

## **Record of Decision**

### **Torquay Town Deal - Business Case Assurance**

#### **Decision Taker**

Cabinet on 16 November 2021

#### **Decision**

1. That the endorsement of the Torquay Town Board in respect of the business cases for the projects set out at Paragraph 1.2 of the submitted report be noted; and
2. that the business cases as set out in the Exempt Appendix 1 to the submitted report be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with any required amendments delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing and the Director of Finance.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

The proposals would enable delivery of Town Investment Plan projects from autumn of this year, which would demonstrate to the local community, investors and the Government the progress of the Town Deal. Submission of the business cases and the subsequent funding through the Town Deal provides investment which would create employment, attract additional investment and support residents in accessing support to help them gain work and deepen their skills in key sectors thereby in time contributing to a more resilient local economy.

#### **Implementation**

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Monday, 29 November 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### **Information**

In July 2020 the Council submitted a Town Investment Plan seeking funding to support the economic regeneration of Torquay from the Government's Town Deal programme, administered by the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The Council was subsequently advised that the Investment Plan would be supported by £21.9 million of Town Deal grant subject to the submission of business cases. The first three business cases were submitted in July 2021 for Edginswell Rail Station, Harbour Public Realm and Stronger Futures projects.

Approval was sought to submit the five remaining business cases for projects which include;

- Strand (Debenhams)
- Pavilion
- Coastal Corridor Pinch Point
- Core area public realm
- Torquay Town Centre regeneration

to the renamed Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

At the meeting Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

An alternative option would be not to submit the business cases, this option was discounted as the Towns Fund grant would not be released by the Government and the anticipated benefits from the schemes would not accrue. There would be significant disadvantages with this option which could include the loss of grant, lack of achievement of economic benefits and reputational harm with Government and local partners.

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

### **Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

### **Published**

19 November 2021

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: 19 November 2021