

Report title	Town Deal Capacity Funding	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Charlotte Johns, Director of Strategy	
Originating service	Strategy	
Accountable employee	Laura Collings Tel Email	Programme Manager 01902550414 Laura.collings@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Resources Leadership Team	15 January 2020

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve the establishment of a supplementary revenue expenditure budget of a minimum of £173,000 within the 2019-2020 approved budget, with any unspent grant being applied in 2020-2021. This expenditure is fully funded by the Town Deal Fund Capacity Grant from the Ministry of Homes, Communities and Local Government and will therefore have no effect on the Council's net revenue budget.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to establish a supplementary revenue expenditure budget of a minimum of £173,000 for Town Deal capacity funding within the 2019-2020 approved budget, with any unspent grant being applied in 2021-2022.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On the 6 September 2019 Government announced that 100 places would be invited to submit proposals to develop Town Deals to access up to £25 million of funding. The fund forms part of the wider £3.6 billion Stronger Towns Fund, which includes the £1 billion Future High Street Fund.
- 2.2 The objective of the fund is to drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic productivity and growth 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 local 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 complement regional and national networks, as well as supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity
- 2.3 The prospectus for the fund was released on 1 November 2019 awarding a capacity grant of £173,000 to Wolverhampton to support development of a Town Deal.

3.0 Town Deal Development

- 3.1 The fund will operate as a two-stage process.
- Stage One: Establishing a Town Deal Board and Town Investment plan which aligns existing activity and funding alongside a wider vision for the City.
 - Stage Two: Town Investment Plan to be used to develop a full business case to access funding for specific interventions to deliver on the vision outlined in the investment plan.
- 3.2 It is expected that capacity funding will be used to support the following activity:
- Running business and wider community engagement events
 - Developing a Town Investment plan
 - Providing technical expertise for business case development

4.0 Reasons for decision(s)

4.1 Participating areas in the fund have been selected by Government.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 Approval is sought from the Cabinet (Resources) Panel to create a supplementary revenue budget to allow the Towns Fund capacity grant to be utilised to fund the Council's Town Fund capital grant bid preparation and submission. This will have no impact on the Council's net revenue budgets as all associated expenditure will be funded from the £173,000 grant.

5.2 It is anticipated that the majority of the revenue grant funding will be utilised in 2019-2020 with the balance of the grant being applied in 2020-2021 and spent in line with grant conditions.

5.3 Further reports may be submitted to secure supplementary capital spending approval depending on the outcome of the Town Deal submission.
[TT/23122019/K]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The grant will be paid to the Council under a section 31 of the Local Government Act. Management of the money and spend will be monitored to ensure it aligns with the purpose which it has been received.
[TS/02012020/W]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 Business and community engagement events will be held to shape the development of the Town Deal ensuring a wide and representative perspective from the City's communities is considered. An equalities impact analysis will be undertaken on the Town Deal proposal prior to submission to Government.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications

8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. Addressing the climate emergency and building a sustainable city will be a key priority throughout the planning and delivery process for the Town Deal.

9.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

9.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report. Delivering inclusive economic growth will be a key priority throughout the planning and delivery process for the Town Deal.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 Technical expertise will be required to develop the Town Investment plan and full business case to Government.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 None