

Rowley Regis Town Deal Board August 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 April - June 2023.
- 1.2. For Board members to approve the change request submitted for Satellite Education Hub.
- 1.3. For Board members to approve any underspend (c150k) on Canal Connectivity Project to be utilised for works on Weights Bridge.

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. DLUHC return for year ending 22/23 was submitted on the 9th June and is currently being processed. Further progress meetings with DLUHC has taken place which has enabled the receipt of project payments for 23/24. Payments for Blackheath Bus Interchange will be held until BCR has been submitted.
- 2.4. Board members are invited to consider the detailed project updated as per Item 6 on the Agenda. Brief summary to date is as follows:
 - Actual spend to March 2023 was £2,729,926.62 including contractual commitments, resulting in carry forward of £1,940,513.88, a 41% underspend
 - Claims submitted in Quarter 1 total £275,615 with the financial year forecasted at £2,668,990 spend.

With the forecast spend the slippage will stand at 65%. This can be mitigated if projects enter into contracts by the end of the financial year

- **Satellite Education Hub** – Planning application approved which enables the project to progress. Land transaction underway. Change request submitted by Satellite Education Hub to replace 100 traineeships to 16-24yr old NEETS supported with 75% of learners progressing onto further education/employment.
- **Canal Network Connectivity** –the project is currently utilising other funding that is time limited before drawing down the remaining towns fund monies.
- **Blackheath Bus Interchange** – Final designs still being completed which will enable BCR to be submitted to DLUHC.
- **Rowley Regis Connected** – project works slipped to February 2024
- **Britannia Park Improvements** – Planning application submitted for the changing rooms with a determination expected early Sept 23. Procurement of play equipment and skatepark to complete October 23.

2.5 **Satellite Education Hub Change Request**

Members are invited to consider the change request attached for the Satellite Education Hub which is requesting the following:

1. To change the name to Cradley Heath – Skills Centre
2. To change 100 traineeships to 100 learners supported with 75% onto further progression (requires DLUHC approval)

2.6 **Canal Connectivity Change Request**

The project is forecasting underspend which has been achieved by enabling works straight after the DLUHC approval. This underspend is being proposed to be utilised on works on Weights bridge. This works was originally considered during Full Business Case stage, however, was not included due to funding concerns. The full costs is expected to be c£250k with underspend of c£100-£150k from Towns fund being utilised. The remaining balance will be funded by Canal River Trust/match.

Members are required to approve the utilisation of the underspend.

Appendices

- 6a Rowley Regis Town Deal Reporting April - June 2023 (to be emailed as private pack)
- 6b Satellite Hub Change Request
- 6c Canal River Trust report