

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	Town Fund Capital Grant	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans Cabinet Member for City Environment Councillor Stephen Simkins Cabinet Member for City Economy	
Wards affected	((All Wards);	
Accountable Director	Ross Cook, Director of City Environment Richard Lawrence, Director of Regeneration	
Originating service	Transportation	
Accountable employee	Tony Marvell, Marianne Page Tel Email	Transformation Programme Manager, Service Lead - Transportation Strategy Tel: 01902 551798 Tony.Marvell@wolverhampton.gov.uk, marianne.page@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	City Environment Leadership Team (CELT)	29 Sept 2020

Summary

The Council have received £1 million capital funding for the Towns Fund Project. The Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-2021 report to Cabinet on 29 July approved the following:

Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy and the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and the Director of City Environment, to approve virements to individual projects in order that projects can be implemented in an agile and timely manner.

This report seeks approval of the virements to individual capital budgets for projects within the overall programme for the £1 million Town Fund capital grant received.

Recommendation for decision:

In line with the delegation that the Cabinet Member for City Economy and the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and the Director of City Environment:

1. Approve virements to individual projects within the overall programme for the £1 million Town Fund, in order that projects can be implemented in an agile and timely manner.

Signature

Date:

Signature

Date:

Signature

Date:

Signature

Date:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As part of the existing Town Fund, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have offered £1 million of capital funding to the City of Wolverhampton to support short term initiatives to support economic productivity.
- 1.2 The funding is being made available to support delivery of appropriate projects within the 2020/21 financial year.

2.0 Options and Discussion

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton have recently submitted a Towns Investment Plan, overseen by the newly constituted Towns Board. As part of the development of this document, appropriate utilisation of the available £1 million has been discussed and agreed by the Town Board and internally with the appropriate Leadership Teams.
- 2.2 The following projects within the overall £1 million programme and provisional budget allocations have been agreed, but these are subject to change within the agreed scope of projects to ensure full spend of funding allocation. These projects will require the creation of capital budgets, to enable delivery:

Project Name	Value
Post Covid Vibrancy	£50,000
City Centre Public Realm – Dudley Street	£150,000
City Centre Public Realm – Phases 1 – 3	£270,000
City Centre Interchange Cycle Hub	£45,000
Re-opening of the High Street	£45,000
Markets Refresh – Wednesfield	£50,000
Highways and Parking Alterations – Wednesfield	£50,000
Public Realm Improvements - Wednesfield	£50,000
Town Hall – Bilston	£170,000
Hall Street Hoarding – Bilston	£40,000
Lighting – Bilston	£80,000
Total	£1,000,000

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options

3.1 Acceptance of the £1 million came with limited constraints and represented minimal risk, with suitable projects ready to deliver so the grant has been accepted. The alternative being to turn down the available grant, which would have been to the detriment of project delivery and Covid recovery activities.

4.0 Reasons for decision

4.1 There was a pre-existing pipeline of scheme proposals which; supported existing development plans and Covid recovery, were suitable to meet the conditions of the funding offer, and which could be delivered within the available timescales. The decision to accept the grant has been taken and the above projects approved as an indicative programme to commence works. The projects require the creation of the project budgets to commence spend and delivery.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 The Council have received £1 million capital funding for the Towns Fund Project. Approval was given in the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-2021 report to Cabinet on 29 July to create the £1 million overall budget and to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy and the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and the Director of City Environment, to approve virements to individual projects in order that projects can be implemented in an agile and timely manner.

5.2 This report seeks approval to vire the required budgets to the individual projects as detailed in the table in paragraph 2.2. The grant has been accepted and funds will be with the Council in the next few weeks, the projects will be fully funded from the grant received or if required from existing approved capital budgets.

5.3 It should be noted that these budgets are initial estimates for the projects listed, if further virements are required to move budgets between the projects approval will be sought through a further IEDN in line with the approved delegation.

[HM/24092020/F]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 There are limited conditions associated with the grant payment from MHCLG, all of which are acceptable and have been agreed by Senior Leadership.

6.2 If the Council is required to enter into any contracts in respect of the projects referred to in this report, authority may need to be obtained in accordance with the Council's Constitution

[TS/24092020/Q]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the budget creation, however the proposed projects deliver enhancements to the physical environment and benefits for all residents, workers and visitors to the city. The individual projects will be subject to appropriate evaluation of their equalities implications as part of their approval and delivery / construction processes.

8.0 Climate change and environmental implications

8.1 There are no climate change implications from the budget creation, however the named projects are consistent with helping to deliver the climate change commitments of the City of Wolverhampton Council as part of the wider portfolio of development proposals.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

10.0 Corporate Landlord implication

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

11.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from the creation of budgets, however the projects will contribute to environmental improvements and a number will directly facilitate an increase in active travel modes.

12.0 Covid Implications

12.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the creation of budgets, the funding however will be used to support projects consistent with Wolverhampton's Covid recovery plans.