



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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***Ministry of Housing, Communities &
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David Stevens
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Dear David,

Towns Fund: Publication of Further Guidance

We contacted you in September to advise that Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich in your local authority area had been selected as one of 100 places for a Town Deal - part of the £3.6bn Towns Fund.

I am pleased to inform you that the **Towns Fund Further Guidance has now been published** on GOV.UK and is enclosed with this letter. This guidance will help to support both you and the Town Deal Board in continuing to develop proposals for the Town Investment Plan.

I am also **writing to ask the Town Deal Board to confirm** within four weeks, whether the Board will be submitting your Town Investment Plan by our first deadline of 31st July 2020, or later.

Further Guidance

The Further Guidance details what we expect to see in your Town Investment Plans, which will act as the basis for agreeing investment from the Towns Fund. It includes key information about interventions in scope, the roles of different stakeholders throughout the process and the path towards implementation of town deals.

Towns will be supported throughout these processes by the Towns Hub, which consists of the central towns team within the Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) in MHCLG, colleagues in CLGU's regional teams, and the Towns Fund Delivery Partnership led by Arup.

Your named lead from the Towns Hub will be your first point of contact. They will continue to provide support throughout the development of your Town Investment Plan and beyond.

Deadline for submitting Town Investment Plans

We recognise that some places have well developed partnerships and proposals. We expect to work with those towns to agree a Town Deal more quickly. We also recognise that some places may face particular challenges, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and may need some time to develop quality proposals.

We require all Investment Plans to be submitted by 31st March 2021. The first deadline is 31 July 2020 and we would be grateful if you could confirm within four weeks whether the Town Deal Board intend to submit by then. This will allow us to help you by having the relevant arrangements in place.

Please provide returns within four weeks of the publication of this guidance.

Key milestones

- Confirm to MHCLG whether you will be submitting in the first cohort within four weeks of the publication of the further guidance
- 31st July 2020 – First cohort of Town Deal Boards to have submitted a Town Investment Plan to MHCLG
- October 2020- Second cohort of Town Investment Plans submitted
- Early 2021 – Final cohort of Town Investment Plans submitted

We look forward to working with you in the next phase of Town Deals.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Dibden