

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 07 August 2023

**Report Title**

Maltby Project (Towns & Villages Fund)

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment  
Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Maltby East & Hellaby & Maltby West

**Report Summary**

The Towns and Villages Fund is a £4m Capital Programme, aiming to improve the Borough's local town and village centres. Four phases of work, delivering twenty-two schemes were allocated £3.177m in January 2022, with £823,000 left unallocated. This report updates on the proposals being developed for Maltby, and provides options on the next steps for the twenty-third scheme within the programme.

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet note the continued progress on the Towns and Villages Fund.
2. That Cabinet allocates up to £823,000 to the scheme in Maltby East, and delegates the delivery of the scheme to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working.

**List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 Maltby High Street Development Proposal
- Appendix 2 Towns and Villages Fund – case studies
- Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

Cabinet Report – January 2022: The Towns and Villages Fund

<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s134530/Report%20-%20The%20Towns%20and%20Villages%20Fund.pdf>

Cabinet Report – February 2023: Update on the Towns and Villages Fund

<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s139498/TVF%20Update%20-%20Cabinet%20Feb%202023%2024%20Feb%20version.pdf>

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Maltby Project (Towns & Villages Fund)**

### **1. Background**

1.1 Within the Council's 2021/22 budget setting process, a capital allocation of £4 million was allocated to the Towns and Villages Fund.

1.2 Engagement took place throughout 2021 with stakeholders to develop the overall aim of the programme and provide a lens to the types of projects that could be completed. This was used as a guide when Schemes were being developed, ensuring that they were relevant to this fund. Based on this work, the overall aim of the Scheme is:

*To work with neighbourhoods across the Borough, to enhance their lived environment, through a variety of improvement projects, focused on town and village centres.*

1.3 Underneath this overarching aim, five objectives were agreed to indicate what this programme of work should deliver:

- Improve the lived environment of all residents
- Enhance the visual appeal of town and village centres across the Borough
- Inspire pride in our neighbourhoods
- Co-produce projects with neighbourhoods to deliver change that is needed
- Deliver on the priorities of wards and/ or wider masterplans.

1.4 Central to the aim and objectives of the programme is the Council's approach to neighbourhood working. This approach encourages Members to act as community champions, engaging with residents, businesses, and stakeholders to create projects which will have a positive impact within their communities. There is the potential for ambitious, co-produced projects to be delivered through this scheme, embedding the principles of neighbourhood working into the design and delivery of improved and new public spaces. There is also an opportunity for schemes to link with ward priorities as part of the ward plan process, and this should be considered as these continue to be developed through the municipal year.

1.5 In January 2022, Cabinet approved the first phase of the Towns and Villages Fund, which included the first six projects to be delivered. A further update was provided to Cabinet in February 2023, which highlighted progress against these six projects, as well as an endorsement of the remaining schemes within the programme.

1.6 The original report also indicated that a "significant amount of funding" should be allocated to Maltby, to ensure that this key district centre benefits from investment.

1.7 To ensure that this funding is targeted as effectively as possible, further development work has been undertaken to understand the current issues

within Maltby, as well as priorities for investment. This work is now in a position where a development proposal has been formed, which gives an indication of the type of scheme that could be delivered through the Towns and Villages Fund.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 To date, the Towns and Villages Fund has delivered seven projects, with two more schemes currently on site. Most recently, projects have been completed at Rotherham West, and Aughton and Swallownest. Some case studies showing schemes completed has been attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The programme continues to deliver at pace, and it is expected that the first Phase 3 projects will be on site in August 2023.
- 2.3 All projects are now progressing, with design work nearing completion on Phase 3 projects, and consultation and conceptual designs being developed for Phase 4 schemes.
- 2.4 However, due to the larger amount of funding allocated to Maltby East, this project will be delivered outside of the phased approach to the Towns and Villages Fund.
- 2.5 Extensive pre-design work has been undertaken in Maltby, alongside internal stakeholders such as Ward Councillors, Neighbourhoods, RiDO, Transport and Highways, as well as external stakeholders including Maltby Town Council.
- 2.6 This work is now complete and a development proposal is attached to this report as Appendix 1. This work has identified three key priorities for any intervention that takes place on Maltby High Street.

### **1. Pedestrian Access, Hard Landscaping and Street Furniture**

- Improved pavements and quality surface materials
- Reduce and optimise pavement clutter
- Wayfinding and signage
- Better definition of frontages
- Pedestrian-oriented street lighting
- Quality, consistent street furniture

### **2. Enhanced Soft Landscaping**

- Better connections to wider networks of Public Rights of Way
- Increased space for planting and soft landscaping
- Resilient and attractive species

### **3. Defining the high street**

- Eastern and western gateway definition
- Creating zones within the high street
- Making use of listed buildings to create an historic zone – initial work is already underway through LUF project at Maltby Grammar School.

- 2.7 Using these priorities as a guide, the Council believes that a public realm scheme would be the best intervention in Maltby, focusing on improving the surfacing along the high street, as well as introducing soft landscaping where it is most needed.
- 2.8 To ensure that this scheme is as effective as possible, it is recommended that up to £823,000 from the remaining initial Towns and Villages Fund is allocated to Maltby East, to deliver a significant project.
- 2.9 Further consultation has been planned to ensure the intervention proposed meets the priorities of stakeholder, partners, residents and businesses. This consultation has been planned throughout the summer and early Autumn at events within the ward.
- 2.10 The feedback from this engagement will be collated and used to inform subsequent design work. Based on the cost of this project, all routes to delivery need to be considered, to ensure that the scheme is delivered in a timely and efficient manner, whilst not compromising the delivery of the initial tranche of Towns and Villages projects.
- 2.11 In the report considered by Cabinet in 2022, a premise was agreed that the Towns and Villages Fund was to use internal teams where possible. The use of internal teams will be explored fully, and where this is not possible, the use of external delivery resource may be required.
- 2.12 Once initial consultation has been completed, design implications taken into account, and the route to delivery finalised, a detailed project timeline will be drawn up in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The delivery model of the Towns and Villages Fund was agreed by Cabinet in January 2022. This allowed for the programme to be delivered in four distinct phases, following the same pathway from design to completion.
- 3.2 The recommended option is that the scheme in Maltby is allocated up to £823,000 and is delivered concurrently to the already agreed phases within the Towns and Villages Fund programme. This would allow the design and delivery of the scheme in Maltby to be completed in conjunction with works progressing across the programme, as well as dedicating resource outside of the phased nature of the remainder of the fund.
- 3.3 Cabinet could decide to allocate Maltby East the same amount of funding as each other projects within the programme, which would leave approximately £700,000 unallocated. However, this would not reflect Maltby's position as a principal settlement of the Borough. Other principal settlements within the borough have received extensive regeneration funding through varied external funding streams, and this gives the opportunity to provide valuable Council funding to the area.

3.4 Therefore, the recommended option is that Maltby East is allocated up to £823,000 to deliver a project that implements the priorities of the development work undertaken, and that Cabinet delegate the delivery of the scheme to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working.

#### **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 Consultation and engagement activity is essential to the success of the programme. Each ward had the opportunity to co-produce their submission to the fund, which asked for evidence of community need as part of the submission. Initial engagement with Ward Members has taken place and this has helped shape the proposals outlined in this paper.

4.2 Further community consultation is planned in conjunction with Neighbourhoods colleagues, based on the development work that is now complete. This will be used to inform which aspects of the development work are prioritised and delivered within the allocated funding. It is expected that this consultation will take place through July and August 2023.

4.3 Once initial designs have been produced, a further period of consultation and engagement will take place, to ensure the designs meet the aspirations of the community, and accurately reflect the priorities that were agreed.

4.4 Wider stakeholder engagement is also being undertaken to ensure that schemes are effective as possible, as well as complimenting other initiatives. The scheme at Maltby will include engagement with Council services such as Transportation, Highways, and Green Spaces, as well as external partners such as BT and the Bus Partnership Team at South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

#### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 It is anticipated that the scale and complexity of the project at Maltby will be significant compared to the schemes that are currently being delivered within the Towns and Villages Fund. A bespoke and detailed programme will be developed for the project once priorities have been identified and agreed with Ward and Cabinet Members.

5.2 In the short-term, consultation with Ward Members and the community will take place over Summer 2023, with initial Ward Member meetings having already taken place in May and June 2023.

#### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

6.1 The Towns and Villages fund round 1 had a total budget of £4m, as covered within this report. As previously reported to Cabinet the intention was to allocate a significant proportion of this fund to Maltby and there is sufficient unallocated funding available within the Towns and Villages round 1 capital

budget to cover the allocation of up to £823,000 for Maltby. There is a possibility that the Council may not be able to carry out the works using internal delivery teams and as such may need to explore external procurement routes, however, the assessment of internal capacity will be carried out first in line with the Council's Financial Procurement Procedure Rules (FPPRs).

- 6.2 The engagement of external Contractors to deliver any works described in this report must be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 There are no substantive legal issues arising from the content of this report.
- 7.2 Extensive consultation with both the community and stakeholders is planned and will limit the risk of any challenge to the Council in respect of decisions made regarding the scheme.
- 7.3 Once the scheme has been designed, there are likely to be specific legal implications. This could include property issues, contractual matters, procurement, and Traffic Regulation Orders and these will be addressed at the appropriate time within the project delivery.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for children, young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been carried out on this programme of work, and is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.
- 10.2 Town and village centres should be available to all residents, businesses and visitors of the borough. Improvements to these centres through the Towns and Villages Fund will have a positive impact on these centres and improve equal opportunity and access to the proposed centres.
- 10.3 Within the delivery process for each project, consultation will be carried out with communities through Ward Members and the Neighbourhoods service. Equality and diversity will be a key theme within this consultation and ensure that the views of local communities are heard and included within subsequent designs. Additional requirements that are requested to meet specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of works will also be accommodated to ensure that access is continuous throughout the delivery process

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 4.
- 11.2 It is envisaged that the impact of this programme of work will be localised. Where an impact on carbon emissions has been highlighted, relevant mitigations will be implemented to reduce, where possible, the Council's impact on the climate.
- 11.3 The largest impact identified will be emissions from construction and development, where heavy machinery is used to deliver material, and construct projects. To mitigate this as far as possible, local suppliers will be engaged where possible as part of the Council's Social Value Framework.
- 11.4 Climate change will also be referenced in the design of each scheme, with priority given to pedestrian access, active travel, and public transport. This will ensure that users of local centres are encouraged to walk, cycle or take public transport as an alternative to driving.
- 11.5 The indicative work programme also includes schemes that will increase the amount of urban green space in the borough, whilst tree planting will be assessed in every project and included as a priority if achievable.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1. As with previous phases partners and key stakeholders will be directly involved in the project planning process, through local consultation and engagement.
- 12.2 It is expected that Ward Councillors, as community leaders, alongside the Neighbourhoods Service, will be able to assist in identifying stakeholders and partners for individual projects, which will be in addition to consultation and engagement work which will be planned for each project.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 Programme monitoring takes place through the Projects, Initiatives and Improvement Officer within Regeneration and Environment, which includes project management documentation and formal budget monitoring.
- 13.2 This includes risk management, which will be tracked through a programme risk register alongside actions and mitigations to reduce these risks, which are regularly reviewed.
- 13.3 Individual projects will have a variety of internal and external stakeholders, and due to the scale of this project, an individual project team will be established, which will sit underneath an overall 'strategic group', who are responsible for tracking progress of the programme.



- 13.4 The current construction market is very challenging due to the increase in regeneration projects nationally. This means that there is often less competition when procuring services and materials/goods, which can affect rates and could reduce the options available through a procurement exercise. This can also affect the timeline to implement projects (for example if certain materials have a long lead in time). To alleviate this risk, it is important that any procurement process is well developed and considers these risks.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Ben Mitchell, Projects, Initiatives, and Improvement Officer

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	24/07/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	20/07/23
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	20/07/23

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