

REPORT TO	ON
COUNCIL	Wednesday, 27 November 2019



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Leyland Town Deal	Cabinet Member (Planning, Regeneration and City Deal)	Director of Planning and Property

Is this report a KEY DECISION (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	Yes
Is this report on the Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan ?	Yes
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	No
Is this report confidential?	No

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update Council on the recent issuing of a prospectus by Central Government (MHCLG) regarding the Towns' Fund and Leyland being named as one of 100 towns nationally to be part of this programme. Furthermore, the report seeks authority for officers to progress work on the Leyland Town Deal and create a Leyland Town Board.

PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

2. Note the contents of the report
3. Approve the proposed boundary for the Leyland Town Deal as attached at Appendix A to this report
4. Give delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Property in consultation with the Leader, and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and City Deal to create a Leyland Town Board
5. Give delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Property in consultation with the Leader, and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and City Deal and the Leyland Town Board (once established) to progress work on developing

the Leyland Town Deal and Investment Plan using the £162,019 allotted capacity funding given to the Authority by MHCLG. The work will include:

- Organising and conducting consultation events
 - Commissioning of consultants and technical studies
 - Preparing a draft Town Investment Plan
6. That the submission Town Investment Plan be reported back to Council in summer 2020.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

7. The Towns' Fund announcement could provide a once in a lifetime opportunity for investment in Leyland. The issuing of the Towns' Fund prospectus by MHCLG requires urgent action to form the Town Board and prepare an Investment Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

8. The report provides a summary of the Towns' Fund Prospectus and outlines the requirements and timetable for Leyland to bid in to the programme.

CORPORATE OUTCOMES

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	✓
Place, Homes and Environment	✓

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	✓
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BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

10. On 6th September 2019 MHCLG announced that 100 towns would be invited to develop proposals to form new town deals and share £3.6 billion of investment from central Government. At this time Leyland was named as one of the towns being invited to bid.
11. On 1st November 2019 MHCLG issued its Town Fund prospectus providing further detail on the Towns Fund and how towns could bid for their Town Deal with the potential to lever in up to £25 million in to each town. The prospectus provides for a two-stage approach as outlined below:

Stage 1:

- Respond to a 47 question “readiness” questionnaire by 19th December 2019
- Form a Town Deal Board and meet by January 2020
- Prepare a Town Investment Plan by end of Summer 2020

Stage 2:

- Agreeing the Town Deal through a business case

12. Furthermore, the Government has provided £162,019 in capacity funding for South Ribble to undertake the following:

- Convening the Town Deal Board
- Running business and wider community engagement events
- Developing Town Investment Plans
- Providing technical expertise for business case development

PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)

13. The Towns’ Fund prospectus allows South Ribble a unique opportunity to understand Leyland as a town and how the town would like to be shaped in the future. The provision of the capacity funding to convene a Town Board, run consultations, provide technical input and prepare a Town Investment Plan is welcomed.

14. The Towns’ Fund prospectus highlights that the Town Deal is about the town as a whole and not just the town centre. MHCLG refer authorities to an Office of National Statistics (ONS) dataset which defines towns by population density. The ONS dataset for Leyland provides for a **town boundary** that is a good starting point but due to the factors that are used to assess it misses out key bits of Leyland’s geography such as Worden Park, Test Track, Croston Road, Farington and Cuerden Strategic Site. Officers therefore have proposed a slightly amended boundary as illustrated at Appendix A to this report.

15. For the Town Deal to function the prospectus requires that a **Town Board** be set up to be the vehicle through which the vision and strategy for the town is defined. It will produce a Town Investment Plan and inform the Town Deal, including the amount of investment secured through the Towns Fund. The role of the Board is to:

- Develop and agree an evidenced based Town Investment Plan
- Develop a clear programme of interventions
- Coordinate resources and influence stakeholders

16. The Towns Fund prospectus suggests that the Town Board should be made up of the following:

- Town and Parish Councils
- Upper Tier Councils

- The local MP
- Local Business and Investors
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Education
- Community representation
- Business Improvement District (For Leyland representatives from the Town team)
- Job Centre Plus
- Anchor Institutions (for Leyland Runshaw College)
- Arm's length and Government Agencies such as Homes England; Environment Agency
- Other Investors and Developers

17. Furthermore, the prospectus requires that the Board should be chaired by the private sector. Officers are seeking delegated authority to progress the formation of the Town Board to mirror the requirements of the Towns' Fund Prospectus.

18. Once the proposed Leyland boundary has been fixed, the questionnaire completed and the Town Board has been set up, work will then be undertaken to prepare a **Town Investment Plan**. The Investment Plan should provide a clear understanding of the Leyland area, focusing on its assets, opportunities and challenges. The prospectus requires that the Town Investment Plan should cover the following areas.

- Urban regeneration, planning and land use
- Skills and enterprise infrastructure
- Connectivity

19. The Town Investment Plan should set out investment priorities that could drive economic growth, supported by clear evidence and targeting investment into the economic infrastructure listed around the objectives of the fund, as well as making full use of existing powers, particularly in planning.

20. Town Investment Plans should complement other pre-existing strategy documents that have been developed with local partners to avoid duplicating efforts, and where necessary build on these to meet the expectations set out in this prospectus. For instance, it will be important to align with Local Industrial Strategies, Skills Advisory Panel analysis, local environmental strategies, Local Master Plans and Spatial Development Strategies, and Local Transport Plans.

21. The prospectus also requires that Investment Plans should be cognisant of the wider strategic approach being taken through the Northern Powerhouse. The prospectus suggests that the plans should include the following as a minimum:

- Background, context and evidence of need for suggested interventions
- A vision and clearly linked narrative for the town going forward, complementing agreed or emerging local economic strategies
- A high-level description of priority areas for the short, medium and long term, including:
 - Activity that can be locally funded

- Projects that could be supported by public investment (including through the Towns Fund), with high level cost estimates
 - Ambitions for private sector investment and community involvement
22. The recently adopted SRBC Corporate Plan and its inherent projects provide an excellent grounding for creating a vision for Leyland - it is therefore important to identify that we are not starting from scratch.
23. In terms of the capacity funding officers advise that the funding will be used for the purposes identified at paragraph 11. Consultants have already been engaged to provide a socio-economic analysis of the town and act as a critical friend to the area which will help us understand Leyland going forward. Other commissions have also been identified.

CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

24. The preparation of the Town Deal bid and Town Investment Plan will include significant levels of consultation and the Town Board itself will include many key stakeholders.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

25. The only other alternative to consider is to not participate in the bid. Whilst there is no guarantee of securing the end offer of £25 million the capacity funding provided by MHCLG means that SRBC can prepare its bid risk free and the only commitment would be in officer time spent on the bid.

AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS

26. The Town Investment Plan will need to ensure that Air Quality is a priority and there could be significant air quality outcomes from the arising projects. Environmental Health Officers will be part of the ongoing project team.

RISK MANAGEMENT

27. The main risk is that the work may not lead to the eventual injection of funding due to either being unsuccessful or change in Government direction due to the upcoming general election. The capacity funding will however offset that risk and indeed the work to be undertaken will be useful beyond this bidding process in any event.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

28. This will be fully assessed as part of the development of the Town Investment Plan.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

29. The council has been allocated capacity funding from government via a s31 grant to support the development of a Town Deal Board and Investment Plan for the

area. Therefore, for this first phase of the process there are no budgetary implications as the costs will be funded from this grant.

30. It is proposed that the Town Investment Plan will be considered by the Council in the summer of 2020. This will provide indications of the costs of the plans and projects identified. However, there is currently no detail regarding how Town Deals will be agreed, the amount of capital and revenue funding which will be available, any match funding requirements or which interventions will be supported through the fund. The Towns Fund prospectus states that the second stage of agreeing a Town Deal with the government will include completing a business case based on the content of Town Investment Plans.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

31. Clearly this is very exciting opportunity for the council. We must do what we can to attract this potential large investment into Leyland. Clearly though careful thought is required as to the governance arrangements that need to be in force once the Leyland Town Board is established. If need be specialist external advice will be accessed. We are talking about a significant amount of public money here – robust governance arrangements will be essential.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

MHCLG Towns Fund Prospectus 1st November 2019.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Leyland Town Deal Working Boundary

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