

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR ALLERDALE

Meeting date: 21 October 2020

From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

WORKINGTON TOWN DEAL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 In September 2019 it was confirmed that Workington would be invited to put forward a Town Deal proposal valued at up to £25m to deliver economic growth. The case for this investment would need to be articulated through an evidenced Town Investment Plan approved by the Town Deal Board.

1.2 It is proposed that the Workington Town Investment Plan will be submitted to Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) at the end of October. Projects proposed as part of the Town Deal submission are identified below:

- Port of Workington Logistics and Clean Energy Hub
- Workington Innovation Centre
- Townscape and connectivity improvements
- Workington Sports Village
- Opera House site works
- Digital Skills Programme

1.4 This paper is inviting feedback on the emerging Town Investment Plan and the key proposals within it. It is also seeking agreement to the provision of a letter of support for the Town Deal submission which will be made by Allerdale Borough Council as accountable body for the Town Deal. The Town Investment Plan is currently being finalised ahead of submission to MHCLG by the end of October.

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 ***The development of the Town Investment Plan presents an opportunity to support the three Council Plan outcomes, these include:***

- ***people in Cumbria are healthy and safe***
- ***places in Cumbria are well connected and thriving***
- ***the economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone***

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Allerdale Local Committee agrees to provide a letter of support for the Workington Town Deal submission and that delegation is given to the Major Programmes Director in consultation with the Chair of the Local Committee to provide the letter following approval of the final Town Investment Plan by the Town Deal Board.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Government policy is increasingly focused on securing the levelling-up of the UK economy with policy recognising that raising productivity and economic growth in the towns and cities of the North can help strengthen the UK economy.
- 4.2 In September 2019 it was confirmed that Workington was among the 101 towns that would be invited to put forward a Town Deal proposal valued at up to £25m to deliver economic growth.
- 4.3 The case for this investment would need to be articulated through an evidenced Town Investment Plan. Development of this plan must be overseen by a Town Deal Board with the District Council acting as accountable body for funding received. The Government requires that the Town Deal Board comprises a mix of the public and private sector, the third sector and local MP. The Workington Town Deal Board is chaired by John Coughlan of TSP Engineering. Cllr Alan Barry represents Allerdale Local Committee as part of Cumbria County Council on the Town Deal Board.
- 4.4 The development of the Town Deal would come forward in two phases with the first phase focused on the submission of the Town Investment Plan containing a set of project proposals as the basis for agreement of heads of terms with Government. Following this there would be a requirement to develop Business Cases through which the detailed case for delivery funding would set out.
- 4.5 In developing the Town Deal proposals, Government has advised that there are three potential submission dates; the end of July, October and January and it is proposed by the Board that the Workington submission will be made in October.
- 4.6 To support the development of the plan, a clear vision was established to support the identification of priority schemes. The vision for the plan is:

Workington is a vibrant and well-connected commercial, civic and community hub for West Cumbria, loved by residents and visitors. Its prosperity is being built on a manufacturing renaissance, clean energy and a thriving town centre, powered by its skilled workforce and a dynamic mix of large and small companies. The town offers everyone a wealth of cultural, leisure, sporting and recreational activities. The town centre is home to new residents, businesses and social enterprise, as its attractive natural setting, built heritage and accessibility is increasingly recognised across Cumbria and beyond.

Workington is a safe, healthy, affordable and sustainable community that offers opportunities for all.

4.7 Guided by this vision and an aligned strategy, the Town Deal Board identified six priority projects.

- Port of Workington Logistics and Clean Energy Hub
- Workington Innovation Centre
- Townscape and connectivity improvements
- Workington Sports Village
- Opera House site works
- Digital Skills Programme

4.8 Within the Town Investment Plan, it is anticipated that the County Council would take a leading role in the delivery of the following two projects:

- Through the **Port of Workington Logistics and Clean Energy Hub** it is proposed that the Towns Fund can support the development of this hub, the Port and adjacent land at Oldside as a centre for renewable energy and logistics. To support this, funding would be used to bring forward remediated development parcels on both the port and at Oldside with the intention that the development of this proposal would link to the development of the Port Masterplan. The cost of this project is estimated at £4.8m.
- There are also proposals to bring forward a scheme centred on **Townscape and Connectivity** within the town centre. The focus of this scheme is on boosting connectivity between the train station, the heart of the town centre and along Central Way and to support the delivery of new development sites together with connectivity to a revised sports campus proposal. The cost of this project is estimated at £5m.

4.9 For both projects Local Committee and Workington Harbour Management Committee will be closely engaged in the development of proposals and business cases.

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 The recommended option is to provide a letter of support to accompany the Town Investment Plan submission to help secure investment in Workington. The alternative option would be to not provide a letter of support. Failure to provide a letter of support could undermine the case being made within the Town Investment Plan.

5.2 Members could request changes or different focus within the Town Investment Plan. These requests could be considered by the Town Deal Board.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct resource or value for money implications arising from the recommendations in section 3 of this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 By virtue of paragraph 5.1.1 (b) of the Council's Constitution, Local Committee is authorised to liaise with other bodies delivering services in the area, to seek to co-ordinate planned activities, and to improve services for the residents of the area by working together as effectively as possible. Accordingly, Local Committee is authorised to take the recommended decision.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This paper is inviting feedback on the proposals emerging through the Town Investment Plan. It is also seeking agreement to the provision of a letter of support for the Town Deal submission which would be made by Allerdale Borough Council as accountable body for the Town Deal Board. This would be issued with the agreement of the Chair following receipt of the final Town Investment Plan.

Angela Jones
Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

13 October 2020

APPENDICES

No appendices

Electoral Division(s): Seaton, St John's and Great Clifton, St Michael's, Moss Bay and Moorclose, and Harrington

** Please remove whichever option is not applicable*

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If so, give details below.

Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

REPORT AUTHOR

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