

EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	Corby Town Fund
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Lead Member	Councillor Steven North – Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration
Consultees	Organisations with an economic development focus and/or interest in North Northamptonshire

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Forward Plan Reference (if yes to Key Decision)	
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To consider the revised Corby Town Deal Board (the Board) membership and to approve Head of Terms set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in connection with Corby's Towns Fund.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 North Northamptonshire Council has been successfully awarded £19.9m for four projects detailed within Corby's Town Investment Plan in connection to the Town Fund. Following this decision, MHCLG has offered Heads of Terms in connection with this funding.
- 2.2 The deadline for all parties to agree and sign these Heads of Terms is 29th June 2021 to allow progression to the next stage of the process.

- 2.3 Following on from local government reorganisation and the creation of North Northamptonshire Council and the local government elections that took place in May this year, there is a need to review the Board membership to take account of these changes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Confirm the continuation of the Corby Town Deal Board which was established by Corby Borough Council
- b) Agree membership of the Town Deal Board Members as detailed in section 5.

Delegate authority to the Leader and Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place and Economy to approve and sign Heads of Terms in connection with Corby's Town Fund from MHCLG.

- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations: -

- To ensure that NNC is appropriately represented on the Board.
- The options proposed align with MHCLG's guidance on the Town Fund should Members wish to proceed.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 In September 2019, the MHCLG announced 101 towns who were eligible to bid for up to £25m through the Towns Fund. The objective of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of our towns for long-term economic and productivity growth. This two-stage process was approved by Corby Borough Council's (CBC) One Corby Policy Committee in December 2019 (stage 1) and in January 2021 (stage 2) to:

1. Establish a Town Investment Plan for Corby - by the formation of the Town Deal Board and to produce a Town Investment Plan (TIP).
2. Use the TIP to bid for Town Deal funding – bid for £25m for the four projects selected by the Town Deal Board.

- 4.2 This was delivered by working in partnership with key stakeholders in Corby, including the community and local businesses, through the Corby Town Deal Board. This comprised of the members listed in section 5.

- 4.3 All the projects within the TIP have been identified through wide-ranging consultation and engagement, and through collaboration with key partners who can help deliver change.

- 4.4 Corby's TIP was submitted to MHCLG within the deadline set by government at the end of January 2021.

- 4.5 On the 8th June 2021 government confirmed that the Corby Town Deal had been successful in securing £19.9m.

5. Issues and Choices

Town Deal Board

- 5.1 In January 2020, Corby Borough Council established a Town Deal Board in line with the government's Towns Fund guidance. Terms of Reference were agreed by the Board in January 2020.. The principal purpose of the Board was to act in an advisory capacity to Corby Borough Council in producing Corby's Town Investment Plan and informing a business case for a Town Deal to Government.
- 5.2 In June 2020, the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government (on behalf of Government) issued "Town Funds Guidance". This set out key information about roles of different stakeholders and showed the path towards implementation of Town Deals. Guidance was included about the governance requirements that were applicable to the Board. In particular, the Town Board is required to align with the governance standards and policies of the Council.
- 5.3 The Local Government (Structural Changes)(Transitional Arrangements)(No 2) Regulations 2008, provides continuity provisions as part of local government reorganisation which allows the Board to continue following Vesting Day. It is prudent however for North Northamptonshire Council to confirm that the Board is established and review membership.
- 5.4 As noted earlier in the report, Terms of Reference were agreed by the Board when it was established but following the creation of North Northamptonshire Council, these will be reviewed to ensure that they meet Government Guidance and that they reflect the new Council as the lead authority. In addition, in accordance with the Guidance, the Council will ensure that members of the Board are advised of any revised governance standards of the Council.
- 5.4 The current Town Deal Board membership reflects Government Guidance and those stakeholders that must be members of the Board. It also includes additional members who will be key to the Boards success. Current membership is as follows:

Chair – Lorna Dodge representative of Love Corby (Business Group in Corby)
Deputy Chair - Tom Beattie former Leader at Corby Borough Council

Members of the Board

- Jean Addison - former Deputy Leader Corby Borough Council (now opposition Leader)
- Tom Pursglove – Member of Parliament for Corby
- Georgina Agar - Vice Principle at Tresham College
- Simon Phipps - Senior Leasing, Development & Asset Manager for Sovereign Centros (acting on behalf of the Town Centre Management)

- Lyn Buckingham - Chair of Central Neighbourhood Association (now ward councillor for the Lloyds estate)
- Owen Davison - Chair of Rural Area Forum
- Hilary Chipping - Chief Executive at SEMLEP
- Rachel Grey - Police Sergeant at Northamptonshire Police
- Ian Achurch - former Head of Economy & Strategy at Northamptonshire County Council (now Head of Economy & Strategy NNC)
- Dan Pickard - representative of the Corby Business Group
- Paul Ilko - Works Engineer at TATA Steel
- Kyra Joy - Tresham College Student Apprenticeship Ambassador
- Helen Wilmot - Programme Director for Made with Many
- Nick Bolton - Co-Founder of Electric Corby
- Paul Thompson - Employment and Skills Manager SEMLEP
- Jessica Daldas - Senior Partnership and Business Development Manager Holmes England
- Cath Conroy - Regional Programme Manager One Public Estate

Following local government elections for North Northamptonshire in May 2021, the membership of the Board needs to be updated.

It is a requirement that all tiers of Local Government are represented on the Board and therefore, a member of Corby Town Council shall need to be appointed and should be nominated by them.

The Terms of Reference state that a member of the lead authority and a member of Northamptonshire County Council shall be members of the Board. As North Northamptonshire Council has replaced both Corby Borough Council and the County Council, it is proposed that two members of North Northamptonshire Council are appointed as members of the Board. It is suggested that these are the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Economy. They will replace previous appointed members.

- 5.5 In addition, it proposed that the Chief Executive and Assistant Director for Growth and Regeneration also join the Board. Ian Achurch (Head of Economy & Strategy) would step down.

Head of Terms

- 5.6 The next stage of the process is to consider the Heads of Terms sent by MHCLG and if meeting the Council's approval to sign agreement of them. The deadline for this is 29th June 2021. This will be delegated to the Leader and Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place and Economy. Once approved by Members, the Heads of Terms will be sent to the Town Deal Board for their comment and agreement. These will be agreed by the Chair of the Board.
- 5.7 The next steps subsequent to Heads of Terms being agreed will be to finalise the projects moving forward within the financial envelope of £19.9m. This will be presented to the Town Deal Board for their input, with the Council having the final decision as to the projects going forward. This process is anticipated to take two months to complete and present to central government. Further reports will be brought back to the Executive as the work progresses.

- 5.8 Once the projects are confirmed, full Business Case development for each project is required, which entails full business case analysis based on the Green Book appraisal method set by government.
- 5.9 The Green Book is guidance issued by HM Treasury on how to appraise policies, programmes and projects. Compliant business cases will require clear and robust evidence of how each proposed investment has been fully option assessed and will deliver quantifiable and measurable economic, social and environmental benefits. Therefore there is significant business case development to be undertaken in demonstrating these requirements following the '5 Cases' within the Green Book format, setting out the strategic, economic, financial, commercial and management justification for public investment. This could take up to 12 months to be completed, although shovel-ready projects can be expedited, such as the Sixth Form Centre and Connected Corby.
- 5.10 Projects have 5 years thereafter to be completed and all funds including match funding need to be spent.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.2 On the 8th June 2021 government confirmed that the Corby Town Deal had been successful in securing £19.9m.
- 6.3 Corby TIP proposed a range of projects as part of its submission to government.

These included:

- Developing the Sixth Form Centre at Chisholm House
- Delivering Market Walk East
- Implementing the Corby Town Centre to Station Link (via Oakley Road)
- Delivering a Smart and Connected Corby

The Board will now need to prioritise these projects within the funding envelope being offered following the process outlined in 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8 above.

Further reports will be brought back to the Executive as this is progressed.

6.4 Legal

The subsequent Heads of Terms will through grant agreement, contractually oblige the Council and partners to deliver projects in Corby. Legal advice will be sought on the content.

6.5 Risk

- 6.6 Failure to meet project deadlines, missing out on potential funding opportunities, in particular supporting Corby's growth ambitions. This will be mitigated via external project support.

6.7 Overspend on projects, mitigated via contingency amounts built into the Towns Fund costings and programme delivery structure as detailed in the TIP.

6.8 Full business case analysis may prove projects are not financially viable. This has been mitigated by carrying out initial feasibility studies on the projects and working with partners on delivery options.

6.9 Consultation

6.9.1 The Town Fund involved a range of engagement with Corby residents through various platforms from the dedicated website to telephone market research. Engagement was ongoing with various stakeholders in the form of the Town Deal Board Members, Business and Community Groups. All of which were gathered solely for the Town Fund and to align with the engagement required by MHCLG's guidance. Consultation was also sought with MHCLG including the Town Fund Delivery partners (consultants set by central government to advise) at key stages.

6.10 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.10.1 As the project and work progresses there will be opportunities for scrutiny to look at and scrutinise this important regeneration project for Corby.

6.11 Climate Impact

6.11.1 All projects will seek to have minimal climate/environmental impact.

- The sixth form college will strive to change the carbon footprint of this building from a typical unused older building to a carbon neutral/negative run property.
- Oakley Road to the town centre project will change this road from a car orientated road to an area which is pedestrian and cyclist friendly and therefore promotes sustainable forms of transport.
- Multi-use building is in the early stages but will also strive to achieve as high a standard of energy efficiency / low carbon footprint as possible such as the college project.
- Connected Corby will give invaluable data on traffic, cyclist use and pedestrian use. This information will help to inform future decisions on our road infrastructure to encourage sustainable travel.

6.12 Community Impact

7. In the projects selected for the TIP, the council has prioritised the interventions which will potentially drive the sustainable economic regeneration of the area for long-term economic and productivity growth which meets local need, have local support, and aligns with the criteria set out in the Town Fund guidance.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Towns Fund Prospectus <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-prospectus>

8.2 Towns Fund Further Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance>