

Cabinet – 9 December 2020

Towns Fund Acceleration Programme Update and submission of Town Investment Plans to Government.

Portfolio: Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader and Regeneration.

Related portfolios: Councillor Mike Bird, Leader of the Council.

Service: Economy, Environment and Communities

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

To update Cabinet on the successful Towns Fund Acceleration programme submission to government, and to ensure that the necessary delegated authorities are in place to achieve the successful submission of the Town Investment Plans (TIPs) for both Bloxwich and Walsall on or before the end of January 2021.

2. Summary

- 2.1 On the 9 September, Cabinet approved the submission of bids for both Bloxwich and Walsall Towns Fund Acceleration Programmes to government, requesting the full amounts available for each area at £750,000, totalling £1.5million as set out in attachment 1.
- 2.2 On the 25 September, government approved our submission for both bids, granting the full £750,000 for each area, on condition that funding is spent within this 2020/21 financial year, on the projects as submitted and approved by our section 151 officer.
- 2.3 To ensure that we prepare and submit the required Town Investment Plans (TIPs) to government for both Bloxwich and Walsall, this report seeks approval for the necessary delegations to officers in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder, to achieve this on or before the deadline of the end of January 2021. Together with a proposal for recovering all costs incurred by Walsall Council as part of its development and delivery.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the success in gaining full approval of £750,000 for both Bloxwich and Walsall Towns Fund Acceleration programmes as set out in attachment 1, and grants approval to begin work as soon as possible to meet government funding requirements.
- 3.2 To ensure the submission of the Town Investment Plans for both Bloxwich and Walsall on or before the end of January; that Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for the Economy, Environment & Communities in consultation with the Deputy Leader & Regeneration Portfolio holder, to agree the final contents of these Town Investment Plans, and to make their submission.
- 3.3 To ensure that all costs incurred by the council are recovered, that all development, consultancy and on-going management and evaluation costs are calculated and included within the individual project submissions, as part of the Town Investment Plan submissions to government.

4. Report detail – know

- 4.1 In June 2020, the Prime Minister announced £5bn of Accelerated Town Funds capital funding to bring forward investment projects that supported jobs and economic recovery, complementing the main programmes under development. As part of this announcement, £750,000 was offered to support projects within each of the Bloxwich and Walsall Towns Fund areas, as set out within attachment 2.
- 4.2 The government encouraged projects that supported towns to respond to challenges, including;
 - Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
 - Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
 - Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit
- 4.3 On the 9 September 2020, Cabinet approved the submission of projects that fulfil the requirements of the Towns Fund that are capable of spending the £1.5m before the 31.03.2021. The projects, set out in attachment 1 received full approval from government on the 25 September 2020, on condition that funding is spent within this 2020/21 financial year. Council officers are now working to ensure delivery, so that all funding allocated is fully utilised.
- 4.4 In September 2019, the government launched the Towns Fund programme, inviting around a 100 places to develop their proposals, up to £25million, for each identified (by government) place. In June 2020, the government released further detailed guidance on the Towns Fund, setting out the process and the next steps, including the introduction of the Town Deal, being an agreement in principle between government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board, confirmed in a Heads of Terms document. This will set out a vision and strategy for the towns, together with what each party agrees to do to achieve this vision.

- 4.5 Government is restricting projects to being capital in nature, with the ability to request up to a maximum of 10% as revenue, but this will attract additional scrutiny. Projects submitted must contribute towards the Towns Fund intervention framework, summarised in the table below.

Table 4.5.1 Towns Fund intervention framework headlines

Intervention Theme	Outputs	Target Outcomes
Local transport	Increase in the number of bus services; new or upgraded cycle and walking routes; new or upgraded road infrastructure; pedestrianised streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved affordability, convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options to and from places of work • Improved affordability, convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options to and from places of interest (especially shops and amenities). • Reduced congestion within the town • Enhanced high street and town centre experience that prioritises the health, safety and mobility of pedestrians
Digital connectivity	Provision of full fibre infrastructure with local authority as anchor tenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased utilisation of digital channels, by businesses, to access and/or supply goods and services • Increased ability for individuals to work remotely/flexibly • Encouraging further investment from network operators
Urban regeneration, planning and land use	Remediation and/or development of previously abandoned or dilapidated sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced townscape that is more attractive and more accessible to residents, businesses and visitors
Arts, culture and heritage	New or upgraded museums, theatres, community spaces, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved arts, cultural and heritage offer that is more visible and easier for residents/visitors to access
Skills infrastructure	Increase in the capacity and accessibility to new or improved skills facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased share of young people and adults who have relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship
Enterprise infrastructure	Increase in the amount of high-quality and affordable commercial floorspace; increase in the number of shared workspaces or innovation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of enterprises utilising high-quality, affordable and sustainable commercial spaces • Increased number of start-ups and/or scale-ups utilising business incubation, acceleration and co-working spaces.

Context

- 4.6 The Towns Fund includes both the Acceleration and the significantly larger Main programmes, are central to the government's ambition to level up the country – creating jobs and building stronger and more resilient local economies and communities.
- 4.7 Government has made three cohorts available to receive these plans, being October, December 2020 and January 2021. Officers, specialists, community organisations and business are now working up the projects that will be included, and is on track to submit both the Bloxwich and Walsall TIPs in January 2021.

- 4.8 On the 9th September 2020, Cabinet approved the formation of the Town Deal Board to represent both Bloxwich and Walsall areas, supported by an Advisory Board for each area. These boards play a key role in co-ordination and development of projects that will be included within the Town Investment Plans (TIPs) and involves representatives from a wide range of private, public and voluntary sector bodies in line with government guidance.
- 4.9 Walsall Council together with the Town Deal Boards are responsible for developing the Town Investment Plans that set out a clear vision and strategy for the town and are used as the basis for agreeing the Town Deal (see section 4.4), including the specific projects that will be funded and the agreement in principle/Heads of Terms.
- 4.10 Council Officers together with appointed consultants have begun drafting the Town Investment Plans (TIPs) for both Bloxwich and Walsall areas. Plans are broken down into key sections including Introduction, Context, Strategy and Engagement & Delivery. Typically, this includes a Vision for each area, details of Stakeholder Engagement undertaken, together with details of the Projects proposed, the Funding Requested, Delivery / Funding Plans and the Outcomes Expected.
- 4.11 Project development started earlier in the year and is progressing well for each Towns Fund area, together with the TIP contents. However, this work will not be complete for consideration at this Cabinet meeting (9 December 2020), and with the next scheduled Cabinet meeting being the 10 February, this is after the submission deadline set by government at the end of January 2021.
- 4.12 The key themes emerging under which projects are developing includes;

For Bloxwich Town Deal area;

- Improving active connectivity to Town Centres and Employment Locations
- Estate Regeneration
- Developing Active and Carbon Neutral Business Parks / Locations
- Multi Agency Incubation space & Digital Access within the Town
- Bringing Heritage / Derelict Buildings back into use
- Community Capital Small Grants Programme
- Skills & Construction Training / Supply Chain Development

For Walsall Town Deal area;

- Improving active connectivity to Town Centres and Employment Locations
- Walsall Canal Basin Improvement Programme
- St Mathews Quarter Innovation Hub
- Walsall Combined Education & Performance Hub
- Advanced Vehicle Technology Centre Expansion
- Community Capital Small Grants Programme
- Community Based Education & Training Centre
- Skills & Construction Training / Supply Chain Development

- 4.13 In view of the need to finalise and submit the TIPs, it is requested that Cabinet therefore delegate's authority to the Executive Director for the Economy, Environment & Communities in consultation with the Deputy Leader & Regeneration Portfolio holder to; agree the final contents of these Town Deal Investment Plans, and to make their submission before the end of January 2021 deadline.

Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.14 The Towns Fund will contribute towards, the following Corporate Plan Priorities;

Outcomes Measure E1 - An infrastructure and business environment that supports job creation and accessibility throughout Walsall, supporting company expansion, relocation and competitiveness through sustainable job creation.

Outcomes Measure E2 - Residents are supported to possess the skills required to enter into and progress in work, through the delivery of the Walsall Inclusive Economic Growth Programme.

Outcomes Measure E3 - Our town and district centres offer a distinctive and vibrant mix of retail, leisure, business, community and cultural opportunities, and new housing.

Outcome Measure Co1 - Enable access and use of green spaces to improve health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

Risk management

- 4.15 The key risk for the acceleration programme is a failure to deliver the programmes and to spend all of the £1.5million as agreed with government before the 31 March 2021, resulting in a loss of income and reputation with government. To mitigate this, the list of projects submitted has been on the basis that they can all spend their allocations before the deadline.
- 4.16 To ensure that we maintain progress, programme management techniques, together with the use of contracted providers from existing frameworks and through appropriate tendering and contracting are being applied to ensure value for money and timely delivery.
- 4.17 The key risk for the main programme is a failure to submit the Towns Fund Investment Plans (TIPs) before the January 2021 deadline. To ensure that we maintain progress, council officers working together with appointed consultants are actively developing the contents of the TIPs against a project plan. Assisted by the Town Deal Advisory Boards for both Bloxwich and Walsall, together with the Town Deal Board, who are actively engaged in and assist with the development of projects.

Financial implications

- 4.18 The Towns Fund is a capital grant, whereas some of the initial project costs are to support development works. Therefore, there is a risk of these costs not being eligible capital spend if the work does not result in an asset. However, the Programme Management service manages the same risks in other programmes, this risk is considered low, as all development work and subsequent expenditure will focus on projects to be submitted as part of the Bloxwich and Walsall Town Investment Plans, utilising the £25million available for each area.
- 4.19 Once the TIPs are approved, there is a period of up to 12 months available for the development of all full business cases for each individual project. Development work required prior to and involved in the development of these business cases will be recorded and the costs built into the final Towns Fund submissions for each project, so that these costs can be capitalised and hence recovered
- 4.20 Business case submissions will also include as capitalised expenditure, all anticipated development, programme management and accountable body costs required to deliver a successful programme. It is therefore anticipated that there will be no net costs falling onto the Council for the successful development, management and implementation of the Town Deal Programmes.

Legal Implications

- 4.21 Once the progression of the projects moves to the need to procure services or utilise frameworks etc. officers from within the legal services team will be consulted / involved as appropriate in the conversation, negotiations, tendering and the contracting arrangements etc.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

- 4.22 Once the progression of the projects moves to the need to procure services or utilise frameworks etc. officers from within the procurement team will be consulted / involved as appropriate in the consultations, negotiations, tendering and the contracting arrangements etc.

Property Implications

- 4.23 None at the time of drafting

Health and Wellbeing implications

- 4.24 Project officers have and will continue to work with colleagues from within Public Health in the development of projects and programmes that have or will form part of both the Acceleration and main Towns Fund programmes. Including the development of parks and open spaces, walking and cycling routes, community safety measures and projects that support residents to enter training and employment opportunities, contributing towards their health and wellbeing. Part of this work includes the use of the Public Health England; Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) included as Attachment 3, to review and assess the options to improve health outcomes through the Towns Fund programme.

Staffing implications

- 4.25 Existing staff will be utilised initially and where additional needs are identified and staff are required to be recruited, these will be costed into and funded through the Towns Fund programme on the appropriate contracts.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.26 The Towns Fund programme aims to underpin the success of the chosen towns and their eligible surrounding areas (appendix 2), with activities proposed including projects that will enhance the support provided for local people who are disadvantaged in terms of their skills and ability to compete and enter the labour market. Projects and programmes under development will include enhanced opportunities for training and support for local people, together with support in the creation of new businesses and self-employment opportunities.

Consultation

- 4.27 By utilising social media, and through meetings, briefings and open meetings / workshops the appointed consultants have collected a range of views, thoughts and suggestions from our communities and businesses, which have been taken into account in the development of the proposed projects.
- 4.28 Through the formation of the Town Deal Board and the supporting Advisory Boards, local stakeholders are coming together to represent their areas, key sectors and local employers; each contributing towards the active development of projects.

5.0 Decide

- 5.1 The decision to develop and submit the Town Investment Plans (TIPs) was a direct response to the Government's offer to take up the £25million available for each of the Bloxwich and Walsall Towns and eligible areas.
- 5.2 To ensure that the TIPs are developed and submitted on time, before the end of January 2021, Cabinet is also requested to approve appropriate delegations to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, as set out within the recommendations.
- 5.3 To ensure that Walsall Council can recover all costs incurred in the programme development, and subsequent delivery, management and evaluation, its proposed to build these costs into individual projects, as an additional percentage, that form the programme submissions for both Bloxwich and Walsall.

6.0 Respond

- 6.1 Council officers are now working to ensure the successful delivery in full of the Towns Fund Acceleration Programme to utilise in full the £1.5million approved as set out within appendix 1 on or before the 31 March 2021.
- 6.2 Following approval by Cabinet in September 2020, formal Town Deal Board, and Advisory Boards for both Bloxwich and Walsall Town Deal areas are now taking place, complimented by publication of the associated governance arrangements and papers on the council's web platform.
- 6.3 Costs associated with the development, management and the delivery of the Towns Fund programme are being calculated by staff and will be included as part of the TIP submissions and subsequent Business Plans, so that all costs can be capitalised and recovered throughout the life of the programme.

7.0 Review

- 7.1 Progress is reviewed on a weekly basis against individual project plans to ensure continued progress towards achieving government requirements of spending the Accelerator Programme funding on or before the 31 March 2021. Lessons learnt and any good practice developed, will be captured and shared so that officers and indeed the council can benefit.
- 7.2 Officers are working together with appointed consultants to a time bound programme to ensure the development of key projects that can be included within the Town Investment Plans (TIPs) for submission on or before the end of January 2021.

Background papers

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Towns Fund Guidance (June 2020).

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Bloxwich & Walsall Accelerator Programme Submission to Government.

Attachment 2 – Bloxwich & Walsall Towns Fund area Map's (as set by Government).

Attachment 3 - The Public Health England; Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT).

Author

Mark Lavender

18.11.20 @ 17:00

Head of Programme Management

☎ 07951 620333

✉ mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk



Simon Neilson
Executive Director
Economy, Environment and Communities

20 November 2020



Councillor Andrew
Deputy Leader and Regeneration.

1 December 2020

**Attachment 1 – Bloxwich & Walsall Towns Fund Accelerator Programme
Submissions to Government**

Attachment 1: BLOXWICH - Acceleration Fund Projects

18.11.20 @ 17:00

Intervention	C/R	Description	Early Interventions Alignment/Potential	Intervention Framework Area	Cost	Recommendation
Sustainable Transport Interventions The planning and design of transport interventions, linking local people with jobs and training opportunities.	C	Bloxwich-wide plan developed for interventions which can be delivered in a phased way to transform access to jobs and training, provides clear target for future investment and early outputs to influence Town Fund submission. With a focus on high unemployment and low skills areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parks/greenspace ✓ Sustainable transport links ✓ Improvements to town centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local transport ✓ Urban regeneration ✓ Skills infrastructure ✓ Enterprise infrastructure 	Budget £75k	Provides a framework for future investment in Bloxwich. Revenue activity that can be capitalised.
Bloxwich Town Area Environmental Improvements A kick start package of Improvements to public realm and environments to encourage people into the Bloxwich Town area.	C	Physical improvements to promote a feeling of well being and safety, promoting footfall that connects people to jobs, training and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustainable transport links ✓ Improvements to town centres ✓ Improved perceptions of the place by residents, businesses and visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local transport ✓ Arts/Culture/Heritage ✓ Skills infrastructure ✓ Enterprise infrastructure 	Budget £85k	Progress as capital ask, confidence in delivery, aligned to framework and addresses issues identified through partners.
Improved Community Safety Upgraded / additional CCTV in Bloxwich Town Centre, identified local shopping areas and business parks.	C	Improvements to CCTV in shopping areas Bloxwich Town and local community shopping and Business Park areas. To support a feeling of wellbeing and community safety within and around key economic centres. To encourage trade, investment and footfall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improvements to town and local centres ✓ Improved perceptions of the place by residents, businesses and visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Urban regeneration ✓ Enterprise infrastructure 	Budget £250	Progress as capital ask, as well aligned with guidance and supports community desire for improved safety.

Attachment 1: BLOXWICH (continued) - Acceleration Fund Projects

18.11.20 @ 17:00

Intervention	C/ R	Description	Early Interventions Alignment/Potential	Intervention Framework Area	Cost	Recommendation
Park & Green Spaces Improvements Variety of rapid interventions in parks and greenspaces, enhancing the environment and outdoor sports facilities.	C	Schedule of interventions in parks and green spaces across Bloxwich to improve quality of spaces and enhanced sports facilities, to promote health and wellbeing for residents and the workforce.	✓ Parks/greenspace ✓ Improvements to town and local centres ✓ Upgraded community spaces / assets linked to inclusive growth.	✓ Urban regeneration ✓ Arts/Culture/Heritage	Budget £100k	Progress as capital ask, as well aligned with guidance and supports community desire for investment in green spaces.
Improving Transport access Across Bloxwich. Transport control improvements to Bloxwich High Street to improve traffic flow and safety.	C	Improved traffic flow in Bloxwich, including journey time, traffic flow rates and energy efficiency improvements to traffic lights to improve the experience for visitors to the Town Centre, for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.	✓ Sustainable transport links ✓ Improvements to town and local centres	✓ Local transport ✓ Urban regeneration	£240k	Progress as capital ask, as well aligned with guidance, aligns with transport plans and supports community desire for improvements to Bloxwich High Street.
				TOTAL	£750K	

Attachment 1: WALSALL - Acceleration Fund Projects

18.11.20 @ 17:00

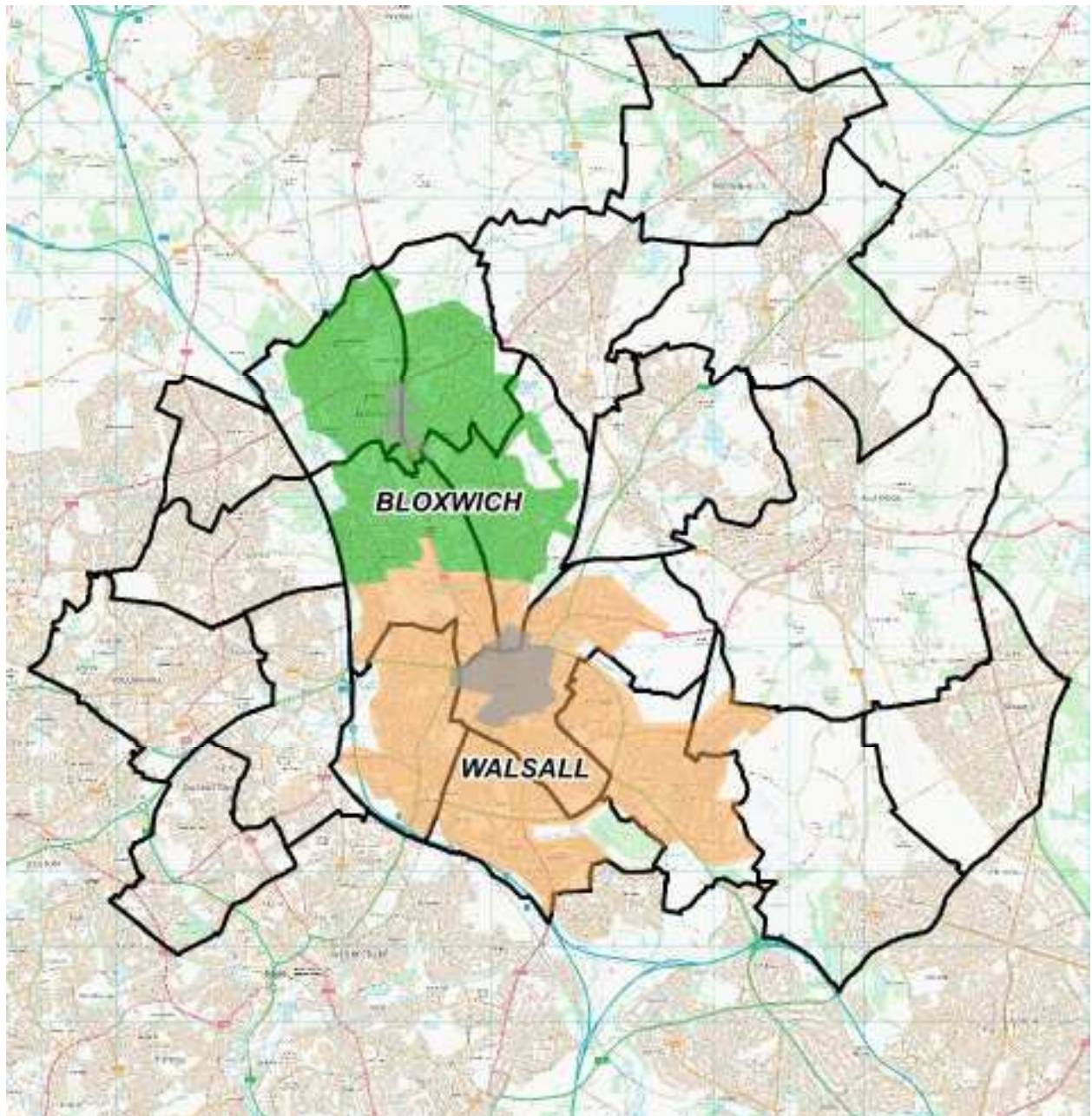
Intervention	C/R	Description	Early Interventions Alignment/Potential	Intervention Framework Area	Cost	Recommendation
Improving the Economy of the Walsall Town area. By Identifying areas for improvement to encourage use by the public and businesses, to increase footfall, trade and investment.	C	Building on the work of the Walsall Town Centre masterplan, the development of a Walsall Town Area Plan to enhance our public realm. To include; wayfinding, public art, lighting, seating, planting etc. This work will inform the development of the Walsall area Town Deal Bid.	✓ Parks/greenspace ✓ Improvements to town and local centres	✓ Local transport ✓ Urban regeneration ✓ Arts/Culture/Heritage	Budget £75k	Provides details and a framework for consistency for future investment in Walsall. Revenue activity that can be capitalised.
Walsall Town Area Environmental Improvements A kick start package of Improvements to public realm and environments to encourage people into the Walsall Town area.	C	Building from the work in the masterplan, to design and deliver a range of improvements to the environment that promotes a feeling of well being and safety, increasing footfall that connects people to jobs, training and businesses; and promotes economic growth.	✓ Parks/greenspace ✓ Sustainable transport links ✓ Improvements to town and local centres ✓ Improved perceptions of the place by residents, businesses and visitors.	✓ Local transport ✓ Digital connectivity ✓ Urban regeneration ✓ Arts/Culture/Heritage	Budget £325k	Progress as capital ask, as well aligned with guidance, supports community desires for town, delivers on masterplan ambitions etc
Park & Green Spaces Improvements Variety of rapid interventions in parks and greenspaces, enhancing the environment and outdoor sports facilities.	C	Schedule of interventions in local community parks and green spaces across Walsall Town area; to improve quality of spaces and enhanced outdoor sports facilities, promoting health and wellbeing for residents and the workforce.	✓ Parks/greenspace ✓ Improvements to town and local centres ✓ Upgraded community spaces / assets linked to inclusive growth.	✓ Urban regeneration ✓ Arts/Culture/Heritage	Budget £100k	Progress as capital ask, as well aligned with guidance and supports community desire for investment in green spaces.

Attachment 1: WALSALL (continued) - Acceleration Fund Projects

18.11.20 @ 17:00

Intervention	C/ R	Description	Early Interventions Alignment/Potential	Intervention Framework Area	Cost	Recommendation
Improved Community Safety Upgraded / additional CCTV in Walsall Town Centre, identified local shopping areas and business parks.	C	Improvements to CCTV in shopping areas Walsall Town and local community shopping and Business Park areas. To support a feeling of wellbeing and community safety within and around key economic centres. To encourage trade, investment and footfall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improvements to town and local centres ✓ Improved perceptions of the place by residents, businesses and visitors. 	✓ Urban regeneration	Budget £250k	Progress as capital ask, as well aligned with guidance and supports community desire for improved safety.
				TOTAL	£750k	

Attachment 2 – Bloxwich & Walsall Towns Fund Areas (set by government)



Attachment 3 - The Public Health England; Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT)

Programme or project being assessed:	Towns Fund Programme	
Date completed:	November 2020	
Contact person:	Mark Lavender	
Name of strategic leader:	Simon Neilson	
Question	Issues to consider	Response
1. What health inequalities (HI) exist in relation to your work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore existing data sources (see resources section – not exhaustive) on the distribution of health across different population groups • Consider protected characteristics and different dimensions of HI e.g. socioeconomic status or geographic deprivation 	<p>Data from Walsall Intelligence, the Public Health England on-line platform PHE fingertips Walsall, and analysis for the Walsall Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2018) illustrate health inequalities that exist. Walsall health outcomes are characterised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower life expectancy in comparison to the UK average and with our statistical neighbours (The life expectancy for men is 77.2, compared to a West Midlands average of 78.8 and an England average of 79.5; for women in Walsall the life expectancy is 82, compared to a West Midlands average of 82.7, and an England average of 83.1) • Life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Walsall was 10.6 years (male) and 10.4 years (female) less than the least deprived areas • East/ West divide in terms of health outcomes <p>The areas in the Bloxwich and Town Centre footprint are</p>

		<p>within the West of Walsall and represent some of the most deprived wards in the Town.</p> <p>The Bloxwich footprint is within the North locality and as the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High proportion of socially rented properties (37.8%) • Above average proportion of lone parent families and people living alone • High dependency of benefits – particularly ill health related benefits (ESA and incapacity benefit) • Adult basic skills are lower than the Walsall average and the national average • 1 in 3 working age residents have no formal qualification • Neighbourhoods suffer from severe multiple deprivation • The population is characterised as Families with needs (14.55%); low income workers (12.66%) and Budget Generation (10.5%) (Mosaic Public Sector, 2017) • Above average NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) rate for Walsall. It was between 47 -176, with a Walsall average of 40 • High crime rate – which is mainly linked to violence and theft <p>Further information can be found at:https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk/home/profiles/locality-</p>
--	--	---

		<p>profiles/</p> <p>The Town Centre is within the South locality and is characterised by: Large BAME population. 55.5% of the population are BAME which is double the bough average of 24.1%. Asians comprise the largest minority group at 42.2% Contains some of the most deprived areas of Walsall – Butts, Arboretum, Alumwell South, Caldmore East and Walsall Town Centre. High proportion of claims for ill-health related benefit/ unfit to work (DWP, Working Age Client Group, 2016) Over 1 in 5 working age residents have no formal qualifications</p> <p>Further information can be found at: https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk/home/profiles/locality-profiles/</p>
<p>2. How might your work affect HI (positively or negatively)?</p> <p>How might your work address the needs of different groups that share protected characteristics?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the causes of these inequalities. What are the wider determinants? • Think about whether outcomes vary across groups, and who benefits most and least • Consider what the unintended consequences of your work might be 	<p>Based on the Public Health model of health inequality and the Marmot Review (2020) the following factors are considered to be contributing factors to health inequality in the identified areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High levels of multiple deprivation, • Long-term unemployment, particularly in relation to ill-health / unfit to work • Low level of educational attainment, particularly high level of residents without any formal qualifications • Housing, high percentage of residents living in social housing • Health behaviours, the areas have a particularly high

		<p>level of adult and childhood obesity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of protected characteristics, the areas have youthful populations which increased the likelihood of youth unemployment in these areas and adolescent related health concerns (such as teenage pregnancy); large BAME population; high rate of ill-health, disability and /or long-term health conditions. • Other characteristics which whilst not protected are considered to increase the risk of poor health outcomes are also concentrated in these areas, particularly lone parents and carers <p>The intention is to prioritise funding proposal in line with the national guidance that also address the vision of the areas – in terms of job creation, community engagement and sustainability. The intention is that funding will create training opportunities for young people, enable access to emerging employment opportunities and create a positive environment (via the development of transport infrastructure and green spaces) to enable resident to thrive</p>
	a) Protected characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAME • Young people • NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Disabled / long term health conditions • Lone Parents – which are predominately women • Elderly – in terms of addressing social isolation

	b) Socio-economic status or geographic deprivation	<p>The project should specifically support those experiencing long-term unemployment and/or newly entering the labour market to gain relevant skills to access developing opportunities within the locality and wider Black Country.</p> <p>Town Deal funding is ring-fenced to the Walsall and Bloxwich eligible areas (please refer to map in Appendix 2).</p>
	c) Specific socially excluded or vulnerable groups e.g. people experiencing homelessness, prison leavers, young people leaving care	<p>The funding is geographically based and cover all of the population in targeted wards, however the funding proposals being considered will specifically address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term unemployed • Low-income families • Adults of working age with no formal qualifications BAME communities; • Young people – particularly those classed as NEET • Homeless; • People lacking a social network.
3. What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific actions will you take to address health inequalities and the needs of groups/communities with protected characteristics? • Is there anything that can be done to shift your work 'upstream' to make it more likely to reduce health inequalities? 	<p>In the development and implementation of the main programme, health and wellbeing outcomes and impact will be considered as part of the development process of appropriate Towns Fund project in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017- 2020) priorities</p>

<p>4. How will you monitor and evaluate the effect of your work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What quantitative and/or qualitative evaluation will be established to check you have achieved the actions you set? • What output or process measures will you use? 	<p>Town Fund projects will be monitored by the Programme Management Team within Walsall Council this will include the collection of evidence of outcomes and outputs.</p> <p>Further clarification needed on the evaluation of the programme, and funding availability from government.</p>
<p>5. Review (To be completed 6 to 12 months after first completion)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider lessons learnt – what will you do differently? Identify actions and changes to your programme to drive improvement 	<p>N/A</p>

