



Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Executive to be held on 7 December 2021

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Subject:

Towns Fund Programme for Shipley and Keighley.

Summary statement:

Shipley and Keighley were selected by government as two of 101 places across England eligible for up to £25m investment through the Towns Fund. The Towns Fund constitutes a transformational programme of activity and investment in town and high street regeneration; promoting the distinctive offer of each place. Town Investment Plans for each Town were submitted in February 2021 and investment offers were received in June 2021; £25m for Shipley and £33.6m for Keighley. This report provides an update to the Executive Board in relation to the Towns Fund; it sets out the progress to date, key milestones and next steps required to progress and implement the Town Deal for Shipley and Keighley.

Authority is sought to progress the Town Deals in the Council's capacity as "Accountable Body" to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - formerly known as MHCLG, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth. The funding and projects Identified will create jobs, promote economic growth and are expected to have a positive impact on health outcomes.

Jason Longhurst
Strategic Director of Place

Portfolio: Regeneration, Planning and Transport

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Regeneration and Environment

1. SUMMARY

Shipley and Keighley were selected by government as two of 101 places across England eligible for up to £25m investment through the Towns Fund. The Towns Fund aims to support regeneration and economic growth.

The Towns Fund represents a fantastic opportunity for the Towns; investing in town and high street regeneration; promoting the distinctive offer of each place, improving the resilience and sustainability of our places and communities and contributing to economic growth.

In February 2021, Shipley and Keighley submitted evidence-based Town Investment Plans (TIP) to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The development of the TIPs was overseen by the respective Town Deal Boards and the boards endorsed their submission. The Town Deal Boards are not a legal entity; City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (hereinafter referred to as The Council) acts as the Lead Council and Accountable Body.

In June 2021, Shipley received an investment offer of £25m and Keighley received an investment offer of £33.6m – these are the two highest investment offers in West Yorkshire and at £33.6m, Keighley represents the fifth highest Town Deal investment offer nationally. Investments over £25m are limited to the most ambitious Town Investment Plans that promise to deliver transformational impacts for not only towns but also wider region and/or the country. In respect of Keighley, the Town demonstrated the regional significance of manufacturing and engineering sector to achieve an investment offer that exceeds £25m.

Shipley and Keighley are now in the process of developing detailed business cases for each project; all business cases will have to be completed and submitted to Government by the end of June 2022.

On 11 November 2021, the Council received the Grant Offer Letters for Shipley and Keighley. This is an important milestone as it will enable the Government to release 5% of the investment offer to the Council, as the Accountable Body (£1.25m for Shipley and £1.68m for Keighley. This is effectively an early advance of the capital investment to enable project development and drafting of the business cases. No other capital funds will be received until the respective business cases are approved by Government.

Executive is recommended to:

- i. Acknowledge the work and thank the Town Deal Boards for their ongoing commitment and progress to date;
- ii. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT, as the S151 Officer in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place, the City Solicitor and the Leader, to approve and submit the business cases to Government, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - formerly

- known as MHCLG, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government;
- iii. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place to authorise expenditure from the advance payment of 5% capital funds for business case and project development and agree to passport some of this funding via grant agreements to third party organisations to help develop those projects where appropriate or necessary.
 - iv. Endorse the assurance process for agreeing/authorising business cases for individual projects as set out in this report;
 - v. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place, the City Solicitor and the Leader to approve business cases for individual projects.
 - vi. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the City Solicitor to agree and complete the funding agreements with organisations that will deliver Town Deal projects for the Towns Fund programme.

2. BACKGROUND

In September 2019, Shipley and Keighley were selected by government as two of 101 places across England eligible for up to £25m investment through the Towns Fund. The Towns Fund is a funding and delivery vehicle for the government's policy ambition to 'level up' places across the UK.

The overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth. The Towns Fund criteria (set out in the table below) identifies key themes / investment areas:

Theme	Example Outputs
Local Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of bus services • New or upgraded cycle/ walking routes • New or upgraded road infrastructure • Pedestrianised streets
Digital connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of full fibre infrastructure with local authority as anchor tenant
Urban regeneration, planning and land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediation and/or development of previously abandoned or dilapidated sites
Arts, culture + heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or upgraded museums, theatres, community spaces
Skills infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in capacity and accessibility to new or improved skills facilities
Enterprise infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase high-quality and affordable commercial floor-space

- Increase shared workspaces or innovation facilities

The Towns Fund is primarily a capital fund and the case for investment was made through evidenced Town Investment Plans (TIPs). Development of the TIPs was overseen by the respective Town Deal Boards – one for each Shipley and Keighley. Each Town Deal Board, led by a private sector Chair, set out a clear vision and strategy for their town and through consultation and engagement with the local communities identified projects to help boost the local economy and create much needed employment and training opportunities.

The Boards brought together key stakeholders who are passionate and committed to delivering a step change for their town. They developed Town Investment Plans that promote the distinctive offer of each place and at the same time, have identified opportunities to improve the resilience and sustainability of our places and communities whilst contributing to economic growth.

Through the Towns Investment Plans, the Boards sought to reflect local priorities and co-design proposals with local people; ensuring communities' and businesses' voices were involved in shaping design and decision making at each phase of development. The Boards developed a Project Pro-forma as a means to invite ideas from the public and wider stakeholders to help inform the development of the Town Investment Plan. The purpose was to generate ideas from the local community about what they would like to see in within the Towns Fund boundary.

The funding parameters seek projects that are viable and sustainable in the long term, and which build on each town's assets and strengths. The projects proposals received were assessed against a wide range of factors, including strategic fit to the local objectives, HM Treasury criteria including achievability and value for money as well as strength of contribution to the Towns Fund criteria (set out in the table above).

The Towns Fund is an investment planning process as opposed to a traditional bidding opportunity. As such, the coherence of the Town Investment Plan (i.e. the complementarity of project proposals and their alignment with the town vision and strategic planning) will play a key role in the assessment process along with the need for sound evidential backing.

In February 2021, Shipley and Keighley submitted evidence-based Town Investment Plans (TIP) to MHCLG. Shipley sought £27.36m investment and Keighley sought £34.71m. The development of the TIPs was overseen by the respective Town Deal Boards and the boards endorsed their submission. The Town Deal Boards are not a legal entity; City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (hereinafter referred to as The Council) acts as the Lead Council and Accountable Body and will be the recipient of the funding. As per the Terms of Reference, the Town Deal Boards serve as an advisory function to the Council and make recommendations to the Council. The Council is represented by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport – Cllr. Alex Ross-Shaw.

Shipley Town Investment Plan Projects

Projects that formed the basis of Shipley's Town Investment Plan are:

- Development Investment Fund - A fund to restore and repurpose buildings and redevelop sites for commercial and residential use.
- Monies for town centre improvements - Shipley's Market Square and public spaces and connectivity to and around the town centre.
- Community, Art and Future Technology Centre - Supporting and developing skills for local employment and entrepreneurship including the development of digital skills across a range of disciplines.
- Capital assistance to business growth - supporting small businesses to grow and adapt and diversify in a changing climate
- Shipley Library Enterprise Hub develop and upgrade the exhibition space in Shipley Library to showcase local entrepreneurs, craftspeople, makers and small businesses including support, mentoring and training opportunities, networking events and workspace facilities.
- Health and wellbeing hub - A health and wellbeing campus offering wide range of integrated support services delivered by a skilled workforce and a team of volunteers who are trained in engaging, assessing, motivating and giving people the tools to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Shipley Sustainable Community Hub - A community hub offering volunteering, social community events, wellbeing and personal development opportunities alongside more targeted access to specialist creative facilities and equipment.
- Wrose Quarry Wetlands - Regenerating the heritage site at Wrose Hill/Quarry, including adding accessible footpaths, improving biodiversity by creating new wetland features including tree planting and adding new recreational features.

Keighley Town Investment Plan Projects

The Towns Fund Guidance did offer the possibility of investment exceeding £25m in exceptional circumstances. Investments over £25m are limited to the most ambitious Town Investment Plans that promise to deliver transformational impacts for not only towns but also wider region and/or the country. In respect of Keighley, the Town demonstrated the regional significance of manufacturing and engineering sector to achieve an investment offer that exceeds £25m on the basis of the following:

- Leeds City Region enjoys a global reputation for its advanced manufacturing sector and has the highest number of manufacturing jobs in the UK – the sector comprises just under a fifth of West Yorkshire economy
- Keighley has a high concentration of manufacturing jobs (19%) and has the potential to become a key driver for the UK economy, improving resilience.

This is higher than Bradford District (13%), LCR (10%) and more than double the figure for England (8%).

- Keighley has a diverse and well-established manufacturing sector with a quarter of local workforce employed by it and the sector could grow quicker with the investment and support through the TIP;
- Keighley's fastest growing sub sectors (motor vehicles, chemicals, textiles, electrical and drinks manufacturing) are all included as key sectors in the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan
- Local stakeholders report a strong demand for good quality industrial stock in Keighley and the wider Airedale area.
- Market failure - high demand for quality industrial stock is not being met due to site constraints and viability such as abnormal development costs typical of brownfield land in flood area; sustainable energy costs and remediation and site infrastructure.

Projects that formed the basis of Keighley's Town Investment Plan are:

- Development Investment Fund - A fund to restore and repurpose buildings and redevelop sites for commercial and residential use.
- Public realm and transport infrastructure improvements –Improvements to ensure the town centre is well connected and accessible to the surrounding areas; this will include improving walking/cycling links and public spaces such as streets, squares and parks.
- Keighley Skills Hub - a space and facilities to support and develop skills for local employment and entrepreneurship delivering education and skills courses to adult learners of all ages to support transition to employment
- Manufacturing Engineering Future Technology Hub - training hub specialising in manufacturing and engineering skills; focusing on areas of advanced engineering, manufacturing, maintenance and technical support skills around these including IT networks, cyber security and online marketing.
- Capital assistance to business growth - supporting small businesses to grow and adapt and diversify in a changing climate.
- Community Grant Scheme – financial support to a range of organisations and businesses that are rooted in the local communities including grass roots and community organisations to improve premises or support to expand or diversify / strengthen the offer to the local community.
- Keighley Creative Community Hub - A community arts hub creating a cultural destination in Keighley town centre and will provide a year round programme of skills training and leisure learning
- Keighley Art and Film Festival - supporting the development of the Keighley Art and Film Festival and to employ a small core team year-round to generate the resources to ensure a high-impact series of events

- Women Employment Project - establishing a textile academy which will deliver a bespoke skills training package for local Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women to improve pathways into skilled work.
- Health and Wellbeing Centre - An integrated health and wellbeing centre in the heart of Keighley bringing together GP services including self-care and prevention, as well as community care, mental health, dental care services and a GP training hub.

In June 2021, both Towns received an investment offer, known as a Heads of Terms. Shipley received a Heads of Terms offer of £25m (£2.36m, less than the ask set out in the TIP submission) and Keighley received Heads of Terms offer of £33.6m (just £1.1m, less than the ask set out in the TIP submission). The Heads of Terms is effectively an agreement in principle for funding between the government, the lead council and the Town Deal Board – and was signed by the Chair of the Town Deal Board, the Council and by Ministers. It was returned to Government at the end of June 2021.

Following the Heads of Terms, the Town Deal Boards had eight weeks, until the end of August 2021 to review the projects and re-apportion the TIP ask to meet the investment offer. The Board endorsed the following principles in undertaking the re-apportionment exercise:

- Identify projects where reduction in value would not materially affect / impact the benefits / outcomes;
- Ring-fenced low value projects as exempt because reducing them would disproportionately affect their delivery and benefits / outcomes; and
- Preference to find main savings in projects that are made up of sub-projects – such as the Development Investment Fund.

The tables below illustrate the projects, the financial ask at the time of the TIP submission, followed by the outcome of the re-apportionment exercise and the final column, any reduction.

SHIPLEY – PROJECTS	TIP Ask (£m)	Revised Ask (£m)	Reduction (£m)
A: Development investment Fund	£8.0	£7.00	£1.00
B: Town centre and infrastructure improvements	£6.04	£5.04	£1.00
C: Community, art and future technology centre	£5.48	£5.39	£0.09
D: Capital assistance to business growth	£2	£1.91	£0.09
E: Shipley Library Enterprise Hub	£0.08	£0.08	£0.00
F: Health, wellbeing and community campus	£3.09	£3.00	£0.09
G: Shipley Wrose Quarry Wetlands	£0.07	£0.07	£0.00
H: Sustainable Community Hub	£2.60	£2.51	£0.09
TOTAL	£27.36	£25	£2.36

KEIGHLEY – PROJECTS	TIP Ask (£m)	Revised Ask (£m)	Reduction (£m)
A: Development investment Fund	£15	£14	£1
B: Town centre and infrastructure improvements	£2.50	£2.39	£0.11
C: Keighley Skills Hub	£0.91	£0.91	£0
D: Manufacturing, Engineering Future Technologies Hub	£3	£3	£0
E: Capital assistance to business growth	£2	£2	£0
F: Community Grant Scheme	£4.90	£4.90	£0
G: Creative Community Arts Hub	£2.60	£2.60	£0
H: Women Employment Programme	£0.16	£0.16	£0
I: Keighley Art and Film Festival	£0.24	£0.24	£0
J: Health and Wellbeing Centre	£3.40	£3.40	£0
TOTAL	£34.71	£33.6	£1.1

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

All towns have 12 months from receipt of the investment offers to develop a detailed business cases for each project. For Shipley and Keighley, all business cases will have to be completed and submitted to Government by the end of June 2022.

The Government will release 5% of the investment offer to the Council, as the Accountable Body later this year (£1.25m for Shipley and £1.68m for Keighley). This is effectively an early advance of the capital investment to enable project development and drafting of the business cases. No other capital funds will be received until the respective business cases are approved by Government. According to Guidance, there will be no clawback in relation to the 5% upfront capital should a project not proceed or be rejected in the approval process.

All project development costs including design, feasibility and technical studies as well as planning costs will have to be funded via the capital allocation for each project. The costs of any future monitoring and evaluation requirements will also have to be met from the project allocation.

Business Case / Project Development

Government guidance requires a fully costed business case for each of the agreed projects, setting out the details of how each project will be delivered. To achieve this, officers and project sponsors will be working with specialist consultants to develop and finalise these. Faithful + Gould, who supported the development of the successful TIPs, are

To support the preparation of business cases, MHCLG have produced proportionality guidelines and a business case template (<https://townsfund.org.uk/resources-collection/business-case-template>). This will help to ensure that level of detail is proportionate to the value and complexity of the project.

The tables below set out the proposed Business Case submission programme for each town:

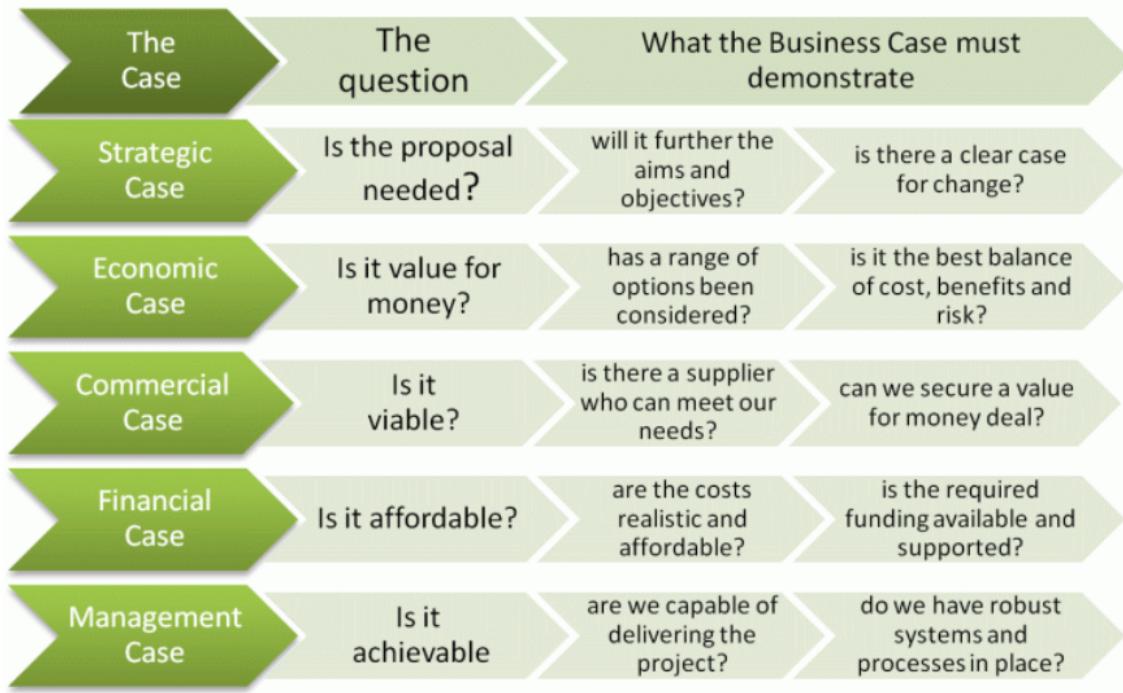
Project name - Shipley	Month/Year
A - Development Investment Fund	Apr 2022
B - Town Centre and Infrastructure Improvements	Jun 2022
C - Community, Art and Future Technology Centre	Jun 2022
D - Shipley Capital Assistance to Business Growth	Jan 2022
E - Shipley Library Enterprise Hub	Jan 2022
F - Health, Well-being and Community Campus	Jun 2022
G - Shipley Wrose Quarry Wetlands	Jan 2022
H - Shipley Sustainable Community Hub	Jun 2022

Project name - Keighley	Month/Year
A - Development Investment Fund	Jan 2022
B - Town Centre and Infrastructure Improvements	Jun 2022
C - Keighley Skills Hub	Jun 2022
D - Manufacturing, Engineering Future Technologies Hub	Jun 2022
E - Capital Assistance to Business Growth	Jan 2022
F - Community Grant Scheme	Apr 2022
G - Keighley Creative Community Arts Hub	Jan 2022
H - WEP (Women Employment Project)	Jan 2022
I - Keighley Art and Film Festival (KAFF)	Jan 2022
J - Health and Wellbeing Centre	Jun 2022

The table below shows the Government funding release programme respective to the business case submission dates. Funding will only be released if the business case is approved and funding will be released to the Council as the Accountable Body in annual tranches.

Business Case Submission Dates	Payment month
14 January 2022	March 2022
15 April 2022	June 2022
30 June 2022	September 2022

Business cases have to meet Government requirements. The Five Case Model is the approach for developing business cases recommended by HM Treasury and is widely used across central government departments.



Local Assurance for Business Cases

Towns Fund Guidance provides that, as the Accountable Body, the Council is responsible for agreeing / approving business cases through an internal assurance process prior to submission to Government. Any such assurance process needs to strike a balance; to ensure there is appropriate rigour to ensure deliverability and value for money but at the same time, be effective and efficient and proportionate.

The internal assurance will be provided by a Towns Fund Programme Board made up of officers from specialist areas including legal and finance to act on behalf the Council as Accountable Body. The Programme Board will also be responsible for ensuring appropriate programme compliance with Council, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Towns Fund policies and processes.

The Programme Board will make recommendations to the Director of Finance & IT who in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place, the City Solicitor and the Leader be responsible for approving business cases on behalf of the Council as Accountable Body.

Once the project business case is approved, funding will be released in annual tranches to the Council for distribution / allocation in accordance with any funding agreements. Once approved and the funding is released, projects will be delivered in accordance with the project governance and project / programme management arrangements and the project funding agreement put in place to ensure delivery of project outputs/outcomes within timescales, project progress is actively monitored and evaluated during delivery phase.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

At the outset, the Council received, from government, £162,019 for each Town as capacity funding to work up the Town Investment Plans. The Council matched the funding to ensure there was sufficient funds in place to bolster in-house capacity. This provided a total funding pot of £648,076 to support this activity.

In March 2021, the Council secured a further £70,000 from Government for each town in recognition of the supporting the Towns Fund activity is beyond the capacity of existing staff resource. In applying for this funding, the Council identified some key areas for intervention:

- to build capacity and expertise internally via two Regeneration Programme Manager posts to manage and commission the services required; including business case development, servicing the Board and to fulfil monitoring and reporting requirements.
- local community engagement consultancy support - a specific request of the Board to ensure our hard to reach communities and groups are fully engaged in shaping the proposals alongside the business case development (digitally excluded and BAME communities in particular);

This funding can be used to cover staffing requirements as well as external consultancy or specialist support as required. As an example, the production of the detailed business cases for each accepted project will require external / consultancy support as this is a specialist activity.

The Council in its role as accountable body will have an ongoing responsibility to:

- Manage, monitor and evaluate the Investment Programme;
- Be responsible for the financial management for the overall Programme; and
- Periodic reporting to government as required.

The Government will release 5% of the investment offer to the Council, as the Accountable Body later this year (£1.25m for Shipley and £1.68m for Keighley). No other capital funds will be received until the respective business cases are approved by Government. As such, all project development activity will have to be managed within this upfront allocation.

Some projects that are being led by organisations external to the council will require some design and feasibility studies that will fall outside the scope of the Faithful + Gould commission. In such instances, it is likely to be necessary for the Council to passport some of the upfront capital funding to those organisations. Without such an arrangement, it would not be possible to progress projects and business cases within the required timescales. In some cases, depending on when the 5% upfront capital is received, it might be necessary for the Council to release some funds in advance. Any such funding would be governed by a funding agreement and subject to some clear governance and accountability; including clawback should funds not be used for the agreed purposes.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

A programme level risk log has been developed and will be regularly reviewed. A summary of the higher level risks is captured in the table below:

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient funds to develop projects and business cases	Government will release 5% of the capital investment (£1.25m for Shipley and £1.68m for Keighley) to enable for project and business case development
Insufficient resource meet the business case submission timeline	Use of consultants to lead the drafting given the specialist nature of the detailed business cases. Recruitment of Programme Managers for each Town to bolster internal capacity
Failure to adequately engage communities, especially hard to reach groups	Community engagement consultancy support commissioned to ensure our hard to reach communities and groups are fully engaged in shaping the proposals

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

The Council will follow the [Towns Fund Guidance](#) published by MHCLG (June 2020) in respect of the governance, management and administration of the Town Deal Programme.

The Town Deal Board is not a legal entity. The Council acts as the Lead Council and Accountable Body. As per the Terms of Reference, the Town Deal Board will serve as an advisory function to the Council.

On 8th June, Shipley received a Heads of Terms offer of £25m and Keighley of £33.6m. The Heads of Terms is effectively an agreement in principle for funding between the government, the lead council and the Town Deal Board – and was signed by the Chair of the Town Deal Board, the Council and by Ministers. It was returned to Government at the end of June 2021.

Following the Heads of Terms, the Town Deal Boards had eight weeks, until the end of August 2021 to review the projects and re-apportion the TIP ask to meet the investment offer. The project confirmation information and financial profiling was returned to Government at the end of August 2021. Approval is awaited and is expected imminently. Once Government approval is received (it is expected imminently) the Council will receive the 5% upfront capital.

The final contractual arrangements for the overall programme and any project-specific funding agreements including any feasibility funding from the 5% upfront capital will be subject to review by the City Solicitor.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth. The funding and projects identified will create jobs, promote economic growth and are expected to have a positive impact on health outcomes.

The Towns Fund links to the Council's principle of making sure that council activity strives to secure better outcomes and equality of opportunity for everyone. The Town Investment Plan and subsequent business cases will seek to ensure Shipley and Keighley are inclusive and prosperous towns.

Under the Towns Fund Guidance and Terms of Reference, the Town Deal Board is also responsible for fulfilling duties on public authorities under the Equalities Act, in particular, and the public sector equality duty.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant sustainability implications arising out of this report. The overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth.

Under the Towns Fund Guidance and Terms of Reference, the Town Deal Board is responsible for undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments for projects, where appropriate.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

In developing the Business Cases, projects will need to demonstrate that their proposed interventions have taken account of the following clean growth principle: Investment from this fund should support clean growth where possible and, as a minimum, must not conflict with the achievement of the UK's legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no community safety implications arising out of this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no significant implications.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no significant implications.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

This report is relevant to the following wards in the District:

Shipley Town Deal:

- Shipley
- Windhill and Wrose
- Baildon

Keighley Town Deal:

- Keighley Central
- Keighley East
- Keighley West
- Worth Valley

7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

Not applicable.

7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive is recommended to:

- i. Acknowledge the work and thank the Town Deal Boards for their ongoing commitment and progress to date;
- ii. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT, as the S151 Officer in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place, the City Solicitor and the Leader, to approve and submit the business cases to Government, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - formerly known as MHCLG, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government;
- iii. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place to authorise expenditure from the advance payment of 5% capital funds for business case and project development and agree to passport some of this funding via grant agreements to third party organisations to help develop those projects where appropriate or necessary;

- iv. Endorse the assurance process for agreeing/authorising business cases for individual projects as set out in this report;
- v. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place, the City Solicitor and the Leader to approve business cases for individual projects; and
- vi. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance & IT in consultation with the City Solicitor to agree and complete the funding agreements with organisations that will deliver Town Deal projects for the Towns Fund programme.

11. APPENDICES

None.