

Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard Smethwick Connected Full Business Case

10 March 2022

Subject:	Smethwick Connected Full Business Case
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1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Background and Main Considerations

- 2.1. On 3 March 2021, Heads of Terms for a Town Deal for Smethwick were offered by Government. This included an offer of an overall funding package of £23.5m Towns Fund offer. 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 24 March 2022.
- 2.2. The Town Deal for Smethwick was signed on 24 March 2021.
- 2.3. Details of the projects put forward for Smethwick 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

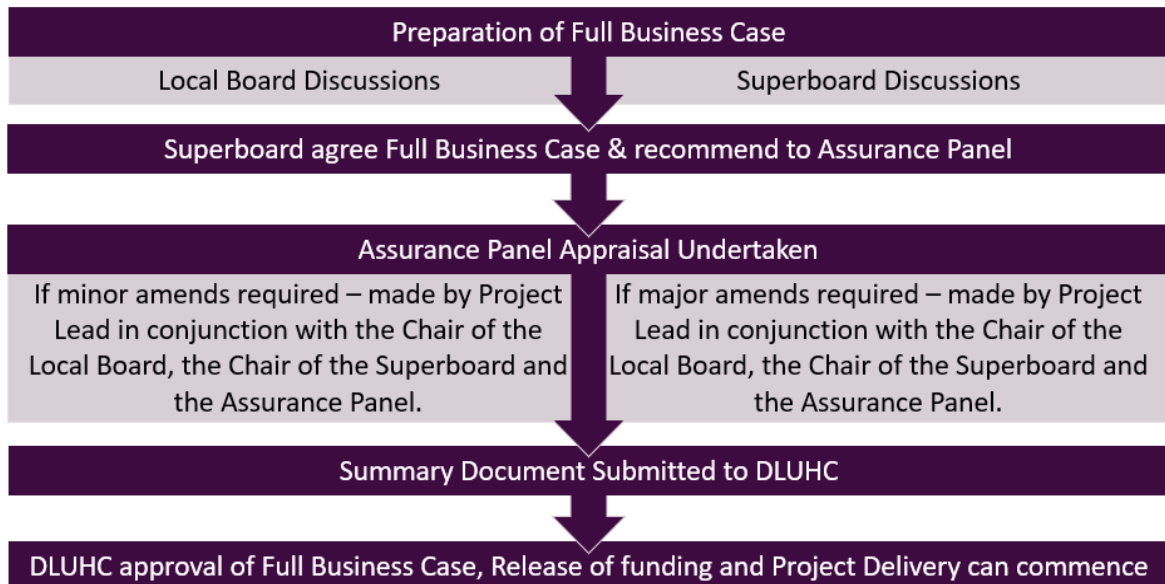


case for change, will maximise public value, is commercially viable, is affordable and is funded and can be delivered successfully by the organisation and its partners

- 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. Smethwick Connected Full Business Case Summary

Lead Organisation	Sandwell Council
Towns Fund Ask	£3.872m
Match Funding	£ -
Total Project Value	£3.872m
Project Description	<p>The Smethwick Connected project will create cycle and pedestrian links from two railway stations to the town centre and local hospital and aims to achieve uplift in the number of people using active travel modes within Smethwick, the wider borough and region to assist in reducing congestion, poor air quality and other health inequalities.</p> <p>The location of interventions includes Smethwick High Street, A457 Transport Corridor including Oldbury Road, Tollhouse Way, Soho Way, Grove Lane and B41236 Cranford Street situated within the St Pauls, Smethwick and Soho and Victoria Wards.</p>
Project Start Date	April 2021
Project End Date	March 2025
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 new and upgraded cycle or walking paths
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of new public spaces • 50% of average cycling trips and 50% of average walking trips in the area will use the new infrastructure • Increase the number of daily cycling trips from 76 to 118 • Walking interventions will increase the number of trips from 150 per day to 2,200 per day
BCR Calculation	The Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) calculation for this project is 2.92, meaning this scheme offers high value for money.
Key Risks	<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"> • Delays due to Covid-19 • Objections to detailed designs • Delays due to unforeseen ground conditions • Delays/ slippages as a result of approvals and DLUHC approvals
Equality Impact Assessment	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. However, some groups may experience negative impacts from the development of this project during the construction period. A review of the Equality Impact Assessment will take place following detailed design of each phase.
Environmental Impact Assessment	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.
Project Adjustment Form Required	Not required.



Appendices

Smethwick Connected Full Business Case document including:

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

Source Documents

- Smethwick Connected Project Confirmation Table
- Smethwick Town Deal Heads of Terms
- MHCLG Business Case Guidance, December 2020
- MHCLG Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance, April 2021

