

# Smethwick Town Deal Board

## 7 May 2024

<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 2024 to March 2024.

### 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 approved by Cabinet 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 next performance return is due by 28 May 2024 reporting on spend and progress from 1 September 2023 to 31 March 2024.
- 2.4. The latest quarterly returns from projects for the period of January 2024 – March 2024, are currently being processed. A detailed report per projects is attached as Appendix A with a summary of project progress to date below:
  - **Ron Davis Centre Expansion** – Computer equipment has now been installed enabling full usage of the rooms. Other courses taking place includes English, Maths and Paediatric First Aid. First cohort of learners using the facility with the computers started in January 2024 with 101 learners enrolled.
  - **Midland Met Learning Campus** – Preliminary works continue to determine the final costs. WMCA match funding was approved on 18 March, works expected to start on site June 2024 following finalising cost plan and entering into contractor agreement.
  - **Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration** – Objections to project demolition works received following submission of planning application. Heritage impact assessment is being undertaken prior to planning application re-submission.

- **Grove Lane Regeneration** – Although Cabinet have approved to progress with Compulsory Purchase Order, contact will be made with the landowner to engage with them throughout the process.
- **Smethwick Connected** – Works on A457 Soho Way dual carriageway, Grove Lane and B41236 Cranford Street Works (Phase 4) started in February 2024 with a 4-month work plan expected. Canal and River Trust works to deliver phase 5 Grove Lane, National Cycle Network Route 5, Cape Arm Branch is near completion.

### 3. Project Slippage and Risks

- 3.1. The last return to DLUHC in December 2023 included a forecast spend for the year ending March 2024.

Spend forecast - last report to DLUHC	8,627,079
Actual Spend including contractual commitment	5,618,168
Slippage	34.8%
Forecast for 2024/25	15,596,025
Forecast for 2025/26	2,619,264

- 3.2. Following processing of recent claims, spend achieved by the end of March 2024 a slippage of 38% has occurred due to delays to project spend. When considering the contract already committed for Smethwick Connected, this slippage is reduced to 34.8%.
- 3.3. A slippage of more than 40% against previous forecast can trigger a performance audit review from DLUHC.
- 3.4. The forecast spend for 2024/25 is £15.59m, with the remaining amount of £2.6m forecasted for 2025/26. All Towns Fund programme grant must be spent and defrayed by March 2026.
- 3.5. The top 3 red risks reported by projects are submitted to DLUHC and are included in the private pack. An overall summary of Smethwick project risk is attached as a separate document as Appendix B

### Appendices

- Appendix A Smethwick Reporting January 24 – March 24 (Private Item)
- Appendix B Project overall Risk (Private item)