

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

12 March 2020

Clay Cross Town Board - Progress report

**Report of Councillor Martin E Thacker MBE, JP, Leader of the Council and
Portfolio Holder for Overall Strategic Leadership**

Purpose of the Report

- To update Cabinet on the Clay Cross Town Board meetings and discussions on the initial priorities identified for the bid for resources to be made to Government.
- This report also seeks approval for tendering for suitably qualified and experienced consultants to work with the Council and the Town Board on the preparation of the bid for resources as required by the Town Fund Prospectus issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government November 2019.

1 Report details

- 1.1 There have been two meetings of the Town Board, the inaugural meeting on 24th January and the second on 28th February. The Appendix to this report details of those who attended the two meetings.

Meeting 24th January

- 1.2 The general consensus was that this was a positive meeting with all attendees contributing and wishing to be involved in the development of the plans for the future of Clay Cross.
- 1.3 The meeting discussed a vision for the future of Clay Cross with the Leader of the Council suggesting it should be:

‘To become a 21st century town, moving on from its industrial legacy whilst valuing and preserving its heritage.

Clay Cross will become a centre for learning, research and climate change innovation, attractive to students, whilst also ensuring future skilled employment opportunities locally.’

- 1.4 There was discussion on a range of potential developments, initiatives and improvements that could contribute towards the successful regeneration of

the town. It was agreed that the second meeting should involve a walking tour of the Town Deal area followed in the afternoon by a facilitated workshop for the Board.

Meeting 28th February

- 1.5 As planned the Board met and despite the inclement weather, went on a walking tour of the Town Board area stopping at specific points to consider issues and opportunities that were of interest and importance to the development of the Town Deal proposals. Participants agreed that this was a useful session which helped to contextualise the afternoon discussions.
- 1.6 In the afternoon facilitated discussions were held to consider issues that had been agreed at the previous meeting. The headings were:
- Transport
 - Connectivity
 - Skills, training and education [including the contribution of schools]
 - Innovation
 - Economic Development
 - Low/ zero carbon opportunities
 - Housing
 - Health
- 1.7 Not all of these issues could be considered individually and therefore some issues were grouped together for consideration and presentation purposes. The Board and support officers were divided into three groups who discussed these matters under the more generic headings of:
- Use of existing public assets, new development focused on the town centre
 - Skills and training for the 21st century
 - Physical and digital connectivity
- Three questions were asked of the groups for each topic:
- What does this mean to you?
 - What are the barriers?
 - How can this be delivered
- 1.8 Details of the opinions and suggestions that came out of the workshop is being collated and will be used for the tender brief to be issued to consultants interested in bidding to assist with the preparation of the Town Investment Plan bid.

Timetable for the Town Deal Bid

- 1.9 In the Town Deal Prospectus, MHCLG outlined a timetable for bids to be prepared which was as follows.

Capacity funding provided to Lead Councils	November 2019
Readiness checklist returned	November 2019
All town Boards to be convened by	End of January 2020
Further guidance published	Early 2020
All Town Investment Plans produced	Summer 2020

- 1.10 At the time of writing this report no further guidance has been produced nor has there yet been an indication as to when this advice is likely to be published. It is important however to ensure that we progress our own proposals and preparation of our investment plan in line with the above timescale. Accordingly Cabinet is recommended to approve tendering to interested and appropriately qualified consultants to bid to assist the Town Board and the Council with our proposals. Given the uncertainties that are still around in terms of the guidance Cabinet is asked to agree that it delegates authority to the Director of Economic Development and Growth in consultation with the Leader of the Council to finalise the tender documentation and assessment criteria.
- 1.11 Advice on the form of this tendering exercise will be provided by the Council's procurement team. Funding for this exercise has been provided through the capacity funding for Lead Town Deal Authorities.

Further reports will be presented to the Cabinet as the proposal is progressed.

D2N2 involvement

- 1.12 The LEP is understandably keen on being sighted on and assisting with Town Investment Plans. There are seven Lead Local Authorities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and D2N2 has set up a Town Deal Authority's Network with the intention of facilitating information and knowledge sharing and giving the Authorities opportunities to discuss concerns, uncertainties and emerging issues. Officers from North East Derbyshire attended the first meeting and will attend follow up meetings as they occur, keeping appropriate Members informed.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Town Deal offers an exciting opportunity for the Council to address the challenges in the regeneration of Clay Cross into a town that matches up with the vision agreed by the Town Board and detailed above.
- 2.2 In order to achieve the timescales detailed in the Prospectus it is necessary for the development of the bid to be progressed immediately to allow for appropriate research, consultation and costings to be undertaken.
- 2.3 It is therefore recommended that Cabinet:

- 1 Notes the progress in developing the Town Deal Board and proposals for the bid for funding
- 2 Approves the tendering of the support to the Council and Town Board for the development of the Town Investment Plan as outlined above and to the Town Deal Prospectus timescale
- 3 Delegates authority to the Director of Economic Development and Growth, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to finalise the tender documentation and any associated issues.
- 4 Notes that the resources for this tender is through the Capacity Funding provided to Lead Town Deal Authorities

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 There are no direct equality impacts arising from this report however if successful the resulting funding will help to address issues relating to employment, skills and training issues which can be at the heart of some aspects of inequality
- 3.2 The Council and the Town Board will need to engage local communities around the Clay Cross area about the emerging proposals to form part of the bid for funding.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered as this was an opportunity to bring in additional resources to address pressing issues relating to the successful development of the Clay Cross area. The only alternative would have been to not accept this proposed additional funding.

5 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1 The financial implications are detailed in the report. The Town Investment plan will produce a programme of specific proposals to improve and enhance Clay Cross town. These need to be project managed to ensure that they deliver the desired outcomes and that associated risks are managed through this framework.

6 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 6.1 None arising specifically from this report.

7 Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 None arising specifically from this report.

8 Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet;

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- 3 Delegates authority to the Director of Economic Development and Growth in consultation with the Leader of the Council to finalise the tender documentation and any associated issues
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9 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	N/A
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	The report relates to the Clay Cross Wards but the decisions taken do not have a significant impact on them
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	All

10 **Document Information**

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	List of attendees
Background Papers	
Report Author	Contact Number
Ged Lucas Interim Director of Economic Growth	7152