

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
REPORT TO**

Cabinet
17 March 2021

Report Title: Kidsgrove Town Deal

Submitted by: Executive Director Commercial Development and Economic Growth

Portfolios: Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Newchapel & Mow Cop, Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe, Talke & Butt Lane, Bradwell

Purpose of the Report

To update Cabinet on the award of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan by MHCLG and to consider the next steps in its delivery.

Recommendation

That:

1. That Cabinet accepts the award of £16.9m for the Kidsgrove Town Deal Investment Plan submitted in October 2020, as announced on the 3rd March 2021 – Offer Letter attached.
2. That Officers are authorised to continue working with the Town Deal Board and other organisations as necessary to progress development and delivery of projects in the Kidsgrove Town Deal Investment Plan in line with the timescales set out within the award criteria and within the allotted funds.
3. That the multi-disciplinary officer group established to support delivery of the Advance Town Deal Projects continues this role to support delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan.
4. That the Executive Director Commercial Development and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships are authorised to pursue delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan.

Reasons

To enhance the economic, social and community wellbeing of the Kidsgrove Town Deal area.

To deliver on the Kidsgrove Town Centre objective in the Growth Deal for Newcastle-under-Lyme 2019 – 2023.

To pursue Council Plan Objective Four - A Town Centre for All, as it relates to Kidsgrove.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 As previously noted by Cabinet in September 2019 the government invited 100 places to develop proposals for a Town Deal as a part of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund. Within the Borough both Newcastle and Kidsgrove were invited to participate in this valuable opportunity to drive significant investment into the Borough. This report focuses on the Kidsgrove element of that work.
- 1.2 The work to establish a Town Deal Board for Kidsgrove and to establish robust and sustainable projects to deliver change to the area has been ongoing since that time and culminated in the submission of a Town Deal Fund application in October 2020
- 1.3 MHCLG have now confirmed that this application has been successful and has awarded the Kidsgrove Town Board £16.9m. See Appendix One for Award Letter.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 In line with the award the following projects have been supported and will be worked up into full business cases for submission to MHCLG for the final release of funds over the next twelve months to enable physical works to begin as soon as possible:-
 - Objective 1: To drive growth and opportunity through enhanced enterprise infrastructure in Kidsgrove
 - i. Investment in enabling works at Chatterley Valley to release a significant employment site.
 - ii. Investment in enterprise units.
 - To create a connected, accessible town centre which links key assets, retains the heritage and uniqueness of Kidsgrove and delivers and drives new demand and footfall.
 - i. Upgrade facilities at Kidsgrove station to complement improvements funded the Access for All programme.
 - ii. Canal enhancements to create a safe attractive canal corridor
 - iii. Shared service hub & housing investment, to bring together services that are currently dispersed through the town into a one stop shop.
 - To maximise the leisure and recreation opportunities available in Kidsgrove, providing facilities that are supported by communities and opportunities for residents to improve their health and wellbeing.
 - i. Kidsgrove Sports Centre
 - ii. Park Improvements
- 2.2 The Council has also applied for £100,000 from MHCLG for additional support for the dedicated staff resource to develop the business cases for each scheme and to work up the necessary financial appraisals to satisfy the final fund release criteria, within the next twelve months. The award of this is yet to be announced.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That Cabinet formally accepts the award of £16.9m for the Kidsgrove Town Deal Investment Plan.

- 3.2 That Officers are authorised to continue working with the Town Deal Board and other organisations as necessary to progress development and delivery of projects in the Kidsgrove Town Deal Investment Plan.
- 3.3 That the multi-disciplinary officer group established to support delivery of the Advance Town Deal Projects continues this role to support delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan.
- 3.4 That the Executive Director Commercial Development and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder Corporate and Service Improvement. People and Partnerships are authorised to pursue delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 Delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan is a significant opportunity to attract Government funding to the Kidsgrove Town Deal area to support its economic, social and community wellbeing.
- 4.2 To deliver on the Kidsgrove Town Centre priority of the Growth Deal for Newcastle-under-Lyme 2019 – 2023.
- 4.3 To maintain momentum of delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 The Council is not obliged to accept the Kidsgrove Town Investment award but its delivery is in line with Council Plan Objective four A Town Centre for All and the priorities of the Growth Deal for Newcastle-under-Lyme 2019 – 2023.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 As Accountable Body for the Kidsgrove Town Deal the Council has a number of obligations, including to ensure that decisions made by the Town Deal Board are in accordance with good governance principles and to support delivery arrangements for the Town Deal. This includes:
 - Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (The Nolan Principles);
 - Developing a delivery team, delivery arrangements and agreements;
 - Ensuring that decisions are made by the Board in accordance with good governance principles;
 - Ensuring transparency requirements are met through publication of information on the Council's website or on a Town Deal specific website;
 - Developing agreed projects in detail and undertaking any necessary feasibility studies;
 - Undertaking any required Environmental Impact Assessments or Public Sector Equalities Duties
 - Helping develop detailed business cases;
 - Liaising with potential private investors in identified local projects and schemes;
 - Signing the Heads of Terms Agreement with Government;
 - Monitoring and evaluating the delivery of individual Town Fund projects;
 - Submitting regular monitoring reports to the Towns Hub;
 - Receiving and accounting for the Town's funding allocation.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 The nature of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan is intended to seek benefits for all residents of the Kidsgrove Town Deal area. Individual projects will require Equality Impact Assessments as their business case development is done.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 The Council was allocated £162,019 development funding to support development of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan.
- 8.2 In delivering the Town Deal the Council will be expected to manage the grant payments as needed. Subject to all projects being successful this equates to £16.9m over 6 years from 2020/21.
- 8.3 The Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan includes a revenue element for project management/Board support and assurance and business case development. It is likely that the Council will need extra capacity in some form to fulfil its obligations as set out in 6.1 above.

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 The Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan business cases are not accepted by MHCLG in order to release the funding amount for each scheme. The mitigation against this is that a dedicated resource will be allocated for the Kidsgrove Town Deal to ensure delivery and development of the business cases.
- 9.2 Individual project specific risk assessments will be developed as a part of the business case development process.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

- 10.1 Clean and inclusive growth is a cross cutting theme of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan. Projects in the Investment Plan include improvements based around a key public transport hub at Kidsgrove Railway Station and the aspiration to improve the flow and pedestrian connectivity between Kidsgrove's key assets including the train station, canal and town centre. As such, it positively supports the following UNSDG objectives:-



11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1 This is a key decision as it requires the Council to administer funds to the value of £16.9m.
- 11.2 The Town Deal area includes the Wards of Newchapel & Mow Cop, Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe, Talke & Butt Lane and Bradwell

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 12.1 4 December 2019

12.2 September 2020

12.3 November 2020

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan – Award Letter

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Kidsgrove Town Deal page on the Council's website: <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/business/business-information/kidsgrove-town-deal>

14.2 Towns Fund Prospectus November 2019 (MHCLG)

14.3 Towns Fund Guidance June 2020 (MHCLG)