

## Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard 3 May 2022

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Towns Fund Programme Governance Structure</b>
<b>Presenter:</b>	Rina Rahim, SMBC Towns Fund Programme Manager
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Rina Rahim, Towns Fund Programme Manager Emma Parkes, Towns Fund Programme Officer

### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1. To agree the governance structure for Phase 3 (Delivery) of the Towns Fund Programme as part of the consultation process ahead of Cabinet's consideration.

### 2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1. To outline the background and main considerations to a review of the governance arrangements for Phase 3 – Delivery of the Towns Fund Programme.

### 3. Background and Main Considerations

- 3.1. Governance arrangements for the Towns Fund Programme were approved by Cabinet in July 2020. To co-ordinate the three Towns Deals in Sandwell, an overarching Towns Fund Superboard was established with three Town-level Local Boards established as working groups of the Superboard. These arrangements reflected the requirements of the first Phase of the Towns Fund Programme (development of the Town Investment Plans), and DLUHC Towns Fund Guidance, June 2020.
- 3.2. With the signing of the Heads Terms in March 2021, the Towns Fund Programme entered Phase 2 (Full Business Case Development). Towns had 12 months to develop projects to Full Business Case stage and make preparations for their delivery, submitting Project Summary Documents to DLUHC by 24 March 2022.
- 3.3. Following receipt of additional guidance from DLUHC in December 2020 and April 2021, Governance Arrangements were updated to reflect the roles of the Superboard and Local Boards over Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the programme. These arrangements were approved by Cabinet in June 2021.



- 3.4. By 24 March 2022, The Towns Fund Programme had successfully submitted all Project Summary Documents to DLUHC. As a result, the Towns Fund Programme has now entered Phase 3 (Delivery).
- 3.5. Whilst awaiting project approvals from DLUHC, it provides opportunity to review the existing governance arrangements for both the Accountable Body, Superboard and Local Boards ensuring they are fit for purpose to deliver the Town Fund Programme successfully. This would also allow updating the Terms of Reference to ensure that matters relating to membership and decision making are noted.
- 3.6. The current governance structure would require programme reporting to be presented to the three Local Boards for review, prior to presenting to the Superboard. As the focus now shifts to delivery phase, alternative governance structures which would best serve the efficient reporting throughout the delivery phase should be considered.
- 3.7. The Superboard operating at a strategic level and overseeing the work of the 3 Local Boards has generally worked well but it is recognised that it needs to be updated to now meet the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Revision of the governance structure would also allow opportunity to refresh the membership of the Boards and update the Terms of Reference accordingly.
- 3.8. Governance options considered as part of this review and consultation are: -
- Local Boards inherit Superboard responsibilities and as a result Superboard structure is no longer required
  - Amalgamate the three Local Boards to the Superboard
  - All three Local Boards merge to one Towns Delivery Board and make recommendations to the Superboard
  - Continue current structure with Local Boards meeting quarterly alongside Superboard
- 3.9. As part of the consultation around these options, Superboard and Local Board Members received a briefing note on 21 April 2022 outlining the context and proposed Governance Arrangements as outlined above. Feedback from Board Members will be presented during the Superboard meeting held 3 May 2022.
- 3.10. Agreed changes to governance structure will be presented to SMBC Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for approval prior to taking effect.

## Appendices

Sandwell Towns Fund Programme Draft Terms of Reference

## Source

DLUHC Towns Fund Guidance (Stage 2 Business Case Guidance, December 2020)  
Towns Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance, April 2021)

