

Towns Fund Programme Progress

A project progress update was undertaken with Government in April 2023 to determine grant payment release profile for financial year 23/24. These are provided below by Town.

SMETHWICK

Project	23/24 Proposed Payment	Rationale
Grove Lane	TBC	Review in September for update on land acquisition proceedings.
Rolfe Street	October 2023	Await site works to commence.
Midland Met Learning Campus	October 2023	Awaiting Planning application determination.

22/23 reported spend			
Project	22/23 Payments	Total Spend including commitments	% spend
Ron Davis Centre Expansion	281,600	360,000	128%
Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration	2,000,000	65,328	3%
Grove Lane Regeneration	2,611,000	5,526	0%
Midland Met Learning Campus (External)	2,450,000	1,838,608	75%
Smethwick Connected	74,850	1,510,060	2017%
TOTAL SMETHWICK	7,417,450	3,779,521	51%

Grove Lane – Cabinet approval to proceed with CPO obtained in November 22. Financial profiles updated to reflect this.

Rolfe St Canalside – Project delayed by 3 months due to ecology surveys required. Pre-site works due to commence October 2023

Ron Davis Centre – Building works completed in April 23 with orders placed for furniture and IT equipment.

Midland Metropolitan Learning Campus – Planning application submitted in April 2023 and awaiting Planning Committee decision. Anticipated works to commence in Nov 2023 subject to a favourable planning decision.

Smethwick Connected – Phase 2 works along Rolfe Street Station completed. Phase 5 brought forward from 24/25 to 23/24 due to other complementary works undertaken by CRT.

ROWLEY REGIS

Project	23/24 Proposed Payment	Rationale
Canal Network Connectivity	April 2023	Payment received
Satellite Education Hub	October 2023	Following Planning Application determination.
Rowley Regis Connected	June 2023	Following spend of 22/23 funds and progress
Blackheath Bus Interchange & Public Realm	October 2023	Following spend of 22/23 funds and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) update
Brittania Park Improvement's & Community Hub	October 2023	Following spend of 22/23 funds and progress

22/23 reported spend			
Project	22/23 Payments	Total Spend including commitments	% spend
Britannia Park Community Hub and Greenspace Improvements	829,700	660,000	80%
Canal Network Connectivity	800,000	2,300,000	288%
Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub	2,208,051	467,527	21%
Rowley Regis Connected	564,580	11,263	2%
Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm	268,109	0	0%
TOTAL ROWLEY REGIS	4,670,440	3,438,791	74%

Canal Network Connectivity – works ongoing ahead of schedule. Phase 1 relating to has been completed and within budget. Phase 2 due to complete September 2023

Satellite Education Hub – Sandwell College submitted planning application in December 2022, however this was deferred at the May 23 Planning Committee due to numerous concerns around parking in the vicinity of the proposed site. The planning application will now be considered at Planning Committee on 28 June 23.

Rowley Regis Connectivity - works to progress in 23/24. Resource issues with regards to staffing therefore support from is being external consultants being considered.

Brittania Park – car park works are underway will be completed once the construction of the new changing rooms are complete, to minimise damage to the car park surface. Designs are underway for the new changing room and community hub. Designs for the allotments, park equipment, skatepark and MUGA are under review.

Blackheath Bus Interchange- awaiting final public consultation to be undertaken prior to presenting to Cabinet for approval. Project lead will be instructing consultants to undertake final costings and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) calculation.

WEST BROMWICH

Project	23/24 Proposed Payment	Rationale
Town Hall Quarter	Oct 23	Awaiting final costings for restoration works
Retail Diversification Project	Oct 23	Await Cabinet determination of land acquisition.
West Bromwich Connected	April 23	Payment received.

22/23 reported spend

Project	22/23 Payments	Total Spend including commitments	% spend
Digital Den	42,600	42,600	100%
Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre	2,700,000	2,700,000	100%
Urban Greening	772,000	766,025	99%
Town Hall Quarter	2,428,956	1,033,591	43%
Retail Diversification Project	9,740,986	5,720,882	59%
West Bromwich Connected	65,770	73,332	111%
TOTAL WEST BROMWICH	15,750,312	10,336,430	66%

Digital Den - financial drawdown complete, project now monitoring outputs and matchfunding. Training providers raised concerns of reduced funding to deliver training courses.

Sandwell Mechanical Engineering Centre – project spend now forecasted to be completed by August 2023. Project site visit planned in July 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. Awaiting final costs of Indoor Market from contractor.

Urban Greening – Phase 1 complete with Phase 2 on site

West Bromwich Connected – project on site and progressing with works as planned.