

## Rowley Regus Town Deal Board 25 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 project profiles and progress to be reported to DLUHC 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
Canal Network Connectivity	April 2023	Payment received
Satellite Education Hub	October 2023	Following decision from Planning Committee
Rowley Regis Connected	June 2023	Following utilisation of 22/23 funds and progress
Blackheath Bus Interchange & Public Realm	October 2023	Following utilisation of 22/23 funds and BCR update
Brittania Park Improvement's & Community Hub	October 2023	Following utilisation of 22/23 funds and progress

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 £2,953,560.65 resulting in a carry forward of £1,603,738.10 (36% slippage)
- Actual spend to March 2023 was £2,729,926.62 resulting in carry forward of £1,940,513.88, a 41% underspend carried forward to 23/24.
- **Satellite Education Hub** - Change request submitted by Satellite Education Hub to replace 100 traineeships to 16-24yr old NEETS supported. Project has been requested to provide details of numbers supported into employment/work experience. Planning application deferred to 28<sup>th</sup> June
- **Canal Network Connectivity** – project progressing ahead of schedule
- **Blackheath Bus Interchange** – Final designs still being completed, BCR to be updated.
- **Rowley Regis Connected** – project works slipped to Summer 2023
- **Britannia Park Improvements** – Design of changing rooms being finalised and costed, alternative options being sought for allotments due to condition of soil, MUGA being taken up and stored whilst suitable location identified.

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%. For Rowley Regis, this is mitigated by costs incurred by projects not yet claimed such as Blackheath Bus Interchange. DLUHC may require the achievement of key milestones prior to releasing funding for 23/24 such as Cabinet approvals, planning permissions etc.

## **Appendices**

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