

Report of the Portfolio holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

LEVELLING UP FUND UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the main projects proposed as part of the Council's Levelling Up Fund submission to the government in July.

2. Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the submission of the levelling up bids and generic project areas be approved, with delegation to the Head of Planning and Economic Development for any changes.

3. Detail

The Levelling Up Fund is a £4.8 billion initiative from the government with the core purpose of addressing inequalities nationally. It gives councils the opportunity to bid for up to £20 million to invest in areas they have identified as being in need of funding. These applications must come under one of three investment themes: culture and heritage, transport, or regeneration and town centre investment.

The Council's Economic Development team have been working collaboratively with both Eastwood and Kimberley Town Councils, consultancy organisations, and other key stakeholders over the past year to develop bids for these towns. Round Two of the Fund will open on the 31 May and close on the 6 July 2022. Broxtowe has been categorised as a Priority 2 area, meaning that it has been identified as being less in need than Priority 1 areas.

Prioritisation is still given to partnership's whose projects can deliver in the next three to four years but projects need to demonstrate that they can spend funding in the 2022/23 financial year.

Kimberley

Swingate Farm Sports Centre:

Relocation of Kimberley Miners Welfare Football Club from town centre location on Digby Street to new pitch and facilities at Swingate Farm. This will enable the Digby Street site to be released for redevelopment into industrial units.

Cycle Path Network:

New LTN 1/20-compliant cycle routes in and around Kimberley to link it up with key nearby area, such as Giltbrook Shopping Park, Eastwood, Bennerley Viaduct and Phoenix Park, Park and Ride tram stop.

Town Centre Improvements

Improvements to pedestrian realm and light installations to make the town centre more friendly, event centred and aesthetically pleasing. Alongside this, grants will be offered to local businesses to enhance or design Victorian features for their shops fronts to give Kimberley a unique identity.

A business and community hub is to be built on the existing site of the Parish Rooms, providing co-working space and managed offices. It is a multi-function hub with community facilities.

Eastwood

Walker Street Wellbeing Hub

A new wellbeing hub in the heart of the town centre that will house a new GP surgery, pharmacy, library and community swimming pool with therapeutic benefits. Alongside this new addition to the town centre, grants will be made available to businesses to encourage town centre regeneration and recovery from the pandemic.

Durban House

Transformation of an important historic building in Eastwood into a low-carbon community hub. Services ran from Durban House will include a dementia day care facility, as well as employment support services, mental health support services, a healthy eating café, a community garden, and health and fitness classes. These facilities will be overseen by the Durban House Community Hub group, which is a registered Community Interest Organisation. LUF funding will enable the structural changes needed to allow these services to run from Durban House.

Cycle Path Network

New LTN 1/20-compliant cycle routes in and around Eastwood to link the town up with other important areas, including Kimberley, Caunton Engineering, Panattoni Park, and encourage active travel methods.

Amion Consulting who have previously been successful with LUF bids elsewhere across the Country have been appointed to support the bids submission process.

On completion of the near final drafts of the Economic Development Team will hold a session with Councillors, especially the Cabinet to clarify all matters pertaining to the bids and the Council's onward role in their delivery.

4. Financial Implications

The approximate bid ask for the Kimberley bid is £14 to £15 million and £19 to £20 million for Eastwood. Both of these cost estimations are dependent on contingencies and finalised costings for elements of each bid.

DHLUC also expect bids to provide a 10% local capital contribution, either in land or financial contributions, contributions could come from either the private,

public or voluntary sector but it is appropriate that the Council will need to give due consideration to this issue when the full bids are laid out before it. There would also be a possibility of a revenue and staffing cost to the Council if some of the projects outlined above were successful.

5. Legal Implications

All bids must comply with all relevant UK legislation including subsidy control (if applicable), this legal compliance should be considered as part of the bids submission process.

6. Human Resources Implications

There are no HR implications.

7. Union Comments

N/A.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

N/A

9. Equality Impact Assessment

N/A.

10. Background Papers

Levelling Up Fund prospectus.