

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Commission 8 March 2021

Report to Cabinet 10 March 2021

Crawley Town Investment Plan – Draft Heads of Terms

Report of the *Head of Economy and Planning, PES/386*

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet the government's Heads of Terms for the Crawley Town Deal (Appendix A), received on 3 March 2021.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval for the Chief Executive to sign and return to government the Crawley Town Deal Heads of Terms document, subject to the prior approval of the Crawley Town Deal Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

That the Commission considers the report and decides what comments, if any, it wishes to submit to the Cabinet.

- 2.2 To the Cabinet:

The Cabinet is recommended to

- a) authorise the Chief Executive to sign the Crawley Town Deal Heads of Terms, as set out in Appendix A.
- b) delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to submit to government on behalf of the Council further details of the plans and budget profiles for the individual projects within the Crawley Town Deal and a plan to address the Heads of Terms key conditions.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 In order to be able to respond to the government by their set deadline of 24 March, Cabinet is requested to authorise the Chief Executive to sign and return the Crawley Town Deal Heads of Terms document, subject to Crawley Town Deal board sign off.

4. Background

- 4.1 Crawley is one of 101 towns across England to have been selected to benefit from up to £25 million each from the government's Towns Fund budget of £3.6 billion. Crawley is one of 4 towns in south east England to have been selected (the others being Margate, Hastings, Newhaven).
- 4.2 The government will provide public investment through "Town Deals": agreed Town Investment Plans with Town Deal Boards, focusing on the following themes:
- **Urban regeneration, planning and land use:** ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work – schemes which: increase density in town centres; strengthen local economic assets including cultural assets; site acquisition / remediation / preparation / regeneration; making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.
 - **Skills and enterprise infrastructure:** driving private sector investment and ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development.
 - **Connectivity:** developing local transport schemes that complement regional and national networks, as well as supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity
- 4.3 The Crawley Town Deal Board was established last summer comprising over 50 representatives of local business and community stakeholders alongside public / government bodies including West Sussex County Council, the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership, Crawley College and government representatives from DWP and MHCLG / BEIS. The Board was required to oversee the drawing up of Crawley's draft Town Investment Plan proposals, working with Council officers.
- 4.4 The draft Town Investment Plan proposals seeking a total of £25m from the government were duly drawn up in consultation and co-operation with the Town Deal Board and a draft Crawley Town Investment Plan was submitted to government on 31st July 2020.
- 4.5 Council Members were kept updated on progress through the Economic Regeneration Working Group and a copy of the draft Town Investment Plan was sent to all Members.
- 4.6 The Crawley Town Deal Heads of Terms letter (Appendix A) was received on 3rd March and confirms the offer from the government of up to £21.1m of Towns Fund monies.

5. Description of Issue to be resolved

- 5.1 In his covering letter (Appendix A), the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government is requesting that the Council's Chief Executive and the Chair of the Crawley Town Deal Board secure the agreement of the Town Deal Board to the Heads of Terms and sign and return them to government by 24 March 2021.
- 5.2 A scheduled meeting of the Crawley Town Deal Board takes place on 24 March and for the principal agenda item the Board will consider the Crawley Town Deal Heads of Terms with a view to authorising the Chair of the Town Deal Board to sign them off.
- 5.3 On the second page of Appendix A, the government makes clear that the Heads of Terms "is not a contractually binding document and the offer is subject to various conditions being met. The Heads of Terms will act as a Memorandum of Understanding for the future development and delivery of your Town Investment plan and project proposals. It sets out joint expectations as Crawley enters the business case development phase".

- 5.4 Within the Heads of Terms (Appendix A), there is also a list of the projects taken from the draft Crawley Town Investment Plan which government would be content to support within the £21.1m funding envelope, subject to confirmation from the Crawley Town Deal Board and the Council of the following (to be provided within 2 months):
- The projects from the list which will be progressed and the proposed budget allocations to each from within the £21.1m funding envelope.
 - A plan to show how key conditions set out in the Heads of Terms will be met:
 - I) A Community Engagement Plan;
 - II) Individual project business cases to be approved through Crawley BC's governance process;
 - III) A programme wide Equalities Impact Assessment and project level equalities and environmental impact assessments.
- 3.5 The Council and the Town Deal Board are also requested by government to complete business cases for the projects being taken forward and to submit them and an overarching Town Deal Summary Document within 12 months of accepting the Heads of Terms offer. The full business cases for each project will require approval by the Council in advance and must be undertaken in partnership with the Town Deal Board.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications for this report. The allocation of the £21.1m funding envelope to individual projects will be subject to approval of the corresponding business cases by the Council, the Town Deal Board and the government. These will be drawn up in line with the procedure set out above.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 The Council must have regard to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The public sector equality duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:
- a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under that Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it; and,
 - c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it, which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:-
 - (i) tackle prejudice; and,
 - (ii) promote understanding.
- 7.2 A Town Deal programme wide Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out as requested by the government in the Heads of Terms (Appendix A). Individual project business cases will also require the completion of an Equalities Impact Assessment.

8. Background Papers

[Crawley Town Investment Plan](#)