

North East Derbyshire District Council

Clay Cross Town Deal Board (CCTDB)

14 January 2022

Programme Update for Town Deal Projects

Report of the Director for Growth

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Maria Curran, Interim Project Manager

Contact Officer: Maria Curran

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to outline timescales for the preparation and approval of business cases for projects within the Clay Cross Town Deal. It sets out an updated target to bring all business cases to the Clay Cross Town Deal Board (CCTDB) by June 2022. Under the current assurance arrangements, business cases will need to be completed in March 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the CCTDB notes the contents of the report, the proposed programme and implications of not achieving the key approval dates.
2. That the CCTDB agrees to arrange a Board meeting in June 2022 to consider the locally assured business cases prior to the submission of summary documents to DLUHC.
2. That the Board endorses this programme and charges the Working Groups with bringing the business cases to the identified Board meetings for approval.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 As part of the route to securing funding, project development and business case completion and assurance at the local level, were expected to be successfully concluded within 12 months of the Heads of Terms agreement. That submission date was originally envisaged to be March 2022 and the Issues & Risk paper to September's Town Board meeting set out several issues and risks that could detrimentally impact that timescale.

- 1.2 Subsequently, it has confirmed that the submission date is now more flexible. However, the deadline for spending Town Deal funding has not changed and remains March 2026 (the end of financial year 2025/26).
- 1.3 The existing appointment for the business case team allowed for a 12 month programme. Extension to this programme and additional resourcing requirements will have budgetary implications.
- 1.4 Accordingly the Board is asked to note that any decision to extend the deadline for submitting business cases should take into account this longstop date and the ability to deliver the project(s) and spend funding within the ensuing, more compressed timeframe.
- 1.5 This report provides an update on programme and notes the target milestones for securing approvals for the Board, local authority partners and DLUHC.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Work is progressing across all of the projects but has highlighted in November, the original deadline for all business cases to be approved by March 2022 is no longer feasible.
- 2.2 The programme appended to this report outlines updated timescales for the completion of business cases and their subsequent assurance and approval. The programme is considered to be challenging but achievable, subject to clarifying the scope of the business cases and ensuring the decision making arrangements for the projects including partners are known and included.
- 2.3 Under the current programme, Strategic Assessments for the Energy Network Strategy and Rail Feasibility Study will be brought to the March Board for determination. This will be dependent upon having carried out an appropriate and compliant procurement process for each study. It is anticipated that funding proposals for Sharley Park Leisure Hub will also be brought to the March Board for determination. It is noted that the programme for the Sharley Park Leisure project is reported separately.
- 2.4 Locally assured business cases for the town centre regeneration project (Market Street/Bridge Street), Clay Cross Connections, Clay Cross Creative and the Skills and Enterprise Hub will be available in June for approval. Those approvals will require a Board meeting to be arranged for mid-late June in order to meet the updated submission dates for the project summary documents.
- 2.5 The projects described within the business cases will be at a relatively early stage of project design development. Projects will need to continue to be developed post approval and clear project management plans will be prepared and costed to support this process.
- 2.6 Project managers will also work to bring proposals under the Low Carbon Housing and Low Carbon Workspace projects to the June Board. These

projects are dependent (in part) upon proposals being advanced by third party delivery partners. This may have implications for programme.

3 Reason for Recommendation

3.1 There is a need to agree a clear completion date for the business case stage to:

- Confirm timescales with DLUHC
- Unlock funding to advance further design development, procurement, land assembly and enabling activities required to support the delivery of the project;
- Minimise the risk of further delays which could impact on the delivery programme and ability to fully deliver the vision outlined within the Clay Cross TIP;
- Minimise the impact of delays on stakeholder confidence.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The CCTDB could opt to progress more detailed design development and planning in advance of completing business cases for individual projects.

4.1 This approach would provide additional certainty at the point of approval in relation to outputs, costs and delivery mechanisms.

4.2 This approach has been rejected due to the implications on programme (in relation to requirements for the completion of the business case, spend and output delivery). Additional work needs to be carried out to progress to a detailed design proposal for key projects (including Market Street, the Skills Hub and the Creative Hub) and there is a need to secure allocations to resource detailed design development, procurement, land assembly and other project costs.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Project Workplan – Gantt Charts