



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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**Date:** 14/10/2020

**To Councillor Mordue, Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development**

### **REPORT TITLE**

**Town Deals Accelerated Grant Fund – Rule 15 Report**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Cllr Bill Mordue	Town Stainforth and Barnby Dun	Yes

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report seeks approval to receive £1,500,000 Town Deals accelerated grant capital funds, using these monies to fund identified schemes. On 30th June 2020, the Prime Minister announced that central government was bringing forward £5bn of capital investment projects, supporting jobs and the economic recovery. In recognition of the importance of the Towns Fund and the pressing need in the towns that have been selected to benefit, government brought forward funding to this financial year to support projects that will make an immediate impact in towns. The Government subsequently invited Doncaster Council to submit bids to secure additional capital funding. MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) informed the Chief Executive of Doncaster Council on the 25th September 2020 that both submissions (Doncaster and Stainforth) had been successful.

### **EXEMPT REPORT**

2. This is not an exempt report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. Portfolio holder to approve:-
  - acceptance of the accelerated grant funds (£1,000,000 for Doncaster Town Deal boundary area and £500,000 for Stainforth Town Deal boundary area) and use the funding for projects identified.
  - addition and approval of the schemes to the 2020/21 Economy & Environment capital programme within the allocated resources.

## **REASON FOR URGENCY**

4. It has not been possible to provide the full 28 days notice on this decision, due to the timescales to between notification of the successful bid (25<sup>th</sup> September) and the deadline for completion of schemes identified to be provisioned via the funding (31<sup>st</sup> March 2021). The timescales are ambitious and expedience is key. If the urgency provisions for decision making were not applied, there is a risk that the schemes could not be delivered in the timescales.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

5. The Town Fund Accelerated Grant schemes focus on supporting existing and planned investment within identified 'Areas for Change', delivering a number of key complementary, visible investments in key zones to support larger regeneration projects that have been, or are due to be, delivered. They aim to both offer direct benefits and join up existing investment, to avoid gaps in the offer, streetscape and quality of environment by delivering changes that may otherwise be challenging to fund. Key benefits for the citizens of Doncaster include:
  - 5.1 Improved arts, cultural and heritage offer that is more visible and easier for residents/visitors to access
  - 5.2 Enhanced townscape that is more attractive and more accessible to residents, businesses and visitors
  - 5.3 Enhanced high street and town centre experience that prioritises the health, safety and mobility of pedestrians
  - 5.4 Improved convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options to and from places of work/interest

## **BACKGROUND**

6. On 30th June 2020, the Prime Minister announced that central government was bringing forward £5bn of capital investment projects, supporting jobs and the economic recovery. In recognition of the importance of the Towns Fund and the pressing need in the towns that have been selected to benefit, government brought forward funding to this financial year to support projects that will make an immediate impact in towns. The Government subsequently invited Doncaster Council to submit bids to secure additional capital funding - £1,000,000 for the Doncaster Town Deal

area and £500,000 for Stainforth. The grant had to be used to fund capital projects that could be delivered within this financial year. This grant will be used to support capital spend within the intervention framework as set out in the Towns Fund Further Guidance.

7. Government particularly encouraged the submission of projects that will support towns in responding to immediate challenges, including:
  - 7.1 Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
  - 7.2 Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
  - 7.3 Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit
8. A draft list of projects considered deliverable within the timescales was developed for consideration following consultation with the Major Projects Team, Street Scene/Green Space, Public Health and Assets services. The proposals were reviewed and approved by Doncaster and Stainforth Town Deal Boards (reviewing the appropriate proposals for their boundary area), relevant council officers, members and the Mayor. Doncaster Council submitted bids in writing to MHCLG on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020. MHCLG informed the Chief Executive of Doncaster Council on the 25th September 2020 that both submissions (Doncaster and Stainforth) had been successful. The submitted prospectus and detailed proposals are provided within Appendix A to this report.
9. The schemes submitted were:
  - 9.1 Doncaster Town Deal Area
    - 9.1.1 **Regent Square** - Installing new bus shelters with Real Time Information and upgrading/potential widening of paving
    - 9.1.2 **Regent Square** - entrance enhancements, including standardised bins and benches and restore/reposition the Town Lion statue
    - 9.1.3 **Printing Office Street** – installation of a Mining Statue
    - 9.1.4 **Hall Gate/Civic Quarter** - Upgrades to the paving, lighting and installing of CCTV in Alleyway between Hall Gate and Civic Quarter
    - 9.1.5 **Civic Quarter** - Install bollards at new museum/library build and move Chequer Road central reservation
    - 9.1.6 **Elmfield Park** - Restoring and improving the Elmfield Park Rose Garden and tennis courts and enhancing the gateway entrance
  - 9.2 Stainforth Town Deal Area
    - 9.2.1 **Stainforth Miners Welfare** – Enhancements, including new fencing, separate area for dog walkers, relocation of the play area and the installation of adult fitness equipment
    - 9.2.2 **Kings Park Public Open Space** – Enhancements, including a toddler play area, higher age group equipment, improved landscaping and fencing around the site
    - 9.2.3 **Stainforth Community Centre** – Ceiling improvements (including energy efficiency), electrical works, lighting and internal improvements to support community activity including a new sound system

10. As a term of the grant, the schemes identified in the bids submitted to MHCLG need to be completed prior to 31st March 2021. This was a key consideration when identifying the schemes. As the granular refinement of these schemes is conducted, some deliverables may be amended. Any amendments to the proposals will be reviewed by relevant officers, members and the Town Deal boards, prior to notification to MHCLG.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

11. During the evaluation period, a range of schemes were identified and analysed. Key considerations were deliverability within the time period, cost, alignment with the Towns Fund intervention framework and how these schemes complimented existing and planned programmes of work in the boundary areas. As a result of this process, a number of schemes were not included in the final submissions to MHCLG.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

12. The recommended schemes are recommended due to their deliverability in the timeframes. Cost, their alignment with the Towns Fund intervention framework and how the support 'joining-up' other planned development programmes.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

13.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li><li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li><li>• Inward Investment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installing new bus shelters with Real Time Information and upgrading/potential widening of paving outside Regent Square will improve convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options to and from places of work/interest.</li><li>•</li></ul>
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li><li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li><li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li><li>• Everyone takes responsibility for</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 'Rich Seam' project will see the installation of a new Mining Statue in Doncaster Town Centre recognising the area's strong mining heritage and key role as a major employer and industry across the borough</li><li>• The alleyway between Hall Gate and the CCQ is a well-used</li></ul>

	<p>keeping Doncaster Clean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	<p>pedestrian route and link between the new Hall Gate Quality Streets area and key buildings in the Civic and Cultural Quarter. Upgrades to the paving, lighting and installing of CCTV will enhance the town centre experience and prioritise the health, safety and mobility of pedestrians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install bollards at new museum/library build and move Chequer Road central reservation to enhance new museum and library development and pedestrian access/safety</li> <li>• Upgrades, conservation and restoration works to Regent Square and entrance enhancements, including standardised bins and benches and restore/reposition the Town Lion statue will Improve arts, cultural and heritage offer that is more visible and easier for residents/visitors to access</li> <li>• Restoring and improving the Elmfield Park Rose Garden and tennis courts and enhancing the gateway entrance will improve the arts, cultural and heritage offer – making it more visible and easier for residents/visitors to access.</li> <li>• Enhancements to the Stainforth Miners Welfare Ground will Improve the arts, cultural and heritage offer, making it more visible and easier for</li> </ul>
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		<p>residents/visitors to access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancements to the Kings Park Public Open Space at Stainforth would support Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Improvements to the Stainforth Community Resource Centre would support building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting</li> </ul>	

	community assets and strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	
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## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

14. A key risk of this recommendation is the timescales for completion, as a primary grant condition is that identified schemes must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This will be mitigated by timely securing of permission to receive and spend this funding and robust project management of the schemes. The schemes were selected due to their ability to be completed in the timeframes.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PC Date 29.09.20.]**

15. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do.
16. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to purchase goods and services.
17. In the event that the council needs to procure works or services from third party providers, this must be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, where applicable, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the terms and conditions of grant with MHCLG.
18. Legal Services should be consulted at the earliest opportunity to review the Grant Agreement from MHCLG and to ensure that any obligations and in particular clawback provisions are transferred down to any third party providers carrying out works or services.
19. Further bespoke legal advice will be required as the project develops, particularly in relation to property matters and to the governance arrangements of the overall delivery arrangements. Those conversations will need to occur immediately.
20. This decision is being taken in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rule 15, General Exception. The Council was informed on the 25th September 2020, that both submissions (Doncaster and Stainforth) had been successful. To ensure the schemes identified in the bids are completed prior to 31st March 2021, there is a need to ensure this decision is taken quickly. It is not therefore practical to provide the usual 28 days notice prior to the decision being taken. The Chair and Members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee have been informed of the reason for urgency.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials MS Date 1 October 2020]**

21. This report is seeking approval to accept £1.5m grant awarded to Doncaster Council as per Financial Procedure Rule (FPR) E9 which states that grant acceptance is subject to key decision rules.
22. In year additions to the capital programme require approval of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) as per FPR B.9. Following CFO agreement and before any commitment to spend, a project specific report in line with key decision rules, is required to approve the capital project for inclusion in the capital programme. As per the capital strategy and capital budget report this bid has been reviewed and scrutinised by the Capital and Major Projects board to ensure the business case is robust and the scheme fits into the council's priorities.
23. MHCLG require the grant to be spent in the 2020/21 financial year. It is assumed that should this not happen the funding will have to be repaid to MHCLG. The service will need to ensure that timescales are managed in accordance with the grant conditions in order to avoid the council incurring costs that they are unable to claim for. The terms and conditions provided by MHCLG so far are not detailed; if further details follow when the grant is paid further advice should be sought from Financial Management staff.
24. The schemes will be added to the 2020/21 Economy & Environment capital programme with budgets totalling £1.5m.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...KG Date 29.09.20.]**

25. There are no immediate HR implications in relation to the recommended decision. Further HR advice should be sought regarding any HR implications arising from the identified projects

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW... Date 28/09/20]**

26. There are no anticipated technology implications in relation to this report.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials.....CT.....Date ...29.9.20.....]**

27. Public Health supports the proposed works to be completed this financial year. Improvements that provide residents with good experiences of the Town Centre and Stainforth are beneficial to health and wellbeing. The proposals offer improvements to increase the feelings of safety whilst moving about the areas whilst we know access to good quality green space benefits both physical health and mental wellbeing. The installation of the mining statue and other art, cultural and heritage improvements has the potential to enhance inclusion at the individual, community, and societal levels.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...NA..... Date...01/10/2020.]**



28. There are no anticipated equality implications in relation to this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

29. Consultation on identification of the projects described in the grant submission was undertaken with colleagues from Major Projects Team, Street Scene/Green Space, Public Health and Assets services. Furthermore, consultation was undertaken with both the Doncaster and Stainforth Town Deal board members on the identification and recommendation of these projects. The findings of the Doncaster Talks consultation piece was also taken into account when identifying the recommended projects. The Council's Chief Financial Officer was consulted on the bid for funding. The Capital and Major Projects Board have been consulted on the acceptance of the bid.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

30. 'Towns Fund Prospectus', dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-prospectus>)

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

MHCLG – Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

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