Site works completed, project sourcing equipment and furniture
- **Grove Lane** – Preparatory works initiated to start legal proceedings which can take 3+ months
- **Rolfe Street** – Ecology surveys commenced with site works planned in October 2023
- **Midland Met Learning Campus** – Planning application submitted at the end of April 2023.
- **Smethwick Connected** – Phase 2 to complete soon with Phase 5 brought forward to 23/24

2.5. The next reporting period to DLUHC for spend and progress for the year ending March 2023 is due on 9th June. DLUHC are aware of the reasons for slippage and have not raised any concerns and will release funding following regular updates. 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

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