

## **Clay Cross Town Deal Board**

### **Board Meeting**

**Friday 6 November 2020**

#### **Accelerator Funding update**

### **Report of the Clay Cross Town Deal Board Chair**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- To update the Clay Cross Town Deal Board (CCTDB) on the accelerator funding awarded to Clay Cross

#### **1 Report Details**

- 1.1 On 30 June, the Prime Minister announced that government is bringing forward £5 billion of capital investment projects, supporting jobs and the economic recovery.
- 1.2 The Towns Fund is central to the government's ambition to level up the country – creating jobs and building stronger and more resilient local economies and communities. In recognition of the importance of this fund and the pressing need in the towns that have been selected to benefit, government is bringing forward funding to this financial year to support projects that will make an immediate impact in towns.
- 1.3 Clay Cross has received a grant of £500,000 to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year. Funding was allocated according to population size from the 2011 Census, using the Office for National Statistics' categorisation of small, medium and large towns. This grant will be used to support capital spend within the intervention framework as set out in the Towns Fund Further Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance>
- 1.4 To support the delivery of the Clay Cross Town Investment Plan (CCTIP) and to use the £500,000 grant four projects have been agreed with the CCTDB Chair, Vice Chair, North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) Section 151 Officer and Towns Deal. These projects are as follows:
  - Purchase of the Constabulary Building. Based on Bridge Street and currently in use by the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Countryside Service. This building is a key part of the CCTIP and is required for the delivery of the creative led sector community asset. To facilitate this the Countryside Service will need to be

relocated and another building will need to be purchased as part of this process. DCC are developing the brief for the Countryside **Total cost £200,000**

- Demolition of former Council depot. Based on Bridge Street in a high profile location, the former Council depot is a collection poor quality buildings which are inappropriate for an improving area of the town centre. Occupied by a small number of car-repair and storage businesses, NEDDC is working with tenants to relocate them to more suitable premises. The depot will then be demolished, and outline planning permission secured for commercial use. The programme has been developed and the delivery partner has been procured. **Total cost: £173,000**
- Demolition of former junior school. The former junior school is located in the Clay Cross Conservation Area in the town's historic core. It has been vacant for over 8 years, and is in a very poor state of repair. It is widely accepted that the building is beyond the economic and physical point of restoration and reuse, so it is proposed that it is demolished and the site cleared and prepared for future redevelopment, as set out in the emerging investment plan. Due to the delay in funding being agreed the ecology window has been missed and a new project delivery programme has been agreed with the Towns Hub. This project will commence in May 2021 with the money held in an escrow account to ensure spend is ring fenced to the demolition of former junior school. **Total cost: £135,000**
- Public art programme: An opportunity to raise the profile of the Towns Fund, and publicise the Clay Cross Town Board's proposals, is being developed for the town centre. A unique feature in Clay Cross town centre is the ventilation shafts that sit above the railway tunnel that runs under the centre of Clay Cross. Using cutting edge technology, digital images will be broadcasted onto the restored shaft adjacent to the former job centre giving details of the plans for Clay Cross, and to provide animation and interest in the town centre. Following the demolition of the former junior school, a second public art opportunity will be presented in the form of solid hoardings surrounding the site. Junction Arts have been procured to progress this project. **Total cost: £25,000**

1.5 The Total cost of the four interventions outlined above is £533,000, and as such NEDDC and the Town Board will need to look at ways of refining these costs, and at options for additional sources of funding.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 Clay Cross has received £500,000 towards capital projects that can be spent within this financial year (although agreement to extend this for the Junior School demolition).

2.2 The identified projects will deliver early wins for the CCTIP and have been agreed with the funder.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 Key stakeholders have been consulted on this proposal.
- 3.2 Through the planning process further consultation will be undertaken on the demolition of the Junior School and the former Council Depot.

**4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 To not spend the £500,000 grant has been rejected as this is an opportunity to accelerate the projects identified in the Clay Cross Town Investment Plan (CCTIP)

**5 Implications**

**5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

- 5.1.1 The financial implications are contained within this report however spend of the accelerator funding will comply with the Town Deal intervention framework and the NEDDC framework.

**5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

- 5.2.1 Spend of the accelerator funding will comply with NEDDC and DCC procurement rules.

**5.3 Human Resources Implications**

- 5.3.1 This will be contained within existing officer time

**6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 That the Board note the update on the accelerator funding
- 6.2 That the Board will receive future updates on the progress of the identified projects.

**7 Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> 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>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b>	Yes

<b>District Wards Affected</b>	Clay Cross North and South
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	All

**8 Document Information**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Background Papers</b> (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)	
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