

Not Confidential

Decision Notice From: **Leader Decision**

Date: **31 March 2022**

Title: **TOWNS FUND BUSINESS CASES:**

Wards Affected: Sutton on Sea, Skegness Wards, Ingoldmells, Mablethorpe, Chapel St Leonards

Key Decision: **Yes** Implementation Date: **31 March 2022**

Urgent Decision: **Yes** - The Government deadline for submission of the Towns Fund Deal Business Plans is 31 March 2022. The decision is urgent as any delay caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the Council has agreed that the decision proposed is a reasonable in the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.

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**DECISION:**

1. That the Towns Fund Business cases be approved and submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This includes the following Council-led project business cases – Cultural Skegness and Skegness Foreshore, and in Mablethorpe, the Campus for Future Living, Mobi-Hub, the Leisure and Learning Hub and the Colonnade at Sutton on Sea. Externally managed projects are also approved for submission, including the Learning Campus and Railway Station for the Skegness Town Deal, and the National Trust project at Sandilands for the Mablethorpe Town Deal.
2. That the submission of Towns Fund projects to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) be noted. This includes the Police Training Centre, Hardy's Multi-User Path and the Town Centre Transformation (including Tower Gardens) for the Skegness Town Deal. It also includes the Town Centre Transformation project, as part of the Mablethorpe Town Deal. These projects have been approved by DLUHC.

**Reason for the Decision:**

To enable the Council to progress the projects to the delivery stage and draw down the allocated project funding.

**Alternative options considered:**

The Prospectus from DLUHC sets out that agreeing a Town Deal with investment from the Towns Fund of up to £25m per place would be dependent on the government receiving high-quality proposals that meet the objective of the fund and follow the further guidance published. The Connected Coast Board and Council have approved the projects for submission following an extensive consultation and selection process. Failure to meet the agreed deadlines or submission of proposals or projects of insufficient quality, which do not meet the criteria and conditions, are likely to be deemed ineligible for this round of funding from the Towns Fund. It would also risk the positive working relationship established with Government departments. Without external funding these projects will not proceed as planned.

**Conflict of interest declared:**

Whilst I do not consider it to be a conflict of interest, I am an appointee on the Connected Coast Board which has considered the business cases referred to in this decision-notice. I am able to determine this matter with an open mind on the evidence before me.

**Dispensations granted in respect of a conflict of interest:**

N/A