

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

14th May 2020

Clay Cross Town Deal update

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

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To update Cabinet on the progress of the Clay Cross Town Deal (CCTD)

1 Report Details

1.1 The Clay Cross Town Deal Board (CCTDB) met via Videoconference facility on Monday 20th April to discuss the progress of the Clay Cross Town Deal. Within this meeting the CCTDB discussed the background to the Town Deal including the following:

- September 2019 – 101 places invited to develop proposals for multi-million pound Town Deals
- 1 November 2019 Towns Fund Prospectus released which detailed the proposals for creating sustainable futures for towns using the £3.6 billion of Towns Fund Investment
- Towns Deal can secure investment up to £25m per place based on presenting high quality proposals to government which meet their objectives
- The prospectus for funding mandated that each Town would submit a readiness questionnaire to set out their suitability for funding.
- The readiness form captured information about where each town stands on the key actions to develop and agree a Town Deal

1.2 The stages of the process for the CCTDB was explained at the meeting and the process has two main stages as follows:

- Stage 1; providing capacity support to put structures and vision in place and develop an Investment Plan
- Stage 2; places to use locally owned Town Investment Plan for business case to apply for funding (making a deal) for submission by Summer 2020.

1.3 The Funding objectives were discussed and the overarching objective of the fund is to drive economic regeneration and deliver long term economic and productivity growth to towns through:

- Urban regeneration, planning and land use: ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work, by: increasing density in town centres: strengthening local economic assets including cultural assets; site acquisition, remediation, preparation, regeneration; and making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.
- Skills and enterprise infrastructure: driving private sector investment and ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development.
- Connectivity: developing local transport schemes that compliment regional and national networks, as well as supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity.

1.4 The Lead Authority (NEDDC in our case) is required to develop a Town Deal Board (Advisory) which would serve as the vehicle to define the vision and strategy of the Town. The Board is tasked to produce a Town Investment Plan to inform Town Deal proposals. The plan includes the total investment looking to be secured (Public and Private). The role of the Town Board is to:

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

1.5 The Town Investment Plans will do the following:

- The Plan will set out investment priorities to drive growth
- The Plan will be supported by evidence showing how targeted investment meets the objectives of the Fund
- The Plan should complement any pre-existing strategy documents for the area and align with the Local Industrial Strategy
- Proposed investment from the Fund should be aligned with the Government's clean growth objectives where possible

1.6 The Progress to date is as follows:

- NEDDC submitted the readiness questionnaire to set out our suitability for funding.
- Our Town board was established and has met three times including a site visit and workshop
- All D2N2 Towns Fund sponsors met collectively to discuss their progress and strategic direction for the fund – NEDDC officers attended this
- Following our workshop event – a brief for our Town Investment Plan was developed which centred around Our priorities;

1.7 We are looking to align with the LEPs Local Industrial Strategy with any priority looking to adopt a low carbon and clean growth angle. The priorities in aligning to this are as follows;

- Use of existing public assets, with new development focused on the town centre
- Skills and training for the 21st century - The Town is looking to build on its skills agenda using major local businesses as a platform to do so (Bosch example)

- Physical and digital connectivity

1.8 As part of the meeting the CCTDB approved the terms of reference for the board (Appendix 1) and the communications strategy (Appendix 2).

1.9 The vision for the CCTDB, which was agreed at the inaugural meeting of the board was discussed. It was to understand if the vision was still appropriate based on Covid-19 and the inevitable long term implications on Clay Cross. It was felt that the vision was right and would aid Clay Cross recovery from the potentially significant impact of Covid-19. The agreed vision is stated below:

'The vision for Clay Cross is to become a 21st century town, moving on from its industrial legacy whilst valuing and preserving its heritage, transformed into a centre for learning, research and climate change innovation.'

1.10 The CCTDB also discussed the procurement exercise for suitably qualified and experienced consultants to work with the Council and the Town Board on the preparation of the bid for resources from Central Government

1.11 The procurement exercise has continued through the Covid-19 virus interruption to service but it has caused a slight delay to the original timetable. The Covid-19 virus has not however had a negative impact on interest from Consultants. The closing date for the tender was Friday 24th April at noon. There were 68 expressions of Interest and this resulted in 17 tender submissions

1.12 The CCTDB agreed to the long list of 17 tender submissions to be scored week commencing Monday 27th April and a short list produced. This short list will be interviewed on Friday 15th May by an agreed panel representing the CCTDB (via Videoconference). The preferred consultant when selected by the interview panel will be ratified at the next CCTDB meeting. The interview panel is a 'cross sector' collective of 5 people from the Board;

- Chair – Gary Golden (Worcester Bosch)
- Vice Chair – Cllr Thacker (Leader NEDDC)
- Warren Manning – Derby University
- Andrew King – Clay Cross Town Centre Group
- Cllr Morley – Clay Cross Parish Council

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 The CCTDB has agreed to the terms of reference (Appendix 1) and the communications strategy (Appendix 2). This has given a governance structure for the CCTDB and also agreed how the CCTDB will communicate with stakeholders.

2.2 The CCTDB has been impacted by the Covid-19 virus but not significantly and there has been an excellent response to the tender with 17 submissions. These submissions will be scored and short listed for an interview panel made up of members of the CCTDB.

2.3 The CCTDB has agreed an interview panel which like the CCTDB is represented by the Public and Private sector with a range of skills. The approved consultant will then be ratified by the CCTDB.

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 have been considered as the alternative was to not continue the procurement exercise and this is not appropriate.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 None arising specifically from this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 None arising specifically from this report.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 None arising specifically from this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Cabinet notes the content of this report.

7 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>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <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>	No

Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed	Yes
District Wards Affected	Clay Cross South, Clay Cross North
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	All

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Clay Cross Town Deal Board Terms of Reference
2	Clay Cross Town Deal Board Communications Strategy
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
Karl Apps, Acting Joint Head of Service Economic Development	3261

Report Reference –