

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S  
REPORT TO**

**Cabinet**  
**18 October 2022**

**Report Title:** Kidsgrove Town Deal

**Submitted by:** Executive Director Growth & Development

**Portfolios:** One Council, People & Partnerships and Finance, Town Centres & Growth

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

**Purpose of the Report**

To update Cabinet on progress with the delivery of Kidsgrove Town Deal and to consider the next steps in its delivery

**Recommendation**

That

1. Progress with Kidsgrove Town Deal is noted and that Cabinet continues to receive such updates as required.
2. Completion of the Kidsgrove Sports Centre is noted
3. Progress with the Chatterley Valley project is noted.
4. The Executive Director Growth & Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder is authorised to complete the Grant Funding Agreements with Network Rail, East Midlands Railway, and the Canal and Rivers Trust to enable progress with these projects.
5. That progress with the Shared Service Hub is noted and work continues with Kidsgrove Town Council and other partners to develop this project.
6. Cabinet receives a further report on delivery of the Shared Service Hub at a future meeting.

**Reasons**

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

To deliver on the County Deal as it relates to Kidsgrove Town Centre

To pursue Council Plan Objective Four - Town Centres 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 Council worked with a Town Deal Board for Kidsgrove to establish robust and sustainable projects to deliver change to the area. These were submitted to Government October 2020 in a Town Investment Plan for Kidsgrove. In March 2021, Government

confirmed that the Town Investment Plan had been successful and awarded the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board £16.9 million. It was necessary then to develop the projects in more detail for delivery in the form of Business Cases for each project.

## 2. Issues

- 2.1 Projects within the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan are themed around three objectives. These are:
- Objective 1: To drive growth and opportunity through enhanced enterprise structure in Kidsgrove.
  - Objective 2: 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.
  - Objective 3: 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.
- Five projects were approved for delivery within those objectives. An update on progress with these projects is set out below.
- 2.2 Kidsgrove Sports Centre. This project was fast tracked through the Government approval system. As the project was already well developed by the Council, we were able to provide all the necessary information to allow this to happen. Town Deal funding was approved, and the first grant payment was received from Government in June 2021. This has been used to support additional investment by the Council to bring this much valued community facility back into use under the management of Kidsgrove Sports Centre CIC. This project has successfully been completed with the Sports Centre opening to the public in July 2022.
- 2.3 Chatterley Valley. Chatterley Valley is a key strategic employment site for the Borough that has significant issues to overcome in making it viable for development. Town Deal funding is being used to create an access road onto the site, associated highway improvements and relocation of a water main. The project is being co-funded by Staffordshire County Council. Without this work the site cannot be made ready for development. This project was submitted to government for approval in August 2021. Government approved the project, and the first grant payment was received in December 2021. Following further development work, a grant funding agreement was signed with the landowner Harworth Estates in August 2022. Work is expected to start on site in quarter 3 this year.
- 2.4 Kidsgrove Railway Station. This is a project to upgrade facilities at Kidsgrove Railway station alongside other improvements such as improved platform access, enhanced car parking facilities and easier access for buses. This project was submitted to Government in March 2022 and following approval the first grant payment was received in August 2022. A funding agreement is being negotiated with Network Rail and East Midlands Railways who will be delivering this project.
- 2.5 Canal Improvements. This is to improve the tow path, signage and lighting along the canal in Kidsgrove to provide an attractive green route through the Kidsgrove area. The project was submitted to government in March 2022 and following approval the first grant payment was received in June 2022. The Council is currently working with the Canal and River Trust on a Grant Funding Agreement. Work is scheduled to site in early 2023 and will be managed by the Canal and River Trust. This project connects the Railway Station project and Shared Service hub Project (2.6 below) creating a comprehensive programme of works for this area of Kidsgrove.
- 2.6 Kidsgrove Shared Service Hub. This was to create a new facility for the community of Kidsgrove that can be used by local groups as well as providing small scale office space for

local service providers. Linked to this project is a series of public realm enhancements connecting the Railway Station, Canal and surrounding area. The Project was submitted to Government for approval in June 2022. The project has been approved by Government and the Council is awaiting the first grant payment for this project. Work has started with Kidsgrove Town Council to progress this project to development stage.

#### **Proposal**

- 3.1 Progress with Kidsgrove Town Deal is noted, and that Cabinet continues to receive such updates as required.
- 3.2 Completion of the Kidsgrove Sports Centre is noted
- 3.3 Progress with the Chatterley Valley project is noted.
- 3.4 The Executive Director Growth & Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder is authorised to complete the Grant Funding Agreements with Network Rail, East Midlands Railway, and the Canal and Rivers Trust to enable progress with these projects.
- 3.5 That progress with the Shared Service Hub is noted and work continues with Kidsgrove Town Council and other partners to develop this project.
- 3.6 Cabinet receives a further report on delivery of the Shared Service Hub at a future meeting.

#### **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 and support its economic, social and community wellbeing.
- 4.2 To deliver on the Council Plan Objective A Town Centres for All as it relates to Kidsgrove Town Centre.
- 4.3 To deliver on the County Deal as it relates to Kidsgrove Town Centre
- 4.4 To maintain delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan

#### **5. Options Considered**

- 5.1 The projects presented in the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan have been agreed by both the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board and the Council as the priorities for Kidsgrove following consideration of other options.

#### **6. Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report.

#### **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 have had Equality Impact Assessments completed as a part of the information submitted to Government for approval.

#### **8. Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 In delivering the Town Deal the Council will be expected to manage the grant payments as needed. This equates to £16.9m over the life of Kidsgrove Town Deal.
- 8.2 To date circa £2.8 million has been defrayed from the Kidsgrove Town Deal award. This is made up of programme management costs, technical fees needed to get the projects to approval stage and also on completion of the Kidsgrove Sports Centre project.

## 9. Major Risks

- 9.1 Key strategic risk one is failing to deliver the projects within the Kidsgrove Town Investment Plan. To control this risk the Council has a number of mechanisms in place, including oversight by the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board; development of robust grant funding agreement terms where external partners are responsible for project delivery, individual project risk assessments and Council project managers allocated to drive progress of the projects.
- 9.2 Key Strategic risk two is failing to comply with Government requirements for the Town Deal. To control this risk the Council works closely with its key Government contact for the Town Deal programme, has systems in place to provide monitoring and evaluation information to Government and maintains internal oversight of Town Deal requirements.

## 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 Kidsgrove town Deal requires the Council to administer funds to the value of £16.9 million.
- 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 17 March 2021  
 12.2 3 November 2020  
 12.3 2 September 2020  
 12.4 4 December 2019.

## 13. List of Appendices

- 13.1 none

## 14. Background Papers

- 14.1 Kidsgrove Town Deal page on the Council's website:  
<https://www.newcastlestaffs.gov.uk/all-services/business/business-information/kidsgrove-town-deal>
- 14.2 Towns Fund Prospectus November 2019 (DLUHC)

### 14.3 Towns Fund Guidance June 2020 (MDLUHC)