

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S
REPORT TO
ECONOMY AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18th June 2026

Report Title: Kidsgrove Town Deal Update

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Portfolio Holders - Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To update Scrutiny Committee on the Kidsgrove Town Deal Fund projects currently underway.	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
That:-	
1. Scrutiny Committee notes this report on the delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Deal Funds projects	
<u>Reasons</u>	
To update the Scrutiny Committee on the progress with the various projects that are being funded or part funded through the Kidsgrove Town Deal.	

1. Background

- 1.1 As reported to previous Scrutiny meetings, the Council has secured Future High Street Funding and Town Deal Funds for the redevelopment of several key regeneration sites across the Town Centre and the wider Borough including Kidsgrove.

2. Updates

- 2.1 Kidsgrove Town Deal

2.1.1 Chatterley Valley

This was a contribution to essential infrastructure works to release development land at Chatterley Valley, working with Staffordshire County Council and developer, Harworth to bring this long-term vacant site into use for employment.

Town Deal element complete and Harworth, are due to commence the construction of the first 'shed' shortly.



2.1.2 Kidsgrove Train Station works

The previously reported issue with the costs of car park underpinning due to mine works underground have now been resolved and the Town Deal Board have agreed a revised scope of works to develop the station with a refurbishment to the existing buildings and car park works outside the area that has been indicated for underground mine remediation or the 'underpinning zone'. Design and costing works for the development are now underway. East Midlands Railway are leading the project, which requires approval by Network Rail. Works are expected to take place in 2027.





Proposed refurbishment at Kidsgrove Station

The works have been reduced in size to not include the vacant space to the right of the entrance bridge to the station car park due to the extent and unknown costs of ground remediation in this area.

2.1.3 Canal Pathways

Led by the Canal & River Trust, the aim was to improve the walking and cycle route through Kiddsgrove by improving the tow path from the lock adjacent to the Bluebell Pub through to the Harecastle Tunnel north tunnel entrance. Through resurfacing and stabilising the tow path, installation of solar lighting, vegetation management and new wayfinding signage. It has also renewed access points to the railway station and resurfaced the driveway to the tunnel entrance (from Fourth Avenue) to enable safe access by pedestrians and emergency vehicles.

Ongoing works include restoration work at the old Harecastle Tunnel entrance. Installation of interpretation boards, and safety improvement to the canal crossing at the tunnel entrance.

An extension to the scope, that was agreed by the Kiddsgrove Town Deal Board, to enable improvements to a Public Right of Way on a path connecting the canal towpath with a nearby residential area is now complete.



Works at Harecastle Tunnel

2.1.4 Shared Service Hub

The original project allocation was £6,183,000, covering delivery of the shared service hub alongside highways any public realm improvements. Following issues around deliverability of the original Shared Service Hub scheme following the covid pandemic, the Town Deal Board resolved to split the project out into separate elements, which are reported on below.

- **Community Hub**

A revised project led by the Kings Academy Trust using land adjacent to Fifth Avenue. This is to deliver community services alongside relocation of the training bistro operated by the Kings Academy. Project progress is subject to production of a sustainable business model demonstrating that the community hub can be sustained – this is still under development.

- **Public Realm**

A range of activities to improve the public realm in areas of Kidsgrove to improve the overall appearance and function of the town centre. Including:

- Improvements to the Greenway between Aldi & Tesco. – complete
- Refurbishment of Heathcote Street toilets – complete
- Road improvement at the Town Hall – complete
- Improvements to the public realm at Kings Street – out to tender
- Car park improvements at Heathcote Street – to be tendered in June.

- Improvements to the area outside the Library/Job Centre/ ex-Post Office unit. (Proposed but not progressed as this is proposed for delivery as phase 3 of the public realm works, subject to budget availability).



Artist impression new public realm, King Street (Hewitt & Carr Architects)

- Enterprise Units

Development of three small enterprise units at Meadows Road alongside improvements to the car park to provide 16 parking spaces that are prioritised for short term use. Project currently on-site with Bailey Construction (Derby) Ltd appointed as contractor. The units are scheduled for completion in December 2026. Enquiries have already been received regarding the units.



Artist impression Meadows Road Enterprise Units (Hewitt & Carr Architects)

- Footpaths

An allocation was made to improve footpaths connecting the canal to the surrounding area. However, following this, very little work was required as the majority was undertaken as a part of the canal improvement project. (the driveway element referenced in section 2.1.3). Staffordshire County Council were able to improve a public right of way from the canal to Third Avenue.

The Town Deal Board agreed that unallocated funding could be prioritised for formation of a footpath connecting the community hub at Fifth Avenue to the footpath at Third Avenue, this is subject to the community hub progressing.

- Highways

Completion of improvements works:

- To make Market Street one-way in the direction of Heathcote Street, provide an accessible pedestrian crossing point and provide a section of short-term parking in front of the shops and a loading bay to support the pub and laundrette. To deliver a long-standing community with addressing issues in the Market Street area.
- To make Meadows Road / Station Road one-way from the A50 in the direction of The Avenue, installation of a bus stop for rail replacement services, installation of bollards adjacent to the library to prevent parking on the pavement. To address local issues on traffic congestion and unsafe parking in this area.

To date, Staffordshire County Council has completed the design phase and Traffic Regulation Order consultation process.. Works are scheduled to commence in mid July 2026 and finish by the end of September 2026.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committee notes the progress made to date and continues to receive further reports at subsequent meetings.

4. Reasons

- 4.1 To continue to update Scrutiny Committee on the progress and issues surrounding the Kidsgrove Town Deal Fund projects.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 Not applicable – all Cabinet reports on each of the above projects detail the options that were considered in more detail.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 - powers to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Borough.

6.2 The Council will need to make sure that its activities are legally and state aid compliant, including having regard to the Public Sector Duty within the Equality Act 2010, statutory guidance on local authority investments and The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

6.3 All projects will be examined to ensure that they are within the Council's powers and legal implications will be identified on a case-by-case basis.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The development of these projects does not create any specific equality impacts.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 £16.9m has also been awarded via the Town Deals fund for Kidsgrove to enable real and lasting economic benefits to be realised in Kidsgrove and the surrounding area. To date £15.7m has been received of which £8.0m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Funding allocation	spent to date	further committed	indicative allocation not yet contracted	Balance remaining
Kidsgrove Sports Centre (complete)	£2,328,000.00	£2,328,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	0
Chatterley Valley (complete)	£3,496,000.00	£3,496,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	0
Kidsgrove Station	£3,638,000.00	£389,355.00	£2,414,520.00	£834,125.00	£0.00
Shared Services Hub (original project)	£183,000.00	£105,612.00	£25,216.00	£0.00	£52,172.00
community hub	£1,500,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,500,000.00	£0.00
public realm	£1,800,000.00	£271,703.00	£0.00	£1,428,297.00	£100,000.00
enterprise units	£1,500,000.00	£1,053,715.00	£0.00	£446,285.00	£0.00
footpaths	£200,000.00	£8,150.00	£0.00	£191,850.00	£0.00
Highways	£1,000,000.00	£133,680.00	£0.00	£866,320.00	£0.00
Canal Enhancement	£420,000.00	£354,900.00	£65,100.00	£0.00	£0.00
Project Management	£835,000.00	£806,528.00	£0.00	£0.00	£28,472.00
	£16,900,000.00	£8,947,643.00	£2,504,836.00	£5,266,877.00	£180,644.00

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

9.1 Management of risk is central to the Council's commercial approach and all potential activities will be assessed with due regard to the risks being taken. This will be in line with the Council's corporate approach to risk management.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 These projects support the realisation of the following UNSDG objectives:-



11. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Sustainable Council

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

12. Key Decision Information

12.1 Not applicable

13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 None.

14. List of Appendices

14.1 None.

15. Background Papers

15.1 None.