

Rowley Regis Town Deal Board 22nd February 2024

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 October to December 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. Report on project performance are submitted to DLUHC on a bi-annual basis due every June and December. The last performance return was submitted on 16 December 2023 and is awaiting approval from DLUHC.
- 2.4. The latest quarterly returns from projects for the period of October 23- December 23, are currently being processed, a detailed report per projects is attached as Appendix A with a summary of project progress to date below:
- **Canal Network Connectivity** – project has been progressing ahead of schedule with the planned works. Works on Weights bridge will commence next financial year.
 - **Cradley Heath Skills Centre** – Delays have occurred due to unexpected staff resource issue which has now been resolved. Preliminary ground site investigations taking place to support the final cost plan. Signing of contract expected in April 24 with construction expected to start in May 24.
 - **Britannia Park Greenspace and Community Hub** – Changing rooms tenders returned are significantly higher than budget. Design review currently taking place. Playground equipment tenders received and approval

to enter into contract with preferred supplier is currently being requested. Allotment works started and due to complete March 24.

- **Blackheath Bus Interchange** – Design changes are challenging and require resolution prior to consultation taking place. Engagement with bus companies for their support is ongoing. Public consultation expected w/c 11th March 24.

Rowley Regis Connected – design works have taken longer than anticipated due to resources issues. A revised programme plan has been provided with expected costs being within budget. Consultation required prior to work due to start in April 24.

2.7 Project slippage and risks

To date, a total amount of £17.6m has been received from DLUHC for Rowley Regis Towns Fund programme. The Q2 return forecasted £3.94m spend by the end of March 2024. The Q3 latest return forecasts the spend at £3.48m which results in a slippage of 12% since last report. This is within the 40% threshold set by DLUHC who are regularly informed of the delays and the reasons for slippages where applicable. Ongoing review will continue to take place to ensure slippage does not increase above 40%.

The forecast for the next financial year is £7.3m, with the remaining amount of £8.2m forecasted for 25/26.

A summary of the cost pressures is presented as Appendix B. The red risks and mitigating actions reported from claims are also summarised in Appendix D.

Appendices

Appendix A Rowley Regis Town Deal Reporting October - December 2023 (Private Item)

Appendix B Budget and Cost pressures (Private Item)

Appendix C Programme Forecasted Spend (Private Item)

Appendix D Red risks reported (Private Item)