

## Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard West Bromwich Connected Full Business Case

**10 March 2022**

<b>Subject:</b>	West Bromwich Connected Full Business Case
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jenna Langford, Regeneration Manager town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To present the Full Business Case for the West Bromwich Connected project including an equality impact assessment, environmental impact assessment and monitoring and evaluation plan.

### 2. Background and Main Considerations

- 2.1. On 3 March 2021, Heads of Terms for a Town Deal for West Bromwich were offered by Government. This included an offer of an overall funding package of £25m. The Heads of Terms offer is subject to the appraisal and approval of a Full Business Case for each project and the submission of a Summary Document (one per project) by March 2022.
- 2.2. The Town Deal for West Bromwich was signed on 24 March 2021.
- 2.3. Details of the projects put forward for West Bromwich Town Deal were re-confirmed with Government in the form of a Project Confirmation Table. These were considered by Superboard on 17 May and submitted following approval from the Council's S151 Officer.

### 3. Full Business Case Contents

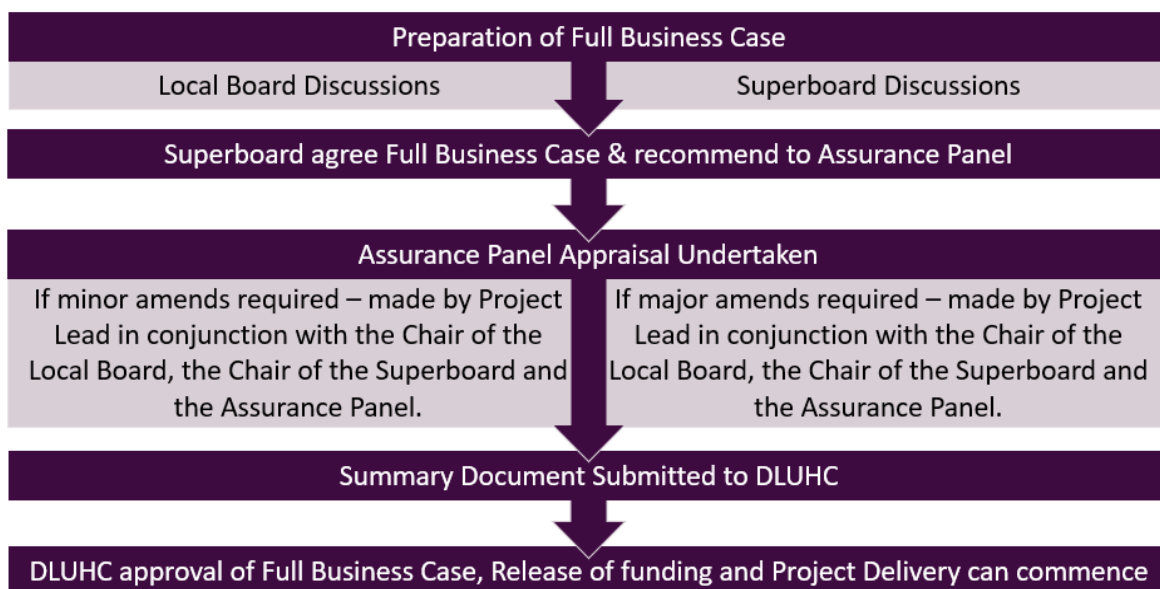
- 3.1. The Towns Fund Business Case Guidance, December 2020, outlined that Towns Fund Full Business Cases should be compliant with the HMT Treasury Green Book (2020). This sets out that Full Business Cases should address five cases; Strategic Case, Economic Case, Commercial Case, Financial Case and Management Case.



- 3.2. Preparing a project business case using the five-case model provides decision makers and stakeholders with a proven framework for structured thinking and assurance that the project: Provides strategic fit and is supported by a compelling case for change, will maximise public value, is commercially viable, is affordable and is funded and can be delivered successfully by the organisation and its partners
- 3.3. Sandwell's Towns Fund Full Business Cases have been prepared according to this model.
- 3.4. Following Cabinet approval on 24 November 2021, an Assurance Panel has been established comprising the Town Deal Board Chair, Director of Regeneration and Growth, Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, to appraise Full Business Cases.

**4. Submission of Project Summary Documents to DLUHC**

- 4.1. Once a Full Business Case has been approved by the Assurance Panel, a Summary Document will be prepared and submitted to DLUHC for review before funding is released. At which point Terms and Conditions of the grant will be provided.
- 4.2. The Summary Document contains an overview of each Business Case, how it has been appraised, and confirmation that key conditions from the Heads of Terms have been addressed (where applicable).
- 4.3. The Chair of the Superboard and Sandwell Council's S151 Officer will be a signatory on the Summary Document.
- 4.4. An outline of the process for approval of a project Full Business Case is as follows:



## 5. West Bromwich Connected Business Case Summary

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Sandwell Council
<b>Towns Fund Ask</b>	£1.1m
<b>Match Funding</b>	Nil
<b>Total Project Value</b>	£1.1m
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>The West Bromwich Connected project aims to encourage a greater proportion of trips to be undertaken by non-car modes and achieve an uplift in the number of people using active travel modes within West Bromwich but also the wider borough and region to assist in reducing congestion, poor air quality, and other health inequalities.</p> <p>The project is organised into phases: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WMLCWIP Cycle Link:</b> Improvements to National Cycle Route 5 - linking Parkway to Europa Avenue &amp; West Bromwich Town Centre</li> <li>• <b>Inner Ring Road pedestrian link:</b> Create a pedestrian link from Sandwell College to the junction of Bull St/High St to link into the Town Centre</li> <li>• <b>SCWIP Cycle Route 1:</b> Cycle route linking Birmingham Canal to West Bromwich Town Centre via Spon Lane.</li> <li>• <b>SCWIP Cycle Route 14:</b> Create a cycle route from Hill Top to Walsall Canal &amp; Eagle Lane via Havills Hawthorn &amp; Bagnall Street.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Start Date</b>	April 2021
<b>Project End Date</b>	March 2026
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 new and upgraded cycle or walking paths</li> <li>• Delivery of new public spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of average cycling trips and 50% of average walking trips in the area will use the new infrastructure</li> <li>• Increase the number of daily cycling trips 257 to 636</li> <li>• Walking interventions will increase the number of trips 1,372 per day to 2,332 per day</li> </ul>
<b>BCR Calculation</b>	The Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) calculation for this project is 2.41. The Green Book advises that a BCR of above 2.0 is high Value for Money (VfM), meaning this scheme offers high value for money.
<b>Key Risks</b>	<p>The main risks have been identified for the project and are being proactively managed through regular risk review and escalation, as required. The main risks are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays due to Covid-19</li> <li>• Objections to detailed designs</li> <li>• Delays due to unforeseen ground conditions</li> <li>• Delays/ slippages as a result of approvals and DLUHC approvals</li> </ul>



<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>An equality impact assessment has been conducted and is appended. Overall, it is considered that the improvements will have a positive impact on local protected groups / users of West Bromwich.</p> <p>However, there are some potential negative impacts that will require some focus as the project progresses. It is recommended that an engagement exercise is undertaken with residential / business / user groups within the local communities around West Bromwich to understand how the potential improvements could impact them during the detailed design phase/ approach to delivery.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	<p>An Environmental Impact Screening has been undertaken and is appended. The screening has identified that Schedule 1 and 2 of the EIA regulations do not apply to this project and therefore a full assessment is not required.</p>
<b>Project Adjustment Form Required</b>	<p>Project Adjustment Form required. Details of changes outlined below.</p>

## 6. West Bromwich Connected Project Adjustment

- 6.1. Any project changes within the Towns Fund need to be formally submitted to DLUHC as a project adjustment request, following discussion with Sandwell's allocated Towns Fund Area Lead. Changes are recorded via a Project Adjustment Form outlining the changes made, rationale and detail of consultation to communicate changes.
- 6.2. **Revised Financial Profile (Delivery Period):** Following Full Business Case Development, changes to the financial profile have taken place to ensure funding is drawn down from Government in line with the project delivery plan. To confirm, the project total remains as £1.1m across financial years of 2021/22 – 2025/26.
- 6.3. **Revised Project End Date:** At Outline Business Case Stage, the initial project end date was marked March 2025, however following Full Business Case Development the project team requested that the project end date is amended to March 2026. This is to ensure the project is deliverable within the timescales reported back to Government and allow contingency for any delays as a result of unforeseen ground conditions.

### Appendices

West Bromwich Connected Full Business Case document including:

- Equality Impact Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Consultation and Engagement Plan
- Risk Register
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan



## Source Documents

- West Bromwich Connected Project Confirmation Table
- West Bromwich Town Deal Heads of Terms
- MHCLG Business Case Guidance, December 2020
- MHCLG Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance, April 2022

