

Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard Rowley Regis Connected Full Business Case

10 March 2022

Subject:	Rowley Regis Connected Full Business Case
Contact Officer:	Jenna Langford, Regeneration Manager town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To present the Full Business Case for the Rowley Regis Rowley Regis 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 Rowley Regis were offered by Government. This included an offer of an overall funding package of £19m. 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 Rowley Regis was signed on 24 March 2021.
- 2.3. Details of the projects put forward for the Rowley Regis 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.

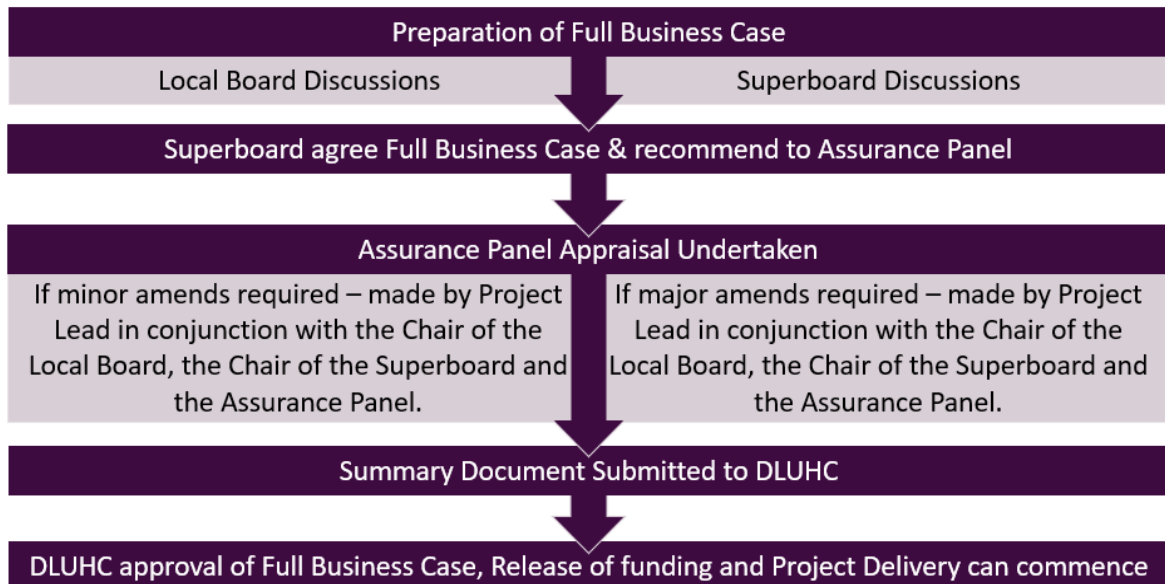
4. Submission of Project Summary Documents to DLUHC

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. Rowley Regis Connected Full Business Case Summary

Lead Organisation	Sandwell Council
Towns Fund Ask	£1.5m
Match Funding	Nil
Total Project Value	£1.5m
Project Description	<p>The Rowley Regis Connected project will generate a multi phased set of multi-modal infrastructure improvements to link transport (rail, bus) and employment hubs in Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Oldbury.</p> <p>The project will deliver new pedestrian and cycle routes including segregated cycle routes, resurface and widen footpaths, upgrade crossing facilities, introduce traffic calming, upgrade lighting, improve signage and road markings.</p>
Project Start Date	April 2021
Project End Date	March 2025
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 New and upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure • New or upgraded road infrastructure • New or upgraded cycle or walking paths • Commuter flows
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of place improved by residents/ businesses/ visitors • Number of visitors to arts, cultural and heritage events and venues
BCR Calculation	The Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) calculation for this project is 2.4, 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	<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.</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>



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

Rowley Regis Connected Full Business Case document including:

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

Source Documents

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

