

Record of Decisions

Torquay Town Deal - Business Case Assurance

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 10 January 2023.

Decision

1. That Cabinet notes 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; and
2. that the business case as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with any required amendments delegated to the Director of Pride in Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Tourism and Housing and the Director of Finance.

Reason for the Decision

To allow delivery of the Town Investment Plan project which would demonstrate to the local community, investors and government the progress of the Town Deal. Submission of the business case 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 23 January 2023 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) now Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities (DLUHC).

The Council was advised that the Investment Plan would be supported by £21.9M of Town Deal grant subject to business cases. Business cases for all projects, with the exception of one, had been submitted and approved by DLUHC. The outstanding business case was for a site-specific town centre regeneration proposal.

Submitting these business cases, to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), and their anticipated approval would allow for this project to join those already agreed and to proceed through the next stage of their development and delivery over the period to the second quarter of 2024 and beyond where appropriate.

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 have been to do nothing. This option was discounted as without the submission of the business case then the Towns Fund grant would not be released and the anticipated benefits from the scheme would not be accrued. There would be significant disadvantages 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

13 January 2023

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet