

REPORT OF: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER

TO: NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD

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PROPOSALS FOR AN EMERGING INVESTMENT PLAN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To propose a way forward to develop project proposals to form the basis of an Investment Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To agree the proposed way forward.
2. To put forward project proposals for inclusion in an emerging Investment Plan.
3. To receive a report at the next meeting setting out how local stakeholders can be engaged in developing the Investment Plan.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

1. To ensure early progress on developing a Town Investment Plan.

ISSUE

1. The Government has yet to issue detailed guidance around the development of Investment Plans but the initial prospectus set out three key areas of activity i.e. Urban regeneration, planning and land use; Skills and Enterprise Infrastructure and Connectivity. In order to be well placed to submit an early Town Investment Plan we need to make progress over the next 2 to 3 months rather than wait for the detailed guidance.

Next Steps

2. Due to the timescales of the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) bidding process, whereby a draft business case had to be submitted by 15th January, it has been necessary to

consider initial proposals for Town Centre projects in advance of the Town Deal Board being established. The proposals responded to the issues and opportunities that had been identified so far through the masterplan process. There is still a small window of opportunity to reconsider those proposals in light of the opportunities of the Towns Fund and the views of the Board before submission of a detailed business case by 30th April.

3. The FHSF requires evidence of how the funding proposals fit into an overall strategy for the town. We also need to show engagement with, and the support of, relevant local stakeholders to the proposals when they are submitted in April. We now need to link together work on the masterplan and the Future High Streets Fund with the development of a Town Investment Plan to ensure that the strategies and project proposals are complementary.
4. To secure funding from the Towns Fund it is expected that the Town Investment Plan will need to identify a range of proposals that deliver economic growth outcomes, for example increased business floorspace and housing development. This Investment Plan is likely to be the basis of a negotiation with Government on the level of investment to be made available and what can be delivered in return.
5. It is proposed that at the next meeting the Board consider proposals for projects and activities across Nelson that could be included in an Investment Plan. There should then be a prioritisation exercise undertaken by the Board at that meeting to decide which proposals are developed further. As this will be a Town 'Deal' the government will expect some projects/activities to be delivered by partners outside of the requirements for support from Towns Fund, either by local partners or other agencies e.g. Homes England support for bringing forward housing sites.
6. Following on from the prioritisation exercise smaller working groups could then be tasked with developing the priority proposals further, for consideration at the following Board meeting.
7. From the initial guidance, it is clear that the earlier a Town Deal Investment Plan is produced, the sooner discussions with Government can begin around the level of investment hence the development of the initial proposals below.

Initial proposals

8. Pendle Council have identified a number of proposals and these are shown in Appendix 1. Board members are asked to put forward other options, either at the meeting or afterwards, for detailed discussion at the next meeting. These may or may not require Towns Fund but should relate to one of the three key areas set out in paragraph 1.

Stakeholder Engagement

9. Engagement with local stakeholders is a key part of the process of developing an Investment Plan for the Town.
10. Local residents, town centre businesses and stakeholders with an interest in the town centre have been engaged through an initial consultation event on the Masterplan. This was at the stage when it was just intended to cover the town centre. The next stage of consultation will be undertaken on the town-wide masterplan and a wider group of stakeholders will need to be engaged.

11. As part of the Towns Fund the Government is encouraging local people to share their ideas about improvements to their town and have set up the [Mytown](#) portal for people to submit ideas. No ideas have yet been submitted through the portal for Nelson. Several local voluntary sector organisations have also contacted the Council directly about becoming involved in the Town Deal.
12. There will be a need to engage local stakeholders, including residents and businesses, in the formation of the Town Investment Plan. The masterplan will provide a spatial land use framework for Nelson but the Town Investment Plan will include wider themes such as skills. It is proposed that a report is brought to the next Board setting out proposals for future engagement.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None directly arising from this report

Financial: None directly arising from this report

Legal: None directly arising from this report

Risk Management: None directly arising from this report

Health and Safety: None directly arising from this report

Sustainability: None directly arising from this report

Community Safety: None directly arising from this report

Equality and Diversity: None directly arising from this report

APPENDIX

1 – Initial Project Proposals

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

INITIAL PROJECT PROPOSALS

Project	Details	Towns Fund Required Y/N	Other Funders and Key Partners
Theme: Urban Regeneration, planning and land use			
Pendle Rise Shopping Centre	Refurbishment/redevelopment to reduce vacant retail space and introduce new uses	N	FHSF Developer
Reduction or re-use of vacant office space	Refurbishment/redevelopment/change of use of town centre office space including introduction of more housing	Y	FHSF Developers Registered Providers
Bring forward sites for housing	Identify and bring forward suitable sites across Nelson including developing and delivering a Town Centre Residential Strategy	N	Homes England Developers Registered Providers
Enhance long stay parking in the town centre	Increase parking provision to encourage businesses to locate in and around the town centre	Y	Businesses
Extra Care housing	Progress a scheme at Bankhouse Road, Bradley	N	Homes England Calico
Improve health inequalities	Maintain and enhance existing health provision in the town	N	East Lancs CCG Childhood Obesity Trailblazer
Review of Public Service Provision and Assets in Nelson	Review the use of public service assets in Nelson including Number One Market Street, Library, Nelson Town Hall, Fleet Street Depot, Police Station		OPE Public Service Providers Developers Registered Providers
Riverside Mill, Bradley	Acquire the site and develop for residential/commercial uses	Y	Developer
Marsden Park Golf Club	Develop part of the site for housing to support redevelopment of a new clubhouse	N	Homes England Developer
Improve the Arts and Culture Offer	Use arts and culture to engage residents and raise their wellbeing and raise the profile of the town	Y	Arts Council InSitu SuperSlowWay
Theme: Skills and enterprise infrastructure			
Improve skills to meet future business needs	Develop and deliver a Skills and Employment Strategy for Nelson	Y	LEP Skills Board Public Service Providers Pendle Vision Board Nelson & Colne College

Project	Details	Towns Fund Required Y/N	Other Funders and Key Partners
Improve infrastructure for delivery of Skills, Education	Review/reconfigure/enhance the Towns infrastructure for the delivery skills and education improvement including, for example, capital investment for the provision of Technical Education and Apprenticeships	Y	LEP Skills Board Public Service Providers Pendle Vision Board Nelson & Colne College
Improve Digital Skills provision	To be developed	Y	LEP Skills Board Public Service Providers Pendle Vision Board Nelson & Colne College
Support the Advanced Manufacturing Sector	Given the predominance of Advanced Manufacturing expertise in Nelson, invest in the provision of the skills supply chain	Y	LEP Skills Board Public Service Providers Pendle Vision Board Nelson & Colne College
Improve educational attainment	Working with the Education System (through all phases of education – Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Further Education), including supporting the Pendle Challenge, to invest in better educational outcomes for Pendle’s future workforce	Y	Schools Lancashire County Council NW School Improvement Board Education Endowment Fund
Increase workspace	Acquire and develop sites to provide modern workspace, ideally well located to the road network including, for example, the Apprenticeship and Training Centre,	Y	Developer
Theme: Connectivity			
A56 Villages Bypass	Improve the road connectivity to West and North Yorkshire to improve the economic potential of the town	N	LCC TfN
Colne-Skipton Rail Link	Re-instatement of the Colne to Skipton rail route to improve the economic potential of the town	N	LCC TfN Network Rail Selrap
Improving the existing rail service	Installation of a passing loop to enable the existing single track to provide more frequent services	N	LCC Network Rail
Improve walking and cycling routes	Promote greener modes of transport and improve health	Y	LCC
Enhance Digital Connectivity	Identify opportunities to improve digital infrastructure in the town	Y	Businesses

