

CABINET

20 DECEMBER 2024

REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGENERATION AND TOURISM

A.6 COMMUNITY REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP (FORMERLY LEVELLING UP PARTNERSHIP) – PROGRAMME DELIVERY

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform the Cabinet about progress with the Community Regeneration Partnership (formerly Levelling Up Partnership) initiative and recommend that Cabinet approves the proposed projects aimed at place-based regeneration in Clacton and Jaywick, including progressing a first wave of projects under the delegations set out later within this report and establishing appropriate funding agreements with delivery partners for a further wave of projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Regeneration Partnership funding programme, formerly known as the Levelling Up Partnership, represents a further significant investment in the Tendring District, complementing the existing Levelling Up Fund, Capital Regeneration Projects and Long Term Plan for Towns funding.

Collectively, these funding streams represent a once in a generation opportunity, working in partnership with the Government and delivery partners including Essex County Council and the NHS East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust, to deliver a diverse, transformative range of interventions across our district: to improve quality of life, access to opportunities and health & wellbeing for our residents.

Progress since the last report to Cabinet

On 26 July 2024, the Cabinet considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism that updated Cabinet on progress with one of the Council's most significant new work-streams, at that time called the Levelling Up Partnership. That report recommended that Cabinet approve the principle of the Council entering the Partnership with Government.

That report also required the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism to report to Cabinet the scope and details of the individual Partnership Projects, together with the relevant Portfolio Holders taking the lead on delivery prior to implementation. This report provides an update on this process, including setting out the scope and details for a 'first wave' of Partnership Projects to enable these projects to be brought forwards to implementation.

Progress since the July 2024 Cabinet is set out below.

The Council as Accountable Body and the Policy Framework

The current approach is to deliver projects through the Council as the Accountable Body, working both directly and with partners to achieve place-based regeneration in Clacton and Jaywick.

Cabinet recommended to Full Council to approve that Tendring District Council act as the Accountable Body for the Partnership (or alternative relationship determined by Government in revised policy), which forms part of the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-28, 'Our Vision' and therefore, within the Policy Framework;" On 8 June 2024 Full Council approved that recommendation.

Memorandum of Understanding with MHCLG

At their meeting in July 2024 Cabinet also agreed that, subject to relevant approvals by Full Council, the delegation by Cabinet in December 2023 could be exercised by the Corporate Director Place and Economy in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to enter into any agreements with MHCLG for this Partnership

The Section 151 Officer signed and submitted the Memorandum of Understanding with Government on the 27 of September 2024, and the Corporate Director Place and Economy published the relevant decision on the same day. That decision noted that the MoU funding period lasted to 31 March 2026, and that entering into agreements with contractors or third parties to deliver projects would count funding as spent within that period, reducing the delivery risk report to Cabinet in July 2024.

The Projects

The report of July 2024 set out that the Portfolio Holder would report back to Cabinet the scope and details of the individual Partnership Projects, together with supporting Portfolio Holders taking the lead on delivery, prior to implementation. This report provides further details on the projects as well as identifying supporting Portfolio Holders.

Following the Government's Deep Dive review of Clacton and Jaywick from January to March 2024 Government ministers chose the projects that they wanted local partners to deliver, and which Government are prepared to fund or part fund (set out below).

At Government's request the Council has shared additional information on project timings, outputs, and outcomes so that civil servants could complete business cases, including assessing value for money, which supported gaining Treasury approval for the projects.

The Council promotes a 'quarters' approach in Clacton, so that the different funding streams create a coherent package of investment, including the funding that was called the Levelling Up Partnership, Levelling Up Fund, and the Long-Term Plan for Towns. The projects progress capital schemes in each of the 'quarters' and in Jaywick. This includes:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| • Civic Quarter | Carnarvon Road | Levelling Up Fund |
| • Arts Quarter | Links across town | Partnership |
| • Retail Quarter | Heart of the Town Centre | Partnership |
| • Tourist Quarter | Seafront | Partnership |
| Vista Road Site | Partnership | Wellbeing Quarter |

The projects funded by the Partnership programme are set out as follows:

Table 1: Community Regeneration Partnership projects

Quarter/Area	Project	Delivered By	RDEL £m	CDEL £m	Wave
Wellbeing Quarter	Ten_12 Active Wellbeing Centre Phase One and All Wheels Park inclusive cycling facility	TDC	0	£3m	3
	Ten_15 Urgent Treatment Centre and Primary Care Facility	NHS	0	£2.0m	4
Cultural Quarter	Ten_13 Acquiring and repurposing disused town centre building for cultural use	TDC	0	£5m	3
	Ten_14 Cultural master planning	TDC	£0.1m	0	2
Retail Quarter	Ten_08 Shopfront improvements in Clacton and Jaywick	TDC	0	£0.5m	1
	Ten_07 Connecting the town centre to the seafront	ECC	0	£1.3m	4
Tourist Quarter	Ten_11 Repurposing Martello towers	TDC	0	£2m	2
	Ten_10 Repurposing disused toilet block for seafront arts, exhibition, and community micro venue	TDC	0	£0.5m	1
Civic Quarter	Ten_03 Fitting out the skills hub at the new Clacton Hub	ECC	0	£0.2m	4
Jaywick Sands Place Plan	Ten_05 Expanding the Tudor Fields – Jaywick walking route which would also serve as an evacuation route and for emergency vehicle access	ECC	0	£2.5m	4
	Ten_09 Enhancing public open space in Jaywick Sands	TDC	0	£2m	2
	Ten_06 Extending the housing enforcement work of Jaywick Healthy Homes Initiative	TDC	0	£0.2m	1
	Ten_04 Fitting out the Sunspot Centre with solar panels	TDC	0	£0.15m	3
Transport	Ten_01 Improving bus infrastructure in Clacton and Jaywick	ECC	0	£0.23m	4
	Ten_02 Providing Community Transport Buses	TDC	0	£0.21m	1
TOTAL			£0.1m	£19.79m	

A roundtable with Government Departments and local stakeholders on tackling Jaywick flooding risks, was also discussed as part of the Partnership negotiations but was not included in the MoU.

This is one of the last Partnerships to go through the Government Deep Dive process, and given delays caused by the Election, project commitments have been extended to March 2026.

More details of the projects are included in the appendices.

Capacity

The Cabinet Report in July 2024 allocated funding to a Project Delivery Unit and noted that the Chief Executive under his delegated powers would arrange recruitment, which is currently underway to create the new Unit. Three project managers are already in place, with roles including Head of Unit, property lawyer and administrative assistant commencing early in the new year. The 2024 November Cabinet report also enabled that funding to be spent procuring as well as recruiting resource to the Unit.

The programme will continue to be monitored and reviewed in light of the Council's capacity, noting mechanisms included within the MoU to allow adjustments to the projects.

For projects delivered by TDC the works will be procured by the Council. Projects delivered by partners will be delivered through funding agreements between Tendring District Council and Essex County Council, and for the Urgent Treatment Centre, the NHS.

Programme delivery

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism will continue as the Portfolio Holder overseeing the programme, including for executive decision-making purposes. Where relevant, other Portfolio Holders will support the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism, as set out below in relation to the specific projects.

Programme delivery is proposed to be split into four 'waves' with three to be delivered by Tendring District Council, and then a fourth set delivered via agreements with partners. The appendices include a presentation on the approach to defining the 'waves' and detail on the first wave for delivery by the Council.

The programme will commence with a '**First Wave**' of the projects, where implementation plans are advanced. Developed timelines, project plans and project teams are in place for these projects. These projects have been selected for progression at this stage because one or more of the following considerations apply:

- Many of the Partnership projects stem from earlier adopted work and public engagement, such as the 2009 Clacton Town Centre Vision and Future High Streets Fund application. As a result, in some instances, the scope and details are sufficiently developed at this point in time to be brought to Cabinet for approval;
- Some are further phases of projects already underway: for example, the Healthy Homes Initiative, which is an existing workstream within the Council's Housing and Environmental Health teams;
- Some have approaches that can follow existing adopted approaches, either covered under the Council's Constitution, such as the Property Dealing Procedure, or the recently

- Lower value projects as part of the Partnership offer the opportunity to be ‘quick wins’, delivering improvements for the Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands communities earlier in the programme duration, and allowing for officer resource to then be focused on the more significant projects within the programme thereafter.

The ‘First Wave’ projects incorporate the following outcomes and approaches:

Table 2: First wave projects

Project and value	Supporting Portfolio Holder	What this project will achieve	How this project will be approached	Key risks
<p>Ten_10 Seafont Micro Venue £0.5m</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture and Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building refurbishment of disused historic Council-owned asset on Clacton-on-Sea seafont ▪ Contributing to neighbouring private-led regeneration ▪ New commercial unit for tenant let 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building refurbishment project incorporating planning submission ▪ Procurement of contractor utilising a Design & Build contract for detail design and delivery ▪ Feasibility studies and soft-market testing to establish financially viable & sustainable tenant uses, leading to tenant procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor building condition resulting in cost uplift ▪ Procurement timescales and market availability ▪ Potential disruption to Beach Patrol activities ▪ Site logistics and proximity to busy public areas
<p>Ten_08 Jaywick and Clacton shopfront improvements £0.5m</p>	<p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant scheme offering capital grants for shopfront improvements within Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilise grant process established by Economic Growth team for earlier shop improvements grant scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusion and barriers to accessing funding ▪ Lack of take up due to complexity of application process

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works can include internal and external improvements including building condition, signage, lighting and access 	<p>funded by UKSPF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants to be awarded in line with adopted Grant Funding Checklist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication and engagement Approvals including planning Impact on Clacton Seafront Conservation Area
<p>Ten_02 Community Transport Buses £0.21m</p>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of 3 community transport minibuses via Council's grant funding process. Enhancing quality of community transport in the local area. One of the allocated minibuses to support aged 10-18 year old disadvantaged young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise grant process established by Economic Growth team on grant schemes such as Sports and Events Grants Grants to be awarded in line with adopted Grant Funding Checklist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting suitable organisations to apply for funding. Fund allocated being sufficient to cover costs of minibus purchase. Organisations able to maintain minibus running costs post funding and purchase.
<p>Ten_06 Healthy Homes Initiative £0.2m</p>	Portfolio Holder for Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help fund the acquisition and/or demolition of long-term vacant and or dangerous dwellings. To support a cultural shift away from acceptance of poor quality privately rented accommodation through collaboration with residents, property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraisal of appropriate sites Appraising feasibility of acquisition and progressing in line with Property Dealing Procedure Feasibility studies for future uses and improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long timescales to achieve property acquisitions and demolition work Negotiation with private landowners Future use of sites once acquired including anti-social behaviour

		inspections and improvements by Council intervention, improving health and wellbeing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Partnership funding is capital and therefore cannot be utilised for the team's resourcing. 	to sites once acquired	
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The **'Second Wave'** will be brought to Cabinet for approval in early 2025. These projects have been collated together as each requires additional scoping and definition prior to bringing to Cabinet for approval, due to complexity and risk, with particular actions set out below. Phasing the works in this manner will allow for officers to fast-track delivery of simpler projects, enabling swifter completion and focusing officer resource to derisk meeting the funding deadlines.

The **'Third Wave'** of projects are already progressing under separate governance, therefore recommendations for Cabinet approval are not included in this report. These projects will be brought forwards at the appropriate moment to gather Cabinet approval as necessary to implement next steps.

The **'Fourth Wave'** of projects will be delivered with partners. These are set out below. These projects have been identified for delivery with partners due to considerations including land ownership, such as Highways which fall under the County Council, and interface with the project at Clacton Library being led by Essex County Council.

In order to deliver these, it is intended to enter agreements with the relevant partners, which will allow them to commission and deliver the projects. This report recommends a delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism in consultation with the Corporate Director Place and Economy, Section 151 and Monitoring Officers to approve the Heads of Terms for the agreement, the drafting of which will be led by Tendring District Council's Legal team, until the PDU is resourced. The agreements are being developed at present with a target to have the agreements in place by the first quarter of the 2025/6 financial year. The agreement will be subject to partner governance processes, which are being commenced by the relevant officers.

Due to the accountability placed on TDC as the accountable body, it is intended to include approval milestones within the agreement to allow for Tendring District Council Councillor oversight prior to progressing to delivery.

Table 3: Fourth wave projects

Project and value	Key outputs	Key risks
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Ten_05 Tudor Fields – Jaywick Walking Route £2.5m	Partner: ECC. To deliver an off-road walking and cycling route across Tudor Fields in Jaywick Sands suitable for emergency evacuation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HRA land may require additional Government approvals, ▪ Insufficient funds to provide path of required standard. ▪ Feasibility study raises construction concerns on marsh land.
Ten_07 Town Centre and Seafront Public Realm £1.3m	Partner: ECC. Provision of enhanced wayfinding between Clacton seafront and town centre, including improved street furniture and pavements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feasibility study needed for preferred works, any planning permissions needed and realistic timeline of delivery.
Ten_01 Bus Infrastructure in Clacton and Jaywick £0.23m	Partner: ECC. Upgrading and improving bus stops and shelters on Clacton and Jaywick bus routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning approvals needed to erect new bus shelters, lighting, seating and paving.
Ten_03 Fitting Out Skills Hub at Clacton Hub £0.2m	Partner: ECC, Provision of equipment and furniture for the skills hub in the new Clacton Hub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction of Clacton Hub not completed by March 2026 and unable to commit funding.
Ten_15 Urgent Treatment Centre and Primary Care Facility £2m	Partner: NHS. Financial contribution towards building new Urgent Treatment Center and new Primary Care Facility at Clacton Hospital. Facility opening predicted for 30/09/25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning permission not granted, additional funding not gained, over-run of programme, negative clinical impact during construction.

Capital funding could create opportunities for use of buildings. The actual use and related costs is not a matter for this report and will be considered separately under a future report. Work is underway on a separate project under existing governance as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to develop a Need & Demand Study establishing an evidence base to inform future work.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) **accepts the £19.79M CDEL and £100k RDEL funding offered by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Community Regeneration Partnership (formerly Levelling Up Partnership) programme;**
- b) **subject to a) above, allocates capital expenditure of £19.79M to the Capital Programme against the projects as set out in Table 1 of this report and allocates**

£100,000 revenue to the delivery of a cultural masterplan for Clacton, to deliver the Partnership;

In respect of the projects identified:

- c) approves the scope and details of the ‘first wave’ projects set out in Table 2 of this report and delegates authority as follows:**
 - i. subject to (a), approves allocation of £0.5m from the above capital expenditure to the Seafront Micro Venue project (Ten_10) and delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture and Heritage to: Agree the final design brief, approve submission of the subsequent planning application and procure a main contractor for the detail design and delivery of the project on the basis of a planning consent;**
 - ii. subject to (i) above, requests the Portfolio Holder bring a future report to Cabinet to enter a main building contract for the Seafront Micro Venue project subject to the outcome of a formal procurement process;**
 - iii. subject to (a) above, approves allocation of £0.5m from the above capital expenditure to the Shopfront Improvements project (Ten_08) and delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism to: sign off an evaluation criteria and deliver an open call grant process administered in line with the adopted External Grant Funding Checklist;**
 - iv. subject to (a) above, approves allocation of £0.21m from the above capital expenditure to the Community Transport Buses project (Ten_02) and delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism to: sign off an evaluation criteria and deliver an open call grant process administered in line with the adopted External Grant Funding Checklist;**
 - v. subject to (a) above, approves allocation of £0.2m from the above capital expenditure to the Extending the Healthy Homes Initiative project (Ten_06) and delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Assets to: appraise the sites and execute powers as delegated under the Property Dealing Procedure;**
- d) in respect of the ‘second’ and ‘third’ wave of projects, approves these projects in principle and request officers to progress outlining the scope and details of these projects, and requests the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism to bring a future report to Cabinet to seek approval to progress these projects to implementation; and**
- e) in respect of the ‘fourth wave’ of projects set out in Table 3 of this report, subject to (b) above, approves to delegate the authority to agree funding agreements and associated governance arrangements with Essex County Council and the NHS to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism in**

consultation with the Corporate Director Place and Economy, Section 151/Director Finance and Monitoring Officer/Director Governance.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

The recommendations are made to capitalise on the Government's funding opportunity to address key socio-economic challenges in Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands, improve local infrastructure, enhance community services, and contribute to the long-term regeneration of the area.

This is a once in a decade opportunity for Tendring to deploy investment on this scale, in addition to other government funding, to be benefit of Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. **Not to allocate funding to these projects:** This option was carefully considered. Given the scale of the project work in the limited time available, and the risks to the council if there were overspends at a time of tight finances, the option of not taking the projects forward was considered. However, it was dismissed as it would forfeit significant government funding and the opportunity to address important local issues.
2. **Only accept funding for some projects:** This option was also considered, as it would reduce the pressure on delivery. However, it would not fully make use of the available funding or meet as much need as this broad list of projects provides.
3. **Not progress with commencing projects at this time:** this option was carefully considered, however due to the limited timescale set out within the Memorandum of Understanding, swift development of the projects will be necessary to address the programme risks already set out here. On review of the projects identified, the opportunity was identified to progress projects which were well developed and subject to previous governance to mitigate the programme risks.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Corporate Plan Priorities

Pride in our area and services to residents

- *Promoting clean and tidy communities* and *Promoting pride in our communities:* The programme will deliver a range of meaningful improvements to Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands, leading by example to improve cleanliness and tidiness, and contributing to boosting local pride in place.

Raising aspirations and creating opportunities

- *Trending is ambitious and our residents will be supported to reach their potential and realise their opportunities:* Projects such as 'Town Centre Building', 'Seafront Micro Venue' and 'Cultural Masterplanning' offer opportunities to support entrepreneurship, growth and success of local economy & businesses. Projects such as 'Shopfront Improvements' and 'Community Transport Buses' will support success of local businesses and contribute to raising aspirations.
- *Working with businesses and partners, [...] improve access to skills learning and training so that residents can find employment and enable businesses to thrive:* 'Community Transport Buses' and 'Tudor Fields' will improve local connections and access to improve access to skills and employment.
- *Encourage cultural, tourism and economic growth:* Projects such as 'Cultural Masterplanning' and 'Town Centre Building' will support the tourism economy locally and with a particular focus on culture.

Championing our local environment

- *Our environment is special [...] and therefore deserves protection:* Projects such as public realm improvements to Clacton-on-Sea town centre and Jaywick Sands will deliver improvements to the local environment through targeted maintenance, expansion and improvements to soft landscaping.
- *Create and maintain spaces for leisure, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles:* A number of the projects such as Tudor Fields, include direct benefits for wellbeing and healthy lifestyles by promoting active travel.

Working with partners to improve quality of life

- *Working with our partners across government, public, private and third sectors:* Programme delivery includes working with our partners at a range of levels, from collaborating with MHCLG, through to delivery partners including ECC and NHS, down to the local level, providing grants to local organisations.

Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer

- *Boost our tourism by attracting more visitors:* Delivering aesthetic and functional improvements to Clacton-on-Sea town centre and the seafront, increasing the number of local attractions and improving the area's appearance.
- *Support our unique heritage:* Including repair and refurbishment works to existing historic buildings, located within Clacton Seafront Conservation Area, contributing to best practice stewardship of historic assets for future generations, setting an example for other partners in the area and contributing to improvement of the wider Conservation Area
- *Promote the district for the benefit of our residents and to encourage visitors to come and to stay for longer:* Providing additional facilities for residents and visitors, supporting

local tourism economy, meaningful engagement to ensure relevance and inclusivity of future tenant/use strategy to local residents.

Financial Sustainability and openness

- This will be delivered through effective management at both programme and project level, supported by the new Project Delivery Unit, to ensure a high level of control and assurance on programme budgets to deliver on or under budget and within the parameters set out within this report.
- Through utilising best practice protocols and adopted Council procedures in relation to external grant programmes, alongside capturing lessons learned from recent similar programmes to maximise accessibility and impact.

2024/5 Year Priorities and Milestones

The Partnership projects align with the Council's priorities approved in March 2024 for the year April 2024 to March 2025. The projects in the Levelling Up Partnership will help us:

- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities: we will celebrate business success, encourage cultural, tourism and economic growth.

Championing our local environment: We believe our environment is special, it is the space where we live and work and therefore deserves protection. We want to create and maintain spaces for leisure, wellbeing, and healthy lifestyles, and deliver access to open spaces and community resources.

- Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer: We want to boost our tourism by attracting more visitors to the 36 miles of sunshine coast and to our rural towns and villages. We will support our unique heritage, work with our partners, run events and promote the District for the benefit of our residents and to encourage visitors to come and to stay for longer.
- Financial Sustainability and openness: To continue to deliver effective services and get things done we must look after the public purse; that means carefully planning what we do, managing capacity, and prioritising what we focus our time, money, and assets on.

B2: Implement Levelling Up Fund, Capital Regeneration Partnership Projects and High Street Accelerator Schemes, taking these through design and planning.

Q1: Government completes Levelling Up Partnership Business Case for Clacton-on-Sea submitted.

Q4: Spending decision made on Levelling Up Partnership projects for Clacton-on-Sea

- This proposal relates to the commitment and expenditure of LUP funding supporting Q4 milestone of the above.

The projects also support the Highlight Priority for 2024/5 of celebrating business success, encouraging cultural, tourism and economic growth.

Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond: Section 2, Adopted 25th January 2022

- Vision and Objectives: “Clacton will have preserved and enhanced its heritage features”.
- Clacton is classified as a Major Town Centre and the site falls within:
 - Priority Areas for Regeneration
 - Conservation Area
- Economic Development Strategy: Objective 1: Support Tendring’s growth locations.
- Love Clacton vision seeks to celebrate town centre’s seaside heritage and unique history; concentrate activity in the central core; and provide new spaces for arts, entertainment and community facilities.

Clacton-on-Sea Conservation Area Appraisal

Projects including Shopfront Improvements, Town Centre Building and Seafront Micro Venue will make a positive contribution to historic assets and to the Conservation Area as a whole.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT (including with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other stakeholders where the item concerns proposals relating to the Budget and Policy Framework)

The proposed projects have been chosen by ministers after a Deep Dive of civil servants speaking to over 45 key local stakeholders, including, community groups, businesses, and public sector partners, and reviewing local strategies and plans, based on consultations.

The long list of projects for consideration as part of the Deep Dive were compiled from extensive previous engagement throughout Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands, combining public engagement with local communities; Councillor engagement across the Cabinet and Wards; and across officer teams within the Council, as part of programmes including:

- Clacton Town Centre Vision, 2009 including Community Forum and Councillor Working Group
- Love Clacton Vision, 2020
- Future High Streets Fund application, 2020
- Jaywick Sands Place Plan, 2023

As individual projects with the Levelling Up Partnership are developed there will be the opportunity for further community consultation. For example, the Active Wellbeing Centre and All Wheels facility is part of the Sports and Activity Strategy which has been out to consultation already.

Consultation is also ongoing with local businesses as part of an earlier shopfront improvements scheme funded by UKSPF, capturing lessons learned so that these can be included in the design and delivery of the shopfront improvements scheme identified within this funding programme.

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	Significant effect on two or more wards Involves £100,000 expenditure/income
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		a Key Decision	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)	22 May 2024

Governance will be required to approve detailed project level spend, with a report setting out delivery, spend and milestones.

A timeline of project delivery and forward look for governance is set out below, and represented visually within the appendices.

As set out above, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism will oversee the programme as a whole, with support from other Portfolio Holders where relevant as set out in relation to the specific projects.

Table 2: First Wave projects – Forward Look

Project and value	Supporting Portfolio Holder	Next steps and delegations sought	Future governance milestones
Ten_10 Seafront Micro Venue £0.5m	Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture and Heritage	Delegation to the relevant Portfolio Holder for final design brief, submission of subsequent planning application and going to market for main contractor on the basis of planning consent;	Report to be brought back to Cabinet to enter building contract with main contractor incorporating delegation to Portfolio Holder to accept building on completion
Ten_08 Shopfront Improvements £0.5m	Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism	Delegation to the relevant Portfolio Holder to sign off a scoring criteria and deliver an open call	Delegations to enable project completion included within this report

		grant process administered in line with the adopted External Grant Funding Checklist	
Ten_02 Community Transport Buses £0.21m	-	Incorporating preparing and adopting a scoring criteria and open call grant process administered in line with the adopted External Grant Funding Checklist	Delegations to enable project completion included within this report
Ten_06 Healthy Homes Initiative £0.2m	Portfolio Holder for Assets	Incorporating site appraisals and delegated powers under the Property Dealing Procedure	Delegations to enable project completion included within this report and covered by the Property Dealing Procedure as set out within the Constitution

The funds were received via a Grant under Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020, which provides the Government with the power to provide financial assistance for economic development etc.

(1)A Minister of the Crown may, out of money provided by Parliament, provide financial assistance to any person for, or in connection with, any of the following purposes—

- (a) promoting economic development in the United Kingdom or any area of the United Kingdom;
- (b) providing infrastructure at places in the United Kingdom (including infrastructure in connection with any of the other purposes mentioned in this section);
- (c) supporting cultural activities, projects, and events that the Minister considers directly or indirectly benefit the United Kingdom or areas of the United Kingdom;
- (d) supporting activities, projects and events relating to sport that the Minister considers directly or indirectly benefit the United Kingdom or areas of the United Kingdom;
- (e) supporting international educational and training activities and exchanges;
- (f) supporting educational and training activities and exchanges within the United Kingdom.

Memorandum of Understanding

The Section 151 Officer signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27 September 2024. This document, although not a legally enforceable agreement, provides a framework for collaborative working between the Partners. Partners remain independent and their collaboration does not constitute the creation of a legal entity, nor authorise the entry into a commitment for or on behalf of each other.

The objectives of the partnership in the MoU are to address the issues that have hampered attempts to narrow spatial inequality to date – chiefly the lack of necessary policy and delivery

coordination in the town centre, and lack of local empowerment on the ground. Specific objectives are to:

- Improve the living offer
- Improve community safety in Jaywick
- Increase connections and access to jobs

Monitoring

Government expects a level of monitoring of milestones, spend, risks, outputs, and outcomes with a quarterly review with MHCLG. The Council is expected to keep records of the activities. There is also wider national impact evaluation of the programme, which the Council may be expected to take part in.

The Council is expected to provide MHCLG with a signed statement of the Section 151 Officer that the grant has been used for the delivery of the funded activities.

Communications

The Council need to inform the MHCLG about promotion of projects in the partnership. We need to follow the Branding Manual and the 'UK Government' branding manual published in October 2023. The Council needs to notify the MHCLG marketing team when a project plans to erect billboards and hoarding.

Assurance

The MoU expects the Council to have the necessary governance and assurance arrangements in place and adhere to public law duties including public sector equality duty, public procurement law, data protection law, the subsidy control regime and relevant guidance set by HM Treasury for spending public money.

The Council will complete a Fraud Risk Assessment to ensure the safe administration of grants and that appropriate measures are put in place to mitigate against the risk of both fraud and payment error. The Council will ensure data can be shared for the prevention and detection of fraud by including the following clause in all agreements with companies or external entities: *'Data may be shared with other enforcement agencies for the prevention and detection of crime.'*

Agreements.

The Council plans to deliver five of the projects through partners – Essex County Council and the local NHS. These projects will require funding agreements that pass on the responsibilities put on the Council by MHCLG to the partners delivering the projects. The Council will draw on the experience of the Levelling Up Fund and Capital Regeneration Project Agreements with Essex County Council as a basis, but with the specific requirements of the terms and conditions of this funding included.

YES	The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:
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Early feedback on the content of the report has been taken into account through the drafting and the outcome presents a structured format to which decisions are being made on the various projects. The current referencing must be maintained. It is important that the requirements of the MOU are met, whilst not being legally enforceable it does set out the terms on which Tendring District Council accepted the funding in its role as Accountable Body. Clear oversight

and adherence to the Council's governance framework is essential whilst recognising the capacity of certain roles within the Council. Not all of the resources required are covered within the PDU and the Council is under an obligation to ensure it delivers against its Best Value Duty in service delivery.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The total funding allocated for the Partnership projects in Tendring is £19.79m capital and £100,000 revenue. This funding is in addition to £90,000 Levelling Up Partnerships Capacity Revenue Grant already provided to the Council and allocated to the Project Delivery Unit in July 2024. The Council received the full £19.89m funding from Government in one payment on the 26th November 2024.

Given the scale of delivery and the timeline for completion set by Government, Cabinet needs to be aware there is a risk some money will need to be returned unspent as not all money may be spent in time.

Levelling Up Fund, Capital Regeneration Projects, and Partnership programmes, are outside the current resource allocation for Essex Procurement Service Level Agreement with the Council, and so the Project Delivery Unit includes funding for additional procurement resource within Essex Procurement Service to support the implementation of these programmes.

Funding will be provided by MHCLG to Tendring District Council through a Section 50 grant under the UK Internal Market Act 2020, and subject to the terms set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The ownership of risk will be transferred to Tendring District Council as the Accountable Body. All the funding was received by the Council on 26th November 2024, totalling £19.89m.

In turn the Council will enter into agreements with the NHS and Essex County Council for the delivery of projects that those bodies will lead on. The Council will ensure that the ownership of risk for those projects is transferred to the delivering body.

Funding can only be used for the projects and activities listed above In the Levelling Up Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. However, the Council can move funding between projects to deliver agreed outcomes and the Council can submit a request to add a project if it reflects the menu of interventions developed during the Partnership and agreed with Ministers.

First Wave projects

The First Wave of projects includes those that can be delivered swiftly and do not require partnership working with external stakeholders. The available funding has been allocated to cover the project costs without the need for match funding. This report recommends for Cabinet to approve allocation of the funding to the first wave of projects as set out below:

Table 3: First Wave projects

Project	Project budget recommended for allocation of capital	What this budget will be spent on

	expenditure from Levelling Up Partnership funding	
Ten_10 Seafront Micro Venue	£0.5m	Consultant procurement for expert consultancy support including cost consultant; building contract with main contractor for construction through to completion; and accompanying project costs including site investigations and surveys, and approvals
Ten_08 Shopfront Improvements	£0.5m	Grant awards
Ten_02 Community Transport Buses	£0.21m	Grant awards
Ten_06 Healthy Homes Initiative	£0.2m	Acquisition of derelict and long-term vacant sites (subject to feasibility, viability and due diligence to be established through the course of applying the Property Dealing Procedure as set out within the Constitution)

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

Although there are no significant comments over and above those set out elsewhere in the report, it is worth highlighting that the projects that will be directly delivered by the Council will be subject to the various existing financial governance arrangements throughout the lifetime of the project. In terms of the projects that will be delivered by partners, the learning from the existing LUF / CRP schemes can be translated across to the necessary management / monitoring arrangements to fulfil the Council's responsibilities under its Accountable Body status.

It is also worth highlighting the helpful guidance provided by the Government relating to the defrayment of the funding as set out elsewhere in this report, which is especially important given the tight delivery timescales involved. The risk of potentially having to return funding to the Government where it has not been possible to deliver the projects / defray the grant funding by the deadline of the end of March 2026 is also useful to note.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

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

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	The Council will consider carefully when delivering the Levelling Up Partnership projects the impact on the Council's finances of the longer-term use of the assets. For example, the costs of running the Martello Tower, as well as the costs of refurbishing it, and will look to
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	contract out where possible to third party organisations to run facilities.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks,	The business planning process to date for each project has developed a list of delivery risks, and the MoU requires the Council to continue monitoring and reporting on risks on the delivery of projects. Further reports will be developed for individual projects within the Levelling Up Partnership to set out the detail of each project to support decision making.
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.	We will consider the ongoing service implications of each of the projects under the Levelling Up Partnership to ensure that ultimate use of capital projects once complete meet best value criteria.

MILESTONES AND DELIVERY

The Council submitted delivery milestones to MHCLG for the delivery of the projects. However, the final Memorandum of Understanding recognised the delay caused by the election and decision making from government and put back the funding date in the MoU to the end of March 2026.

Timetable for project initiation governance and commencing project development are as follows:

- Wave one: subject of this Cabinet Report, December 2024;
- Wave two: intention to bring forwards in future Cabinet report during quarter 4 of 2024/5 financial year to quarter 1 of 2025/6 financial year;
- Wave three: subject to the individual projects and the specific further governance required to progress them beyond the governance that is already in place;
- Wave four: funding agreement subject to the recommendations in this report.

Further to the above, the overall milestones across the programme through to the current deadline provided by MHCLG of March 2026 is set out as follows, with the point of defrayment identified in red:

Table 4: Programme forward look

URN	Project	Wave	Category	2024/5		2025/6			
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Ten_02	Community Transport Buses	1	Grant	Cabinet	Prepare	Open call	Award	Delivery	
Ten_06	Healthy Homes Initiative	1	Acquisition	Cabinet	Appraise	Procure	Negotiate	Purchase	
Ten_08	Shopfront improvements	1	Grant	Cabinet	Prepare	Open call	Award	Delivery	
Ten_10	Seafront Micro Venue	1	Construction	Cabinet	Prepare	Procure	Design	Delivery	
Ten_09	Jaywick Sands Public Open Space	2	Construction		Cabinet	Procure	Design		Delivery
Ten_11	Repurposing Martello Tower E	2	Construction		Cabinet	Procure	Design		Delivery
Ten_14	Cultural masterplanning	2	Strategy		Cabinet	Procure	Design		Delivery
Ten_04	Sunspot Centre solar panels	3	Construction		Cabinet	Procure	Design		Delivery
Ten_12	Active Wellbeing Centre Phase One	3	TBC	Feasibility study		Next steps	Development		Delivery
Ten_13	[...] Town Centre Building	3	Acquisition		Appraise site	Procure team	Negotiation	Cabinet	Purchase
Ten_01	Bus infrastructure in Clacton and Jaywick	4	Construction	Cabinet	Draft agreements	Enter agreements	Development funding		Delivery funding
Ten_03	Fitting out skills hub at Clacton Hub	4	Purchase	Cabinet					
Ten_05	Tudor Fields - Jaywick walking route	4	Construction	Cabinet					
Ten_07	Town Centre and Seafront Public Realm	4	Construction	Cabinet					
Ten_15	Urgent Treatment Centre	4	Construction	Cabinet					

The revised timelines have been shared with procurement colleagues to design a programme that can allocate resource to the necessary procurements required to deliver the projects where Tendring District Council sits in the lead.

Partner Projects

Officers have been discussing with partners the process and timelines required to carry out the governance and necessary approvals to pass funding to them via agreements. It should be noted that if agreements are signed by 31 March 2026 with third parties for funding, that funding will count as 'spent' under the terms of the MoU. The necessary legal resource is currently being assembled by Tendring District Council, under existing delegations to recruit or procure resource as part of the Project Delivery Unit, with the agreement to be drafted within quarter 4 of 2024/5 financial year.

It is understood that in order to formally enter the funding agreement, Essex County Council in particular have specific governance timescales, anticipated as follows:

- Internal board and leadership approvals: to be complete by January 2025
- Agreement approved and Cabinet Member Action published: no earlier than February 2025
- Agreement sealed: no earlier than February 2025

ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION

The Levelling Up Partnership projects pose a significant delivery risk to the organisation. The draft MoU states that ownership of risk will be transferred to the Council as the accountable body. There are 16 projects totalling £20m to be delivered in a short timescale, which require funding agreements with external organisations and commissioning private sector delivery partners. Recruitment of additional capacity helps to mitigate the risk, and the Council will maintain a risk register for the programme to manage risks, but the scale of the programme remains substantial. The extension from March 2025 to March 2026 for entering into funding agreements, contracts or completion of works makes the programme more achievable.

In the truly short term while the project delivery unit is set up, there are significant capacity challenges which will ease as staff come on board.

Delivery requires signing agreements with Essex County Council and the NHS, which take time to draft and negotiate, and the associated governance also takes time for approvals. These agreements will be required to ensure that all appropriate risks are transferred to the relevant project delivery partners, including clear mechanisms and expectations for risk reporting, to align with TDC's commitments to MHCLG for reporting.

Projects require design and construction works to be procured and completed, and some may require planning permission. These processes take time and can be subject to delay, even before construction starts. The aim of the Project Delivery Unit is to provide the capacity to manage the projects so support delivery within the programme. However, given the scale of the work and the government timeline, it is recognised that some projects may not progress, and some funds may have to be returned to Government or redirected within the programme.

Overspends. With capital works there is a risk of overspend, either as tenders come in higher than expected, or if there is cost escalation once works start, for example due to ground

conditions. The Council can move funding across the programme to deliver the outputs, which provides some flexibility. The Project Delivery Unit includes a Finance Officer to ensure that there is oversight of the finances within the programme, and that the systems are in place to manage money. The contracts are expected to be fixed price, and strong contract management will ensure that any variations are managed tightly and kept to a minimum, and the contractor bears all the costs that they are due.

Outcomes. There is a risk that even with excellent project delivery, the ultimate outcome is not achieved, for example, increased footfall in the town centre or visitor numbers, despite improved assets within the town. However, even if the projects are not of a sufficient scale to fundamentally change Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands, each project will be delivered in a way to provide benefit to the locations and make progress *towards* the outcomes.

Funding deadline: the current deadline provided by MHCLG requires the funding to be *defrayed* by March 2026, the definition of which has been confirmed to include being in contract for the relevant project funding. As with all external funding there is a risk attached to extending beyond the provided deadline; in this instance, this risk could be considered to be mitigated to some extent, given that the full sum of the funding has been transferred to the Council in advance of this report coming to Cabinet.

First Wave projects Key risks for the first wave of projects are identified below alongside mitigation measures:

Table 5: First Wave projects key risks

Risk	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget allocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project scopes are being developed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approvals: projects require a range of third party approvals including planning consent involving statutory consultees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early engagement and liaison throughout project development to commence well in advance of application; formal pre-application advice to be sought where appropriate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physical condition: where related to existing structures, risk of additional works required to refurbish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detailed site investigations to be procured utilising internal expertise and suitably qualified external surveyors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timescales including external procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engagement commenced with Essex Procurement Partnership where appropriate for forecast procurement value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Market availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusion and barriers to accessing funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lessons learned to be captured from previous grant schemes and support programmes introduced to maximise access and overcome known barriers

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Partnership delivers a range of projects that seek to provide benefits to people, including

supporting people with protected characteristics. For example, the integration of leisure and health facilities and the 'All Wheels' facility is expected to support people with disabilities, as the track is designed for people with physical disabilities to cycle. In addition the funding for the new GP surgery in Clacton will also support this aim. As a minimum, the intention of the projects is not to disadvantage people with protected characteristics, for example with the final use of projects being open to all.

Equality Impact Assessments are under development for each project within the Levelling Up Partnership.

SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

The projects provide £19.89M investment into Clacton and Jaywick. There will be immediate social value from the economic benefit of the projects to the local economy, with the expectation that there will be local contractors, and local workers for contractors, benefiting from the work provided. The procurement process also requests a social value offer from contractors, and examples from the Carnarvon Terrace scheme have included providing the offer of placements for people taking part in relevant T level qualifications.

Any procurement activity not already commenced will need to comply with the recently adopted Social Value Policy, recommended by Cabinet and approved by Council, at its meeting in November 2024.

There is the broader social value of the projects themselves, which will improve the Town Centre of Clacton and the neighbourhood of Jaywick Sands.

Additionally, some of the projects bring environmental benefits, for example the improvements to the small parks in Jaywick Sands.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2050

The projects identified within the programme offer the opportunity for a range of benefits in line with the Council's Climate Action Strategy 2024-7, including:

- **Low Carbon: Saving cost, waste and carbon**
 - Scope One emissions:
 - Our buildings: The programme includes for direct efficiency and sustainability improvements to existing buildings within the Council's portfolio including local energy generation; Where the project scope includes construction, the project scope will include a Sustainability Strategy as required by the outputs of the RIBA Plan of Work, which will identify opportunities to minimise carbon emissions during the construction and operations of the schemes.
 - Our vehicles: There is the opportunity to reduce emissions through the careful specification of relevant fixtures such as waste collection.
 - Scope Two emissions: Our electricity: The projects do not relate to energy generation or decarbonisation of the grid; however, public realm projects present the opportunity to continue the Council's existing work to reduce energy requirements through adopting innovations such as solar lighting fixtures.

- Scope Three emissions:
 - Homes in Tendring: Not relevant.
 - Travel in Tendring: The programme has the potential to indirectly improve this through encouraging active travel; proposals for public realm elements such as waste bins will be considered in terms of their impact on our waste fleet to contribute to an overall reduction in emissions.

- **High Nature: Protecting and enhancing our unique natural environment**
 - Care for our environment
 - Less waste, more recycling: Sustainability strategies for relevant projects will include pre-demolition appraisals to reduce loss of embodied carbon as standard, alongside method statements for contractors for reducing site waste.
 - Climate adaptation: scope of public realm improvements include measures known to deliver climate adaptation benefits including green infrastructure; building designs will consider adapting the properties in the face of a changing climate.
 - Climate adaptation
 - Preparing for future change: The proposed public realm and building improvements.
 - Water use & efficiency: Landscaping proposals will require maintenance strategies to ensure appropriate use of water; Sustainable Urban Drainage systems will be required across schemes in line with planning requirements.

- **Our Operations: Collaborative and efficient**
 - Communication and engagement: the programme presents communication opportunities
 - Monitoring: Project teams will include reporting requirement within contracts, such as for construction emission monitoring, where appropriate in terms of scope and contract value.
 - Offsetting: Not relevant.

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

Improvements to the public realm have the potential to discourage anti-social behaviour through creating a more positive atmosphere in a space, and encouraging more positive activities, which can discourage less desirable behaviour. Designing Out Crime Officers from ECC will be engaged at the relevant points, as appropriate to the specific projects.

Projects relating to the refurbishment of existing disused buildings such as the Seafront Micro

	<p>Venue and Town Centre Building, will serve to remove the opportunity for ASB on the sites, both of which have been targets in the past due to their derelict state; the refurbishments will also visually contribute to an appearance of a culture of care which has been demonstrated to have a positive impact, and encourage improved care from neighbouring property owners. Similarly, the Healthy Homes Initiative will tackle sites known to be at risk from ASB.</p>
<p>Health Inequalities</p>	<p>The grant for the Urgent Treatment Facility and Primary Care Facility is aimed to improve integrated patient pathways across services at Clacton Hospital. The facility will enable an increased number of local residents to access medical support closer to home, and provide additional capacity for patient appointments.</p> <p>The Active Wellbeing Centre project will deliver meaningful improvements to accessing healthcare facilities in the long term; in the short term, repairs to the centre and the delivery of the All Wheels Facility will support increasing levels of fitness and health benefits locally.</p> <p>Improvements to public realm have the potential to bring a range of health & wellbeing benefits including promoting active travel and improving air quality through landscaping.</p> <p>Extending the work of the Jaywick Sands Healthy Homes Initiative will continue the team's important work to drive improvements in living conditions in an area facing substantial challenges.</p>
<p>Subsidy Control (the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the related Statutory Guidance),</p>	<p>Subsidy Control has been considered for each project across the programme from the outset, with the approach in each instance designed so as to mitigate any potential risks in this regard.</p> <p>It is recognised that there are a limited number of organisations within the Tendring District who may be eligible to apply for the Community Transport Buses funding. Therefore, to comply with the Subsidy Control Act, the grant criteria will be written in such a way to attract as many</p>

	applicants as possible who could meet the set criteria.
Area or Ward affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Clacton & Jaywick Sands ▪ St James ▪ Coppins ▪ Bluehouse ▪ Cann Hall ▪ Pier ▪ St Paul's ▪ St John's ▪ Burrsville ▪ Eastcliff ▪ St Bartholomew's

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND
<p>The funding</p> <p>Levelling Up Partnerships were targeted interventions designed to identify practical, tangible actions to support priority places to 'level up' and to help Government develop a more holistic understanding of place. The aim is to develop a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities in priority areas, and via a partnership approach harness collective powers to tackle the most pressing issues.</p> <p>The funding approach is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand local barriers and opportunities including; local performance against levelling up indicators/ local growth potential and a place's unique selling points . • Align cross Government activity in place; to ensure that Central Government, Local Government, and private resources are used most efficiently. • Unlock powers, resources, or flexibilities; to empower local leaders to drive progress against the missions and secure local growth. <p>At the Budget Speech on 15 March 2023, the Government announced Tendring as one of 20 places that would be selected to form Levelling Up Partnerships (LUP) with Government, which the Leader of the Council reported to Cabinet on 17 March. Partnerships could be allocated up to a maximum of £20m capital funding (CDEL) and up to £250k revenue (RDEL) dependant on projects decided by MHCLG ministers and subject to business case approvals by Treasury.</p> <p>Cabinet was informed in December 2023 of progress with the Levelling Up Partnership. As forecast in that report, Government officials visited Tendring between January and March this year to carry out a 'Deep Dive,' reviewing data, documents, and meeting with key partners in the public and voluntary sector. At the request of Government the Council, along with partners, shared strategic documents and a pipeline of projects.</p>

Government requested that funding was targeted at projects in the largest conurbation within the District, Clacton-on-Sea. The Council and Government agreed that this could include Jaywick Sands, given its proximity to Clacton, the need for regeneration in the area, and the recently completed Place Plan which included projects for delivery.

MHCLG confirmed in October 2024 that the funding would continue under the new Government, with the programme rebranded 'Community Regeneration Partnerships' in December 2024.

Specific objectives of the Partnership are:

- Improve the living offer
- Improve community safety in Jaywick
- Increase connections and access to jobs

The programme and projects

Project planning is underway across the programme, summarised as follows:

- The Partnership programme is included within the terms of reference of the existing Levelling Up Fund & Capital Regeneration Projects Portfolio Holder Working Party. With the Levelling Up Fund projects progressing to planning, it is expected that this will allow sufficient time for the Working Party to consider the development of the Partnership projects;
- Programme Board: The Partnership projects will report to the existing Regeneration Capital Delivery Board, which meets monthly and includes senior officers across both TDC and ECC, ensuring ongoing officer level scrutiny and allowing the projects delivered by the two Councils to be considered collectively;
- Project Board: due to the varied nature of the projects in terms of output, process and extent, specific project boards are being established across the thematic groups identified within the programme, to ensure the appropriate teams have regular involvement throughout project development. Further detail is provided on this for developed projects below;

Timelines

Each of the projects included within the Partnership has been appraised in terms of the feasibility of satisfying MHCLG's requirements for the funding, in advance of the provided deadline of March 2026. Further detail is included within the relevant section of this report.

Future waves

The 'Second Wave' of projects is set out below, including the works underway at present in order to ensure sufficient detail is prepared to bring these projects to Cabinet for consideration.

Should at any point during the scoping process the project be deemed not to be feasible, either due to scope or timescales, the MoU between MHCLG and Tendring District Council allows for the funding to be reallocated within the Partnership, to one of the other identified projects. This report therefore includes a recommendation to delegate for this decision to be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism in collaboration with the Corporate Director Place & Economy and Director Finance.

Table 6: Second Wave projects

Project and value	Supporting Portfolio Holder	What this project will achieve	Actions underway prior to bringing to Cabinet
Ten_14 A spatial plan for culture £100k	Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishing spatial planning to shape a creative/cultural quarter in the town centre ▪ Progressing the aspiration to bring an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) to Clacton-on-Sea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project scoping is continuing including: ▪ Interface with other projects such as work under development by the Town Board ▪ Positioning of the Plan once developed within the Local Development Framework
Ten_11 Martello Tower E £2m	Portfolio Holder for Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Repurposing underutilised Martello Tower E, which is a listed historic building, into event or culture venue. ▪ Diversifying the resident and visitor cultural offer. ▪ Safeguarding and celebrating local and National History and Heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project scoping is continuing including: ▪ Appraising building condition to establish a proposed approach for funding delivery, including updating substantial survey and site investigation information in place. ▪ Limited budget for potential scope of works. ▪ Business case for future use following refurbishment completion.
Ten_09 Public open spaces in Jaywick £2m	Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing a range of existing open spaces within Jaywick Sands including new play equipment and landscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project scoping is continuing including: ▪ Appraisal of sites to define scope of works including land ownership and other constraints; ▪ Budgetary assessment to establish extent and scale of interventions.

The Third Wave of projects are already progressing under separate governance, therefore recommendations for Cabinet approval are not included in this report. These are:

Table 7: Third Wave projects

Project and value	Supporting Portfolio Holder	Current activity	Relevant decision	Future governance milestones

<p>Active Wellbeing Centre £3m</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feasibility study for new Active Wellbeing Centre, programmed for completion in March 2025 ▪ Ongoing engagement with key project partners including Sports England 	<p>Executive Decision by Leader of the Council and Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder, Leisure and Public Realm Portfolio Holder, dated 16/08/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scoping of repair works to Clacton Leisure Centre ▪ Establishing project plan for All Wheels Facility ▪ Next steps follow Active Wellbeing Centre feasibility study
<p>Town Centre Building £5m</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appraisal of feasibility for aspiration identified within funding programme for acquiring a site, progressing through the Council's Property Dealing Procedure 	<p>Executive Decision by Portfolio Holder for Assets, dated 18/11/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If acquisition of the property is considered feasible, this will be brought to Cabinet for consideration. This is expected to be later in 2025
<p>Solar panels for Sunspot (£0.15m)</p>	<p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lessons learned appraisal underway ▪ Specification under development 	<p>Cabinet Report to be brought for consideration in January 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement of contractor

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

- 23rd December 2023; Cabinet: Government Funding Opportunities for Tendring ([12067](#))
- 8th June 2024; Full Council: Tendring District Council to become the Accountable Body for the Levelling Up Partnership
- 26th July 2024; Cabinet: Resources to increase project delivery and progress Levelling Up Partnership ([12630](#))
- 27th September 2024; Executive Decision: Memorandum of Understanding - Levelling Up Partnership with Government ([12841](#))

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

- 26th July 2024: Cabinet Report

APPENDICES**Annex 1: Project Details****REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Name	Lee Heley
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All Levelling Up Partnership Projects

Project URN	Project title	Project description	Strategy	Delivery	Wave	Total ECC	Total NHS	Total
Ten_01	Bus infrastructure in Clacton and Jaywick	Bus stop improvements, including upgrading three bus stops where there is sufficient space to include shelters, lighting, seating, and paving.	O&S Report Comm Transport	ECC	4	£230,000	£0	£230,000
Ten_02	Community Transport Buses	Providing three new mini-buses, two for Tendring Community Transport to replace the ageing fleet and one for an organisation called UTurn which supports 10–18-year-olds affected by crime to access alternative education and support services.	O&S Report Comm Transport	TDC	1	£210,000	£0	£210,000
Ten_03	Fitting out skills hub at Clacton Hub	Providing equipment for the skills hub at the new Clacton Hub. This could include computers, equipment or fit out of spaces for delivery of vocational courses (e.g. hospitality, health, and social care) or for adult learning e.g. pottery kilns.	Levelling Up Fund	ECC	4	£200,000	£0	£200,000
Ten_04	Sunspot Centre solar panels	Fitting solar panels to the Sunspot Centre, which should mean heating costs will come down.	Economic Strategy	TDC	3	£150,000	£0	£150,000
Ten_05	Tudor Fields - Jaywick walking route	Expanding the Tudor Fields - Jaywick walking route, which would also serve as an evacuation route and for emergency vehicle access.	Place Plan	ECC	4	£2,500,000	£0	£2,500,000
Ten_06	Expanding housing work of Jaywick Healthy Homes Initiative	Funding to give Tendring District Council extra capacity to extend work to improve housing standards in Jaywick , but would not have to be limited to there. Funding to support the acquisition and/or demolition long-term vacant and or dangerous dwellings.	-	TDC	1	£200,000	£0	£200,000
Ten_07	Town Centre and Seafront Public Realm	Enhanced wayfinding between the seafront and the town centre, with improved street furniture such as litter bins, uplighters, bound gravel, trees, recolouring, and sealing pavements.	Love Clacton	ECC	4	£1,300,000	£0	£1,300,000

Ten_08	Jaywick and Clacton shopfront improvements	Improving tired shopfronts in Jaywick and Clacton, aiming to improve pride in place	-	TDC	1	£500,000	£0	£500,000
Ten_09	Jaywick Sands Public Open Space	Enhancing public open space in Jaywick. Specific projects to be confirmed but would include some of the following: trees, natural play, community gardens, shopfront improvements, enhancements to Sunspot Centre, footpath, and alleyway improvements.	Jaywick Place Plan	TDC	2	£2,000,000	£0	£2,000,000
Ten_10	Seafront arts/community micro venue	Repurposing disused toilet block for seafront arts, exhibition, and community micro venue.	Celebrate on Sea	TDC	1	£500,000	£0	£500,000
Ten_11	Repurposing Martello Tower E	Repurposing up to two of the underutilised towers, which are listed historic buildings, into event or culture venues. Opportunity to diversify the resident and visitor cultural offer.	-	TDC	2	£2,000,000	£0	£2,000,000
Ten_12	Active Wellbeing Centre Phase One	Redeveloping Clacton Leisure Centre to provide sustainable sports facilities and integrated health & wellbeing services, including orthopaedic outreach and dentistry. Phase One includes design, planning, and initial works, including urgent repairs to the current swimming pool and changing rooms. In addition, this project will include the development of an inclusive cycling facility and free to use children's play at Clacton Leisure Centre to support improving health & wellbeing, with a focus on including key priority groups such as SEND, looked after children and those requiring support to build positive relationships and/or diversion from ASB. dentistry.	Sport and Activity Strategy	TDC	3	£3,000,000	£0	£3,000,000
Ten_13	Town Centre Building	Acquiring and repurposing the disused Savoy Theatre for community and/or cultural usage.	Love Clacton	TDC	3	£5,000,000	£0	£5,000,000

Ten_14	Cultural master planning	Master planning and visioning funding to support Tendring District Council in establishing the necessary partnerships, actions and capacity required to: make informed decisions regarding creating a cultural quarter; moving the local offer beyond a day trip destination; take forward Arts Council England's priority to establish a National Museum of the Seaside in Clacton.	Love Clacton	TDC	2	£0	£100,000	£100,000
Ten_15	Urgent Treatment Centre and Primary Care Facility	Contribution towards building a new urgent treatment centre and new primary care facility at Clacton Hospital to complement the already delivered community diagnostics centre, increasing local healthcare capacity and creating additional employment opportunities.		NHS	4	£2,000,000	£0	£2,000,000
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATED						£19,790,000	£100,000	£19,890,000

Summary of Projects delivered through agreements with Partners

Project URN	Project title	Project description	Delivery	Total ECC	Total NHS	Total
Ten_01	Bus infrastructure in Clacton and Jaywick	Bus stop improvements, including upgrading three bus stops where there is sufficient space to include shelters, lighting, seating, and paving.	ECC	£230,000	£0	£230,000
Ten_03	Fitting out skills hub at Clacton Hub	Providing equipment for the skills hub at the new Clacton Hub. This could include computers, equipment or fit out of spaces for delivery of vocational courses (e.g. hospitality, health, and social care) or for adult learning e.g. pottery kilns.	ECC	£200,000	£0	£200,000
Ten_05	Tudor Fields - Jaywick walking route	Expanding the Tudor Fields - Jaywick walking route, which would also serve as an evacuation route and for emergency vehicle access.	ECC	£2,500,000	£0	£2,500,000
Ten_07	Town Centre and Seafront Public Realm	Enhanced wayfinding between the seafront and the town centre, with improved street furniture such as litter bins, uplighters, bound gravel, trees, recolouring, and sealing pavements.	ECC	£1,300,000	£0	£1,300,000
Ten_15	Urgent Treatment Centre and Primary Care Facility	Contribution towards building a new urgent treatment centre and new primary care facility at Clacton Hospital to complement the already delivered community diagnostics centre, increasing local healthcare capacity and creating additional employment opportunities.	NHS	£0	£2,000,000	£2,000,000
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATED				£4,230,000	£2,000,000	£6,230,000