

**Stapleford Towns Deal Fund****1. Purpose of the Report**

To update members as to the progress of the Stapleford Towns Deal bid.

**2. Background**

Stapleford Town has been selected as one of a hundred towns to receive funding through the Town's Deal. The fund is for up to £25m, per town area. Investment has been directed towards; connectivity, urban regeneration, planning and land use, skills and enterprise infrastructure. Through the creation of a Town Investment Plan, the Fund will drive long-term economic growth and resilience.

A significant amount of work has been carried out to date, and a wide variety of stakeholders have been contacted for their views. Various consultants have also been employed throughout to interpret or obtain data, and most recently the wider master planning of the town and 'vision and branding work' has been taking place.

The appendix gives a summary of the work carried out to date.

**3. Financial Implications**

The Towns Fund could result in an investment of up to £25 million for the Town of Stapleford. To obtain this, the Town Investment Plan will need to demonstrate significant co-funding from public and private sector sources.

The prospectus has outlined £140,000 capacity funding, to be used toward the development of a Town Deal Board and Investment Plan for Stapleford. Of which, approximately £95,000 has already been spent.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to note this report.**

**APPENDIX**

Following the inception of the Stapleford Town Deal last year there have been 6 Executive board meetings and 4 stakeholder group meetings, and we are continuing these as best we can under current circumstances.

Consultants carried out an initial 'SWOT' analysis which enabled the Executive board to better understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the area. Concurrently feedback as to potential projects for the town was sought from stakeholders in and around the locality. This was facilitated via a number of different channels, including; online consultation, the stakeholder group and executive board meetings, the governments MyTown campaign and leaflet dropping all residential and commercial properties within Stapleford. It was important to make sure that everyone was contacted and had an opportunity to comment and assist in the process. So far we have had responses from 210 stakeholders as part of the consultation activity, and over 30 different stakeholder bodies have attended the meetings

All of this feedback is being processed by our Master planners, which is enabling us to create a list of desired projects; in relation to the priority areas as defined in the Towns Fund Prospectus. Ideas that have come forwards to date include (not exhaustive);

- Town Centre improvements
- Updating current community facilities
- Business Hub/Centre
- Skills development infrastructure
- Enhancing the cycling networks

To facilitate the shortlisting of projects, consultants have been appointed to complete outline business cases. It is not practical or cost effective to create full business cases at this juncture. Outline business cases will allow the board to understand the financial, commercial and deliverability aspects of each project and thus shortlist in to the final Town Investment Plan.

Most recently we have also appointed designers to develop a Vision, Brand and support with writing the Town Investment Plan and this work started at the beginning of June.

Currently it is planned that we have 3 further executive meetings and 3 further stakeholder meetings, 1 each in June, July and August. However further guidance is due to be released from the government this month and it is anticipated that this may propose extensions to the current time frames for submission, based on the current COVID 19 situation.