

Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting 21

Agenda Item 9

Report to: Blackpool Town Deal Board

Subject: Levelling-UP Fund/ Capital Regeneration Project Update

Relevant Officer: Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director

Date of Meeting: 9 June 2023

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and Capital Regeneration Project

2. Recommendation

To note the report.

3. LUF/Capital Regeneration Project Update: Hotel Indigo (Former Post Office)

At the last meeting it was noted that only the Multiversity LUF bid had been approved and that the Town Centre Access Scheme and Hotel Indigo Former Post Office Redevelopment schemes had been unsuccessful of the 3 LUF Round 2 submissions submitted by Blackpool.

However, as part of the Budget on 15 March, out of the blue the Council was informed that the Hotel Indigo scheme was now successful. This was as a result of a re-focusing of government departmental budgets, where it was now able to fund several of what it refers to as "Capital Regeneration Projects". This meant the Council was awarded the full £8 million requested. At the time of writing it is not clear if the project will fall under LUF designation and reporting requirements or alternative paperwork due to it being termed a "Capital Regeneration Project". However, in either instance the monitoring and assurance requirements are expected to be identical. A Grant Funding Agreement for the scheme from DLUHC is awaited.

4. Multiversity Scheme Update

Agenda Item 5 (Town Deal Scheme Update) provides a general project update so the detail is not repeated again here for brevity.

5. Multiversity Project and Programme Management

The MOU for the £40m scheme was signed and returned by the Council on the 21 February. A DLUHC signed response has not as yet been provided.

A welcome pack of information was provided (monitoring and assurance and branding requirements etc.) and an inception meeting held with DLUHC officials on the 23 March, where an explanation of the claims process was provided and it was an opportunity to raise any queries.

A first claim activity which covered spend on the Multiversity scheme to end of March 2023 was requested on the 5 April with submission required by the 28 April. It was submitted on this date, signed by the Section 151 officer.

The return included update on project expenditure, project progress, risks, milestones and any project changes. Spend to date was only £22,333 against the predicted £755,625.00, which is expected bearing in mind only a January sign off and the fact most spend is Town Deal based on property acquisition which stands at £581,358 as of end of March.

Forecast Spend is as follows:

Fund	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025	2025/ 2026	2026/ 2027	Total
LUF	£22,333	1,625,433	£19,848,660	£18,503,574	£0	£40,000,000
Town Deal	£581,358	£5,999,973	£2,378,669	£40,000	£0	£9,000,000
Blackpool Council and B&FC	£0	£0	£0	£12,396,293	£3,603,707	£16,000,000
Totals	£603,691 (actual)	£7,625,406	£22,227,329	£30,939,867	£3,603,707	£65,000,000



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