

## **Report of**

### **Amy Harhoff Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The Purpose of this report is to
  - (a) provide Board members with a progress update of the initial project submission following the consultation period for the Long-Term Plan for Towns Programme and
  - (b) to confirm the vision statement to accompany the 3 Year investment plan due for submission to Government by 1 August 2024
  - (c) to confirm the project prioritisation tool for project interventions within the Spennymoor Town Board

#### **Background**

- 2 The Long-Term Plan for Towns was announced as an endowment-style approach. This means that funding, of approximately £20million, will be released against a profile to the Accountable body and the Board has the flexibility to spend it over 10 years.
- 3 The Fund will be a mixture of capital and revenue, including capacity funding to support the set-up and ongoing management of the fund by the council, as well as support provided centrally from Government.
- 4 To access their allocation, each Town is being asked to submit a Long-Term Plan to Government, for approval. This will comprise of a 10-year vision and 3-year investment plan required by 1 August 2024. The Programme update report to June's Board meeting identified the section headings for the vision document. To date a pro-forma template for setting out the investment plan breakdown has not been received.
- 5 The consultation period ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 and via the consultation results and working group meetings several initial projects have been identified and will go through a project prioritisation process.

To assist with the submission a town vision has been discussed in recent workshops. This is *“Spennymoor will unlock its full potential as a premier destination to live, work, and visit. It will become a vibrant and inclusive town, boasting a thriving economy, a strong sense of community, and an exceptional quality of life for all residents”*

- 6 It is proposed this vision statement will be incorporated into a logic chain model demonstrating the link between key data outlining issues across Spennymoor and how the vision and associated mission statements for each of the thematic programme areas will help deliver change and the necessary outcomes.

### **Governance - structures**

- 7 Technical officer and working group meetings have continued to take place in line with programme guidance to identify and align current and planned activity across the LTPT area.
- 8 The funding is directed at three investment themes, and in line with previous Board discussions, working groups have continued to identify issues to assist in creating a resilient town for people and investment attached as well as identifying potential projects across the three themes.
- 9 High Street, Heritage and Regeneration , Safety and Security and Transport and Connectivity working groups have been drawing upon available data, consultation feedback and local knowledge to design/develop interventions in support of the emerging vision.
- 10 Working groups have highlighted issues within their specialist areas to make Spennymoor and vibrant and inclusive as it can be in line with the vision statement and also of the consultation summary.
- 11 The final element of Board recruitment – Business representatives, was paused once we entered the Pre Election Period. This will now recommence with interested parties to be invited to discuss their participation / potential contributions with the Chair and secretariat.

### **Submission**

- 12 Urban Foresight have collated the consultation feedback and provided a consultation report to provide further clarity provided for the 1<sup>st</sup> August submission.
- 13 There is no formal template for submission, however the document is expected to follow the structure set out in guidance. Towns are being encouraged to make use of diagrams, maps, and charts to support the narrative and may make use of relevant sub-headings where required.

- 14 From an analysis of all available town data, including that provided by the DLUHC, and from the results of the community engagement work, a SWOT analysis has been undertaken to help the Town Board inform the long-term town plan for Spennymoor
- 15 The Guidance builds on previous documentation setting out in more detail the 'on menu interventions (set out in Appendix 2) already tested and accepted by DLUHC as providing good value for money. Investment plans containing Interventions from the on-menu list will receive more rapid assessment.
- 16 From an analysis of all available town data, including that provided by the DLUHC, and from the results of the community engagement work, a SWOT analysis has been undertaken to help the Town Board inform the long-term town plan for Spennymoor.
- 17 Investment will then be prioritised across the three Themes and Intervention Categories which will be included in the investment Plan based on the feedback results of community engagement. To assist with this a project prioritisation tool has been implemented to assist with projects to be brought forward. The tool utilises costs, geography, vision strategy, "on menu and timescales amongst other scoring criteria in order to see whether or not they come forward as an intervention and if so the year in which this occurs
- 18 To assist with the submission a project prioritisation tool will be implemented as well as a Spennymoor Town logic chain .

### **Face To Face Consultation Feedback Programme**

- 19 Commencing 6th July officers will be available across several community venues in the town to discuss the LTPT consultation programme results and advise where potential interventions may be explored.
- 20 Co Design Consultants, Urban Foresight were appointed to enhance the engagement and development of priority interventions. A further programme of community and Stakeholder feedback sessions are to be held at:
  - Spennymoor Gala , Jubilee Park ,Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1:00pm- 3:00 pm
  - Spennymoor Brass Festival ,Spennymoor Market Place ,6:00pm – 8:00pm
  - Spennymoor Youth Fest , Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July , Spennymoor youth and community centre , 11:00am – 3:00pm

- 21 The programme of community venue face to face opportunities will be supplemented by attendance at other community venues in the town as well as attendance at Spennymoor Park Run.
- 22 Urban Foresight will also be holding consultation events at the local schools to demonstrate how pupils' opinions have been taken into consideration. This schools based programme may provide further opportunities to identify and progress recruitment of a Youth Council representative to the Board

### **Next Steps and Ongoing Activity**

- 23 Further background data is currently being collected to support the vision statement and investment plan. This includes:
- Town Centre survey – annual vacancy assessment scheduled with Spennymoor prioritised to fit submission timelines.
  - Retail and Leisure Gaps and Capacity Study has been commissioned and a report will be available by early July.
  - A series of car park surveys have been commissioned to assess car park usage across the town which will take place 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> July. Aldi have confirmed they will share data on their car park usage
  - Asset & investment mapping – identifying public assets and known planned investments to support the vision submission
- 24 Pre arranged Spennymoor Town Board meeting is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August , 3-5pm at Livin offices.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 25 Board is recommended to:
- i. Note the progress with consultation and consultation feedback events to underpin the LTPT programme submission.
  - ii. Approve the Spennymoor Town Board Vision.

Author(s)

Graham Wood, Economic Development Manager

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

None associated with this report.

### **Finance**

Government have confirmed the ability of local areas to carry forward unspent allocations in line with their Investment Plans.

An initial £50,000 Capacity funding allocation was received in 2023/4 with a further £200,000 released in April, linked to commencing Board meetings and confirming initial governance requirements are in place. It is understood Spennymoor was one of the first Town Boards to pass the governance checks and receive this further funding.

### **Consultation**

The LTPT programme has co design and extensive consultation at its core. Co-design programme being delivered by sector specialists with feedback sessions booked in for July

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

As a publicly funded programme activities in developing and delivering this programme are required to support the public Sector Equality Duties

### **Climate Change**

None associated with this report.

### **Human Rights**

None associated with this report.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None associated with this report. Safety and Security are a core theme for the programme and the subsequent investment plan.

### **Risk**

None associated with this report.

### **Procurement**

Specialist Co-design capacity has been procured following the Council's established procurement methodology

---

## **Appendix 2: 'On Menu' interventions**

---

### **Safety and security interventions**

- S1: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
- S2: Engage with Police Force and together consider interventions to focus on visible crime prevention in defined areas places.
- S3: Measures to prevent anti-social behaviour, crime and reduce reoffending.
- S4: Measures to reduce repeat burglary.

### **High streets, heritage and regeneration interventions**

- H1: Funding for place-based regeneration and town centre and high street improvements.
- H2: Funding for new or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects and assets including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding, and support for decarbonisation of facilities, energy efficiency audits, and installation of energy efficiency and renewable measures in community buildings.
- H3: Creation of, and improvement to, local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments.
- H4: Enhanced support for arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, projects and facilities and historic institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.
- H5: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- H6: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
- H7: Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects.
- H8: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues.

- H9: Investment in capacity building, resilience (which could include climate change resilience) and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- H10: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.
- H11: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wraparound support for small businesses.
- H12: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
- H13: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors.

### **Transport and connectivity interventions**

- T1: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.
- T2: Funding for bus infrastructure and connections to speed up journeys.
- T3: England and Scotland Only: Additional revenue funding added to the Bus Service Improvement Programme Plus (BSIP+) funding model from June 2024.
- T4: Funding for new, or improvements to road networks to improve access within and to the town.
- T5: Funding to improve rail connectivity and access.
- T6: Reducing vehicle emissions.
- T7: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.