

CABINET

26 JULY 2024

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGENERATION AND TOURISM

A.4 INVESTMENT PLAN FOR THE CLACTON LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks Cabinet support on the direction of travel for the draft Long-Term Plan for Clacton, developed by the Clacton Town Board. The report also sets out the Council's responsibilities as the Accountable Body for ensuring good use of public funds.

The Clacton Town Board are due to review the draft Long Term Plan at its meeting on 19th July, and a copy will be presented to Cabinet, together with an update as an addendum to this report after this date. Due to the timescales being set by Government, they require a Long-Term Plan to be submitted by 1st August 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Clacton on Sea was selected by the previous Government to receive a 10-year endowment-style fund with £20million of funding and support. The funding was conditional on the development of a Long-Term Vision and Investment Plan (the Long-Term Plan).
- On 24 May 2024, Cabinet considered a report titled Progress with Town Centre Regeneration through the Clacton Long-Term Plan for Towns and Dovercourt High Street Accelerator. This report provided an update on the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding, including the formation of the Clacton Town Board, and the release of additional capacity funding to move to the planning stage of the programme.
- The Clacton Town Board is responsible for developing this Long-Term Plan, working closely with the local community. The guidance states that the Town Board may delegate drafting and/or submission of elements of the Plan to the local authority, but the Long-Term Plan must have been ratified by the Town Board
- The Cabinet approved the allocation of £30,000 of the capacity funding to support the community engagement and consultation in assist with the development and implementation of the Long-Term Plan. (The remaining £220,000 was delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism following recommendations from the Town Board on how best to use this money, in line with Government's Guidance.)
- The community engagement contract went out to tender, but this, and the business engagement, had to be put on hold due to the Government calling a General Election and the restrictions on publicity during the pre-election period.

- However, the Government did not extend the deadline for the submission of the Long-Term Plan, to allow for this loss of time, and therefore the Clacton Town Board will be submitting a plan with the caveat that they still intend to undertake community engagement, which could lead to some changes in the prioritisation of funding in years two and three. Also to note that Government did not provide the compulsory template for the Investment Plan, which would set out the investment priorities for the first three years, and which should be attached to the plan, so this will be submitted later.
- The guidance does allow the Clacton Town Board to draw on existing consultations and the draft Long-Term Plan is underpinned by evidence gathering and strategic analysis of past community and business consultations (The headlines from those consultations are outlined under the Community Engagement section of this report).
- The draft vision for the Long-Term Plan has been shaped by evidence gathering and analysis of community and stakeholder aspirations, supported by workshops with stakeholders and the Clacton Town Board. It highlights some of the unique characteristics and strengths of Clacton, which we will build on to transform the economic and social prosperity of the town. The draft vision sets out three themes and the principles that underpin these are detailed in the Plan.
 - How we transform - we want Clacton to be a vibrant and thriving seaside town, that builds on its strong sense of identity and is where the people are proud to live.
 - How we inspire - we want to foster an environment where every resident, regardless of age, can realise their full potential and achieve their aspiration. We want to develop inclusive opportunities for education, employment, and skills development.
 - How we connect - we want every individual, whether resident, business, or visitor to feel connected, valued and part of something greater.
- The plan also sets out the strategic case for change based on the data pack provided by government, alongside more granular level data, and the strengths and opportunities for Clacton (see Background).
- The Long-Term Plan is not required to provide project level information at this stage, but a high-level budget at *theme* level for the first three years, with *intervention* level information for year one. The themes set out in the guidance of the Long-Term Plan for Towns are:
 - Safety & Security
 - High Streets, Heritage, and Regeneration
 - Transport and connectivity
- The list of interventions provided by Government (see Background) are those which have already been assessed as having a strong case for investment, value for money and benefit-to-cost ratio. The Clacton Town Board have selected from this list of interventions, and therefore a business case will not be required as part of the assessment process by Government. (This is intended to simplify the process as far as possible and reduce bureaucracy).
- The Clacton Town Board is complying with the condition that there will be at least one intervention per investment theme covered in the Long-Term Plan.

- The Long-Term Plan is focused on interventions within the Boundary Map agreed with Government as set out in Annex 2, although it could also benefit residents from a wider area.
- The timescale for the development of the Long-Term Plan was exceptionally tight, and has been disrupted by the General Election, both in terms of the restrictions imposed in the pre-election period around consultation, but also in terms of capacity within the Council. In lieu of clear guidance on whether the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding will be honoured by the new Government, the Clacton Town Board will go ahead and submit a draft Long-Term Plan by the deadline of 1st August (which has not been extended despite the election) but acknowledging further work will be needed.
- Once the Long-Term Plan is approved by Government, the Clacton Town Board can determine which projects are prioritised for funding, subject to an agreed process with The Council as the Accountable Body, which will consider:
 - the strategic fit with the aims of the Long-Term Plan
 - how they attract greater investment into Clacton
 - what outputs they deliver (economic and social value)
 - their deliverability
- In addition, as set out in our Assurance letter (see Finance below) the Council will further assess:
 - compliance with the Subsidy Control Act
 - the project risks
 - compliance with the Council's procurement procedures.
- The Council acknowledges that the Long-Term Plan at this stage is still in draft and may require further amendments following feedback from Government, and the publication of the Investment Plan template, but we are confident that it is compliant with the guidance and is proceeding in the correct way, despite delays and some uncertainty caused by the General Election, and therefore is happy to recommend it for support prior to submission.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) supports the draft Clacton Long -Term Plan for submission to Government;**
- b) notes the Long-Term Plan is delivered by the Town Board, with the Council acting as Accountable Body;**
- c) delegates the implementation of the Plan to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism following recommendations from the Town Board, in line with Government's Guidance, with the governance procedures supporting this process to be determined;**
- d) subject to (c) any such Executive decisions will require a report in support explaining the projects and made following consultation with the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, taking into account the latter's responsibility relating to the**

management of funds and to submit a Statement of Grant Usage and an Assurance Letter to Government.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Council is committed to building pride in the district, championing the local environment and regenerating the area. The funding provided by Government under the Long-Term Plan for Towns will support the Council to implement its priorities in Clacton, working in partnership with others on the Clacton Town Board.

The Council agreed in March 2024 to take forward the Long-Term Plan for Towns in its highlight priorities for 2024-25. The planned physical improvements and regeneration initiatives in Clacton are ready to bring substantial benefits not only to their residents but also to visitors from across the district and beyond.

We are satisfied that the Clacton Town Board, whilst developing the draft Long Term Plan, has followed the due process as set out in the government guidelines namely:

1. the Plan aligns with the programme's investment themes: safety and security, high streets and regeneration, and transport and connectivity, and there is at least one intervention per theme.
2. that whilst the Clacton Town Board were unable to go out to consultation in June, the Plan has been developed with the local community and residents based on the outcome of previous consultations, and is therefore reflective of their priorities; and
3. that the Council will put in appropriate processes and controls will be in place to deliver the programme effectively.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative option is not to support the Clacton Town Board's draft Long-Term Plan. This option has been considered, however, the scale of benefit for Clacton in helping to address problems around safety, in supporting both the short and long-term improvements in the town centre, and improving connectivity, is significant. The Plan enables the Council to work with other key stakeholders to jointly address issues, which have been raised by the local community in previous consultations. By working in partnership through the Board we can share skills, knowledge and resources, and the funding can also be used to attract further investment into Clacton.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Corporate Plan (2024-2028)

The Council has adopted a new Corporate Plan – a key document which lays out the high-level priorities for the authority over the next four years. The Long-Term Plan for Towns and Accelerator projects meet the following themes in the plan:

- Pride in our area and services to residents
- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities
- Championing the local environment
- Promoting local heritage
- Working with partners to improve quality of life

Highlight Priorities 2024-25

On the 12th March 2024 the Council set out its highlight priorities for 2024-25, which included delivering the Long-Term Plan for Towns under the raising aspirations and creating opportunity's theme.

We will celebrate business success, encourage cultural, tourism and economic growth:

B1 Develop a long-term investment plan for Clacton-on-Sea working with partners in a Town Board

Economic Strategy 2020-24

The Tending Economic Strategy was updated in 2020. The Strategy uses evidence from Office of National Statistics to demonstrate that there have been some important changes in the district's economy in recent years which require a change in approach.

The successful Levelling Up application complements the following areas for Action set out in the Strategy

- The Clacton Town Board is a new opportunity to bring together partners in the town to develop and drive action to rejuvenate and increase footfall into the area.
- The Long-Term Plan for Towns will further the Council's development of high-quality public realm projects increasingly attractive place for people to visit, capitalising on the growth in tourism locally.

Tending District Council Local Plan 2013 - 2033

Delivery of these projects will align with the following strategic objectives set out in Section 1 of the Local Plan, adopted on 26th January 2021:

- Fostering economic development
- Providing new and improved transport and communication infrastructure
- Ensuring high quality outcomes.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is a key aspect of the Long-Term Plan for Towns, so plans should reflect local priorities and be co-designed with communities, businesses, and residents, drawing on available evidence and data. The requirement for the Town Board to produce a 10-year vision requires clear evidence that the Town Board is community led, including through its

membership, ways of working and distinction from the local authority, and evidence of buy-in from local businesses, civil society and communities. It should describe how these stakeholders have been engaged to date, and how that engagement will continue going forward.

Due to the Government calling a General Election, the consultation, planned to take place in June, had to be put on hold. However, the guidance does allow us to reflect on other recent consultations, that are relevant to the Long-Term Plan for Towns themes, so the Plan takes into account outcomes of the following consultations, which have taken place within the last three years:

- Clacton Business Survey
- Tendring Bus Passenger Survey
- Pedal Power survey
- Levelling up in Practice (Onward) Report and Focus Groups
- Women's safety in public places mapping/survey
- Safer Streets project
- Tendring Community Safety Strategic Assessment (including data from the Safer Essex Community Safety Survey, ECC Resident Survey, and Essex Police Public Perception Survey).
- Tendring District Council Corporate Plan consultation
- High Streets Task Force report
- VVU Youth Voices Listening Report
- Turning the Tide report

Below is a summary of the consultation findings, categorised within the three Long-Term Plan themes:

Safety & security

- Based on the Women's Safety in Public Places interactive map, the community reported feeling unsafe in 4 key locations within Clacton: Rosemary Road, Pier Avenue, Jackson Road, and West Avenue.
- Anti-social behaviour was a common theme with residents most concerned about fly tipping, drunken behaviour, and groups dwelling within the town centre.
- Focused engagement with young people highlighted concerns around poorly lit areas, apprehension about youth violence. The two most popular activities young people confirmed they would like to see more of were sports and gyms for teens for reducing anti-social behaviour and perceptions of crime within the town centre.

High streets, heritage & regeneration

- In addition to anti-social behaviour and safety, other key themes including addressing empty shops and the range of shops in the town centre, more events to boost footfall, and improvements to public realm to create a more inviting and safe space. People feel that the physical environment being cleaner and greener is integral to creating a good high street, building a sense of community through affordable events within safe spaces.

- Residents value the culture and heritage of the area and natural asset of the beach but want greater focus on a variety of events.

Transport & connectivity

- The length of journeys, value for money and frequency of public transport were highlighted as priorities, including alignments between train and bus services.
- Sustainable travel has seen a rise in the last few years as a direct result of the Essex Pedal Power programme and infrastructure improvements from Jaywick to Clacton, which is supported by GPS data highlighting journey frequency and key destinations visited by participants. However, residents have cited that greater connectivity within the local area would increase access to services and facilities and support health and wellbeing within the community.
- Whilst there is support for walking, cycling, and public transport infrastructure, parking remains a topic of particular concern in Clacton, and improved parking facilities are often requested. Perceived lack of parking is cited by some businesses as having an impact on their trade.

The Clacton Town Board still plans to outsource further engagement, with community and voluntary groups, in addition to undertaking further visitor and business engagement to inform future priorities but will do this along-side some immediate activities to clean up and improve the appearance of the town.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	yes	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income <input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)	Approval for the Plan for the Long-Term Plan for Towns was added on 24 June 2024

The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

In accordance with the Government's (then) Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Long Term for Plans Guidance for local authorities and Town Boards, published on 18 December 2023 and updated in May 2024, the Council remains the accountable body for funding and executing plans, Town Boards are responsible for developing the Long-Term Plan, working closely with local people.

Local authorities are being encouraged to help empower the Town Board in realising the role and driving forward a community-led vision for change. This may include providing advice and support on legal duties like impact assessments, to help leaders with non-public sector backgrounds navigate those requirements they may be less familiar with.

Where the grant is awarded via a non-Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) route, and the recipient is a local authority, the first line of defence is provided by the local authority and is the responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) as they act at an operational management level within the local authority in receipt of the funding.

The Chief Financial Officer will be required to submit a Statement of Grant Usage and an Assurance Letter to MHCLG. The Chief Finance Officer will be required to provide written confirmation that they have undertaken to actively apply all the necessary checks to ensure proper administration of its financial affairs regarding the funding programme, particularly in respect to financial administration and transparency of governance. The first line of defence will also include compliance checks to ensure the governance requirements around the Town Board are being met.

Accountable bodies must work with all their stakeholders to understand how proposed projects can be delivered in compliance with subsidy control. Accountable bodies should use the assessment framework as well as drawing on their responses in the wider proposal (particularly any deliverability information) in assessing subsidy control.

The Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) (a statutory document which sits alongside the Statement of Accounts, which is inspected by External Audit and which follows the CIPFA format) covers the seven principles of Local Code of Governance (for Local Government) and expects adherence with Principle E - Developing the Council's entity, including the capacity of its leadership and the individuals within it. Within the AGS for 2023/24, the Council stated it would review departmental plans against the new Corporate Vision to incorporate resources / capacity to deliver priorities, projects, and service provision. Applications for external funding and submission of expressions of interest must be made with consideration to resource and capacity to deliver in addition to existing commitments and service provision.

The Council must ensure that it is performing its statutory Best Value Duty with regards to the use of resources and service delivery. Best value authorities must demonstrate good governance, including a positive organisational culture, across all their functions and effective risk management. Cabinet's attention is drawn to the Government's Statutory Guidance issued on 8th May 2024 "Best value standards and intervention: a statutory guide for best value authorities"

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/Best Value Standards and Intervention Statutory Guide for Best Value Authorities](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/Best-Value-Standards-and-Intervention-Statutory-Guide-for-Best-Value-Authorities) 08.05.24

It is acknowledged that due to the timescales and events highlighted within the report it has not been possible to fully develop a Long-Term Plan and Investment Plan as required by the Guidance. However, in light of the deadline, Clacton must submit a document which broadly complies with the guidance and government policy. It is envisaged that further work will be required before any further funding would be released (in accordance with the processes described within the guidance) to support the delivery of any projects due to be implemented.

If projects come forward in the plan at a later date that seek to use the Council's powers and/or are the Council's responsibility, these will need to be reviewed and approved by the Council.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- The Long-Term Plan for Towns provides £20million of funding and support over the next ten years. Government have confirmed that the Long-Term Plan for Towns Funding will be 25 percent resource (RDEL), 75 percent capita (CDEL). There is an allocated annual sum (see below), but this can be reprofiled/carried over to the following financial years if agreed with MHCLG as part of the Investment Plan submission. (By moving the capital spend into later years we can better prepare projects and coordinate resources with other capital programmes such as the Levelling Up Partnership.)
- The funding includes the £250,000 capacity funding to support the development of the investment plan, already received.

Three-year allocation to March 2027

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Total (£m)
RDEL	50	449	443	449	1,391
CDEL		491	1,605	1,605	3,701
Total					5,092

In terms of The Council's role as Accountable Body we will need to comply with the following assurance processes:

- Our Chief Financial Officer will be required to submit a Statement of Grant Usage and an Assurance Letter to MHCLG alongside the Long-Term Plan (when the Investment Plan template has been released by Government and agreed by the Clacton Town Board)
- The Council's Assurance will set out that public funds will be managed appropriately including:
 - Our capacity & capability (i.e. the Council's resource, experience & skills);
 - How we will award funding on behalf of the Town Board to organisations delivering the projects
 - Subsidy Control (to ensure the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act (SCA) are met);
 - Procurement (describing how the Council will ensure that any funds delivered through the programme, including by third parties, will comply with the appropriate public contract regulations);
 - Public Sector Equality Duty (how the town has considered public sector equality duty in the design of their investment plan, and how they will consider their public sector equality duty when implementing the investment plan); and
 - Risk (how the town will manage and mitigate delivery, fraud, and financial risk).
- The Chief Finance Officer will be required to provide written confirmation that they have undertaken to actively apply all the necessary checks to ensure proper administration of the local authority's financial affairs regarding the funding programme, particularly in respect to financial administration and transparency of governance. This should also

include compliance checks to ensure the governance requirements around the Town Board are being met.

- The Council will work closely with the Town Board to agree processes and procedures for management of the Fund. This should include developing and embedding an accountability structure that ensures the Town Board can make effective decisions around the allocation of funding to projects, whilst also allowing the local authority to maintain direct oversight of financial decisions as the accountable body.

X The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

As set out elsewhere in this report, strong governance arrangements need to be in place when acting as the accountable body, especially given the significant sum of money involved and when working with partners. To date the Council has successfully put in place the necessary governance arrangements associated with the other various Levelling Up Schemes, which are expected to be ‘transferrable’ to the governance arrangements required to deliver the action plan proposed.

It is also important to highlight the point made elsewhere in this report for the need to have in place the right level of financial capacity, which is also supported by the proposed establishment of a Project Delivery Unit elsewhere on the agenda.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

<p>A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;</p>	<p>The Council recognises that these additional town’s projects bring in additional resource to accelerate the delivery of the council’s ambitions for pride of place and meet the Council’s 2024/5 highlight priorities. However, at the same time the Council is mindful of the strain this can place on the authority during the accelerated period of delivery. As a result, we are developing proposals to target our resources on project delivery.</p> <p>As project proposals are developed for the Long-Term Plan for Towns the Council will ensure the need for sustainability is taken into consideration – so that the council is not setting up long term financial liabilities from short term additional funding from government.</p>
<p>B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and</p>	<p>The Council recognise the key risks to manage this programme is the capacity of the Authority and its partners to deliver, the relationship with the town centre partnerships, and the risk of project overspend, and is resourcing the projects to enable these risks to be managed, working within the service and with the wider corporate organisation. Additional resources could be required within finance, legal, procurement and assets to take forward project proposals to enhance the town centre.</p>

	Decisions to implement the requirements of external funding should address resource implications.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	The cost and performance of the projects under the Long-Term Plan for Towns will be monitored by Government, which strengthens the ability to understand the effectiveness of the interventions.
MILESTONES AND DELIVERY	
<p>The milestones below are based on those in the Long-Term Plan for Towns guidance and are subject to change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 April 2024: Submission to government of update confirming the set-up of the Town Board, indicative budget, and compliance with guidance. • MHCLG releases the next £200,000 of capacity funding to support the development of the Long-Term Plan, including additional community engagement activity • 1 August 2024: Town Boards submit their Long-Term Plans (comprising their 10-year vision and Three-year investment plan) to government. • If amendments are required by Government these will be returned for revisions. • MHCLG assess plans as they come in, and release 2024 to 2025 capital and revenue funding once plans are approved. 	
ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION	
<p>Change in Government There is a significant risk that this money will not be released due to the change in administration in national Government, or it will be significantly delayed. At the time of writing the deadlines have not changed but the template required for the three-year investment plan has not yet been released.</p> <p>Capacity and delivery The Council needs to manage the delivery risks of the projects, given the Council is also tasked with other levelling up schemes, business as usual, and work to secure long term financial sustainability. The Council is planning the work to ensure there is sufficient skilled resource to project manage, commission, procure, and manage legal and financial arrangements to deliver projects. However, in prioritising this and other government funded programmes, the Council may need to decide to deliver other work to a longer time scale and may not be able to take on new opportunities that emerge while these projects are underway.</p> <p>Finance There is a risk that there is no clear line of accountability between the Clacton Town Board and the Council, as the Accountable Body, and this could lead to over-commitments or mismanagement of funds. The Council will ensure that we have sufficient budget and risk management processes in place so that decisions can be taken to progress or stop projects or the programme if needed. There is clear process in place that sets out the Council's role.</p>	

If the Council is allocated funding for project delivery, particularly for capital projects, there is a risk of financial overspend. The Council will ensure that there is a finance officer to ensure there is oversight of the finances within the programme and that systems are in place to manage money.

Engagement

There is also an engagement risks, with the relationship between the Council and the Towns Board to be set out clearly. Terms of Reference have been adopted by the Clacton Town Board which help to clarify the relationship between the Council and the partnerships and set out roles and expectations.

Communications

There are communication risks when projects are developed closely with the local businesses, community groups and residents, which may be made public ahead of time. A communication protocol has been developed to mitigate this risk with the Clacton Town Board.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

It is not anticipated that the Long-Term Plan will adversely impact on any groups with protected characteristics. Individual projects will need to take equality impacts into consideration in their development and design.

SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

The suite of funding opportunities available under the government funded programmes are targeted towards areas which have a need for economic recovery and growth, and a need for regeneration. The funding set out in this report have a particular focus on town centres and offers the opportunity to regenerate, encourage new businesses and public services to locate there. There is also the opportunity to provide a better place for residents and visitors to enjoy, socialise and support the growth in the largest high streets in the district. This provides significant social value.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030

The projects under this programme are not expected to have a significant impact on the Council's ambition to be net zero, in relation to scope one and two direct emissions by the authority and in its use of electricity.

It is possible that the long-term plan for towns projects will have an impact over time, especially under the theme of transport and connectivity, as it may have an impact on the use of motor vehicles. However, at this stage the detail of projects is not known and so it is not possible to assess the likely impact.

OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder

The Long-Term Plan has been specifically aimed at decreasing anti-social behaviour. Police are represented on the Clacton Town Board ensuring all projects are

	delivered taking into consideration guidance on crime and disorder.
Health Inequalities	<p>These funds have the potential to positively impact health inequalities, providing an opportunity to address challenges with regards to accessibility in the town centre, as well as the addressing the wider determinants by creating more jobs and a better environment.</p> <p>There is also the opportunity to improve walking and cycling access, provide green spaces and improve the offer for residents and visitors alike supporting improved mental health, improving perception and pride in place.</p>
Area or Ward affected	Bluehouse, Cann Hall, Coppins, St James, Pier, St Pauls, East Cliff, St Bartholomew's, Burrsville, St Johns.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 15 December 2023, Cabinet considered a report titled Government Funding Opportunities for Tending. This report provided further information on the Long-Term Plan for Towns Funding, which was announced on 1 October 2023. Clacton-on-Sea was one of 55 towns selected to receive a 10-year endowment-style fund with £20million of funding and support. The funding would need to be underpinned by an investment plan overseen by a new Town Board, in consultation with local people. The Cabinet approved the delegation of the formation of the Board to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism (15 Dec 2023) and the Board, including the appointment of an independent chair, was established by 1st April 2024. The Terms of Reference and governance arrangements were submitted to, and approved by, Government in May 2024. The Clacton Town Board, supported by the Council, were required to develop a single Long-Term Plan to be submitted to the (then) Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by 1st August 2024. In line with the guidance the plan will identify the measures under the three broad investment themes: safety and security, high streets, heritage and regeneration, and transport and connectivity. Government has supported the Long-Term Plan for Towns with a £250,000 capacity funding, which can be used to support public engagement and to develop the plan. In May 2024, the Cabinet approved £30,000 of the funding for community engagement and the remaining money to be delegated to the Portfolio Holder, subject to approval by the Clacton Town Board. The Long-Term Plan for submission must consist of a:

- 10-year vision for the town - the strategic vision for the town; where, why, and how funds will be targeted over the 10-year period taking account the town's challenges and opportunities.
- 3-year investment plan - a more detailed plan outlining the interventions the Board wishes to pursue within each investment priorities across the first three-year period of the programme, how funding will be indicatively allocated to specific intervention areas, when interventions will be delivered, the proposed route to market (where appropriate) and the management arrangements for the funding. This will set the baseline against which regular progress monitoring will occur. (There is a compulsory template for this which has not yet been released by Government.)
- The guidance states that the plan should set out strategic case for change based on:
 - data, including the data pack provided by the Government [Clacton-on-Sea -local data profile \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#); and
 - engagement with the local community, but previous consultations outcomes can be used where appropriate.
- All activity to be undertaken within the Long-Term Plan for Towns programme must align with the *investment themes* and *interventions* outlined in the December 2023 guidance. The interventions are high level, for example: *Funding for place-based regeneration and town centre and high street improvements*. The full list of interventions can be found here: [Long-Term Plan for Towns: guidance for local authorities and Town Boards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- The Long-Term Plan must complement existing or planned provision in the local area and be non-duplicative. The Town Board is encouraged to consider how the interventions they are seeking to pursue through the Long-Term Plan for Towns programme complement other government funding in the locality. At the time of submitting the Long-Term Plan the Council is awaiting confirmation of other major funding from Government, and this could complement or influence which projects the Clacton Town Board decides to take forward.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

[Cabinet report 24 May 2024](#)

[Cabinet Report 6 October 2023](#)

[Cabinet Report 15 December 2023](#)

[Clacton Town Board Set Up: Decision 1 March 2024](#)

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

[Regeneris Report \(tendringdc.gov.uk\)](http://tendringdc.gov.uk)

Name	Samantha Jones
Job Title	Regeneration Programme Manager
Email	sjones@tendring.gov.uk

Annex 1 Long-Term Plan (to follow)
Annex 2 Clacton-on-Sea Long Term Plan boundary map

