

Smethwick Town Deal Board 15 November 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 to September 2023.

2. Background and Main Considerations

- 2.1. As West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Towns Fund Programmes are in Phase 3 – Delivery, monitoring is 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 their first Monitoring and Evaluation Report to DLUHC in December 2022, which reported on progress up until September 2022.
- 2.4. A second Monitoring and Evaluation Report was submitted to DLUHC in June 2023, which reported on the period October – March 2023. Following submission of returns, DLUHC can undertake Assurance reviews to undertake a deep dive of project progress.
- 2.5. The returns submitted to date have been approved by DLUHC following which payments for the financial year 23/24 have been released to the Sandwell Council.
- 2.6. The third Monitoring and Evaluation Report reporting on the period July – September 2023 will be submitted to DLUHC by their set deadline of 4 December 2023.
- 2.7. The quarterly project Monitoring and Evaluation Returns for April – June 2023 and July – September 2023 have been amalgamated to produce the required DLUHC format of reporting April – September 2023. Returns will be presented to Board Members, who are asked to consider the submission prior to submitting to DLUHC. A summary of the April – September 2023 return is as follows: -

- The overall Town spend for 2023/24 is forecasted to be in the sum of £3,699,104 resulting in a carry forward of £11,364,006 (57% slippage). This will be mitigated by the contractual commitments due to being place by March 24.
- A change request was submitted to the Town Deal Board and Accountable Body, relating to Midland Met Learning Campus. The request to reduce the overall sqm. of the building was approved via delegated authority as set out in the DLUHC Towns Fund PAR Guidance July 2023. The change request does not affect outputs and outcomes agreed with DLUHC.
- Where applicable, projects are required to forecast and monitor footfall over the lifetime of the programme.
- **Ron Davis Centre Expansion** – Issues relating to computer equipment has delayed the formal opening of the additional learning rooms. Other courses taking place includes English, Maths and Paediatric First Aid.
- **Midland Met Learning Campus** – Planning application has been approved. Awaiting WMCA match funding approval to enable contract start which is expected in Quarter 4.
- **Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration** – Contractor due to be on site subject to approval of Planning application.
- **Grove Lane Regeneration** – Preparation of legal proceedings underway
- **Smethwick Connected** – Consultation for Phase 4 has been complete. This was also considered by the SMBC Petitions committee and approved to proceed with works.

Appendices

Smethwick Town Deal Reporting April to September 2023

Source Documents

DLUHC Towns Fund PAR Guidance July 2023