

Town Deal Agenda

Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 11.00 am

For further information, please contact Towndeal@hastings.gov.uk

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1.	Welcome and apologies 11:00	
2.	Declarations of interest 11:05	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting (25th October 2023) and matters arising 11:10	1 - 6
4.	Project updates 11:20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project lead updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections – Ellie McDaniel, ESCC and ARUP	
5.	Programme progress update 12:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Town Deal Programme update5.2 Communications update5.3 Programme finance update5.4 Hastings Station Gateway / Town Centre Regeneration update5.5 Long Term Investment Plan for Towns – Endowment Fund5.6 Levelling Up Partnership update5.7 Hastings Town Deal ‘Deep Dive’	7 - 14

6. Any other business

12.25

7. Date of next meeting:

11:00, Tuesday, 4th June 2024

Agenda Item 3 Public Document Pack

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Hastings Town Deal Board
11:00am, Wednesday, 25th October 2023
Microsoft Teams

The meeting video can be viewed [here](#)

In attendance		Absent	
Graham Peters	Co-chair	Carole Dixon	Co-chair
Bianca Forrester	NewRiver REIT	Allison San Diego	HBC – Prog Team
Cllr Paul Barnett	Leader, HBC	Andrew Harvey	Priory Meadow
Ellie McDaniel	East Sussex County Council	Carole Crathern	NHS – Primary Care
Emma Smith	DLUHC	Cllr Maya Evans	HBC
Hannah Caldwell	East Sussex College Group	Francis Brown	Hastings Youth Council
Hannah Collins	HBC – Prog Team	James Harris	ESCC
Jess Steele	Hastings Commons	Jane Hartnell	HBC
John Bownas	Hastings BID	Justin Thomas	NewRiver REIT
Joseph Brown	HBC – Prog Team	Marc Moore	The Source Park
Julia Hilton	Garden Town Team	Nigel Stewardson	DLUHC
Kate Adams	Cultural Leaders Group	Richard Dawson	ESCC
Kit Godfrey	Hastings Commons	Richard Moore	The Source Park
Liz Coleman	Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum	Victoria Conheady	HBC
Liz Gilmore	Cultural Leaders Group		
Lourdes Madigasekera-Elliott	Public Health East Sussex		
Mike Wood	Arup		
Pranesh Datta	HBC – Prog Team		
Richard Watson	NHS Sussex		
Ruth Kynoch	HBC – Prog Team		
Sally-Ann Hart	MP for Hastings and Rye		
Sean Dennis	Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce		
Sonia Blizzard	Sea Change Sussex		

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Steve Manwaring	Hastings Community Network		
Suzanne Oakley	HBC – Prog Team		
Thomas Weake	Arup		

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Carole Dixon, James Harris, Victoria Conheady, Carole Crathern, Andy Harvey, Justin Thomas, Richard Dawson and Cllr Maya Evans.

The chair extended his thanks and praise for everything Carole has done as co-chair of this board and for the town. He will be writing a letter on behalf of the board to reflect this.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (5TH JULY 2023) AND MATTERS ARISING

Accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- Project documentation sharing/collaborating on procurement – the process is underway. Suzanne Oakley will be facilitating this with the college and other lead partners.
- Communications role – Suzanne is now in post.
- Levelling up Partnerships – last March Hastings was identified as one of the 20 towns and discussions commenced with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) last month. It is understood that approximately £20m funding (75% capital and 25% revenue) will be available this financial year and next. DLUHC is leading on the engagement work and will be directly contacting local stakeholders to gather views on both the socio-economic issues of the town and any project ideas. It is hoped they will have concluded the discussions by mid-November and their research by the end of November. There will then be further discussion at ministerial level and with the council on what to progress.
- DLUHC has not set a date for a workshop as 1-2-1 engagement is being carried out. Cllr Paul Barnett assured the board that he will be putting forward housing, health and culture as the main priorities.
- The council's capacity to manage LUP and the Long-Term Town Plan will be discussed once the programmes become clearer and the council's budget proposals impact is considered. This will be released next month and will

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discuss proposal to safeguard regeneration planning capacity by finding new ways of funding it outside of the revenue pressures.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

4.1 Hastings Commons – Presenters Jess Steele and Kit Godfrey

- Key points:
 - A community-led approach to neighbourhood transformation focused on the assets in the White Rock area.
 - Brings spaces into use to create environments where people can enhance their lives, shape their neighbourhoods, look out for each other and the place.
 - Hastings Commons now owns over 8000 square meters of difficult and derelict property which is being transformed into affordable homes, capped rent work spaces and social spaces.
 - The Town Deal project involves 3 buildings: Eagle House and 12 Claremont (both going out to tender in January 2024 with construction starting in March), and the Observer Building (the OBX creative technology hub is now operational and Hastings Commons has secured planning permission to build 12 flats within the building)

Q&A / Comments:

Q. Emma Smith asked about the technologies involved in the project and if this is linked up to local businesses and companies in the sector.

A. Jess confirmed yes and that there has been a lot of outreach, which is ongoing. At first it was more generic outreach but now it is through the OBX connects events. The project is constantly trying to inspire new thinking so that new businesses or organisations get interested in the field.

Q. Emma also asked if any universities have been involved in any way.

A. Jess confirmed that the project is not connected to any particular universities.

Emma will put Jess in touch with others who are doing this kind of work in other parts of the region.

4.2 Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections – Ellie McDaniel, Mike Wood and Thomas Weake

- Key points:
 - The project aims to improve the public realm and green infrastructure along Havelock Road and in the town centre.
 - Pending final contract signing, Arup has been appointed as consultant for the next stage of design and consultation.

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- The next stage of the project is split into 3 stages: 1) evaluation and engagement for RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) stage 2 – this is already underway, 2) develop the design to RIBA stage 3 incorporating stakeholder feedback and 3) submit a planning application that will support the next stages of design.
- The concept design report, the work carried out to date to understand the assets, challenges, opportunities, constraints and vision of the area were summarised for the meeting.
- A summary of the design plans will be circulated in due course.

Q&A / Comments:

Jess commented that it is good to finally see this happening but stressed the importance of the connection to other things, including the integration with Priory Street and Cambridge Road, which is critical, although Homes England is interested in those areas. We can't just wait for Homes England and have two totally separate approaches to the space; it does need to be seen in context.

The Garden Town needs a social programme running alongside the physical, not just a community engagement person who comes in and does some engagement. Ongoing engagement and development in the maintenance of the space is needed and how to get people in the town get involved in that maintenance. The Garden Town team has been working on that but a proper social programme with resources needs to be connected to this capital programme.

Julia Hilton explained that she is part of the Garden Town team that put the project's original expression of interest together which was always about the wider plan for the whole town, the green connections and community gardens. The biodiverse planting in Sheffield was co-designed with Nigel Dunnett, and maintained by Green Estates who are a social enterprise that started in 2014. Nigel is a key part of the team and is keen to be involved in developing the planting palette for Hastings. The way the planting is designed is low maintenance, but we need to think about how we train for the future gardens.

Kate Adams asked about the access to consultations that will be carried out due to Project Art Works work with individuals with very complex neurological impairments and sensory disabilities, and how will the project connect with other greening projects as Project Art Works has designs underway for the space between its two buildings.

Lourdes commented that the scheme will provide a lot of benefits across the health economy and asked that consideration be given to the links to health and sustainability and the policy areas around these.

Sean asked about consultation with the business community, particularly those within the affected areas. A presentation could be made at a future Chamber of Commerce meeting as part of the consultation process.

Work will need to be done to address issues raised here including maintenance of the scheme, the skills needed, the links with the various policies and anything that comes out of the consultation process when it starts. Fortunately, in terms of Homes England, the timing of these two commissions are similar and this project will slightly

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dictate what happens around the Station Gateway sites. The council will work with Homes England to ensure the two projects are joined up.

5. PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE

5.1 Programme overview

Pranesh focussed on two key Hastings Castle and Town Living. Hastings Castle – the council had intended to deliver the project, however, since submission of the business case, it is now in a different financial position, which affects this project. The council would now like to explore alternative ways to deliver the project and bring in a partner to assist in the delivery of the scheme. It is intended that expressions of interest will be invited from potential operators, developers or project managers. The submissions will then be assessed for suitability before firmer proposals to work with the council are sought. It is hoped that the invitation will be sent out by next week. Any interested parties should be referred to Pranesh. *Post meeting note:* further information and details for the expression of interest can be found [here](#)

Town Living – this project intended to focus on a council property in Wellington Square. Again, this will be a challenge to deliver due to the council's current financial position and discussions on alternative ways of delivering homes in the town centre will be opened up shortly.

There was general consensus to proceed with above two projects as presented.

5.2 Communications update

Suzanne Oakley started as the new Communications and Engagement Officer at the beginning of September. She introduced herself and updated:

- A project leads meeting was held earlier this month
- She has been working on updating the Town Deal blog pages and has uploaded some project documentation and asked projects to continue to submit any relevant information (email: Towndeal@hastings.gov.uk)
- Another Town Deal Open Day is being planned for 27th January at Priory Meadow Shopping Centre

5.3 Programme finance update

Ruth Kynoch, Project and Finance officer presented and noted that there has not been much change on spend due to the current status of the projects, but it is expected this will start changing imminently.

5.4 Hastings Station Gateway project update

Work continues and Homes England is now producing a Strategic Regeneration Investment Framework. The main areas included in this piece of work are Priory

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Street car park and the surrounding buildings, Queensbury House, the station yard site, the gateway points through Devonshire Road and Cambridge Gardens.

A stakeholder workshop is being held on 20th November which some board members are invited to. Additional consultation work will also be carried out after the workshop.

5.5 Long Term Investment Plan for Towns – Endowment Fund

There will be a need to review the structure of this board and others but not immediately. It may be best to wait until DLUHC have responded to the questions that the council have raised, although it is also intended to work on developing a plan over the next months which will take us to April.

There was a reminder that this board is a sub group of the Local Strategic Partnership, which will also need to review its membership and how it supports other structures and forums within the town.

Emma Smith confirmed that DLUHC is creating a task force around this work. From their perspective, the Levelling Up Partnership work will serve as a strategic plan that will help inform the long term endowment fund. The questions raised by the council re: further clarifications and guidance on the LTIP for towns cannot be answered fully just yet as the policy team is still going through design and development following the announcement.

This is an opportunity for the whole town and not just Hastings town centre. It is hoped that at the next LSP meeting but one (not late Nov 23) it will be agreed to bring forward a proposal on how we move forward with all the regeneration initiatives that are currently on the table. This is to make sure they are all joined up and not a series of separate initiatives overseen by competitive bodies.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

HBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee – has considered the activities of this board and the programme as a whole and have made some recommendations in relation to the way the programme is run and managed. These will be circulated to everyone and will be considered and responded to in due course.

Owens Entertainment – it was clarified that refurbishment work is ongoing and the intention is to re-open after the New Year or slightly later. A meeting with the new management team at Owens and the landlord is scheduled for 9th November and the board will be kept informed if there is any new information to share.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 11:00, THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2024

Agenda Item 5

Report Title: Update for Hastings Town Deal Board

Date: 25th January 2024

Report by: Town Deal Programme Team

Item 5

5.1 Town Deal Programme update

Programme Overview

The programme has as such now fully entered project implementation with all project business cases formally approved by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

The following Towns Fund projects have now been completed and are open for activities and business, some are to still to deliver their outputs fully:

- a) **Churchfield Business Centre** – a new, sustainable green building with 29 Business incubation units for the town’s small businesses. 15 units let (January 2024)
- b) **Hastings Commons (Observer Building Digital Hub)** – is open and active in the mezzanine level, with an exciting schedule of events currently taking place.
- c) **Former Debenhams Building (1) Freedom Works** – Hastings’ co-working, flexible office and community space on the third and fourth floors of the former Debenhams Buildings and is currently at 80% occupancy. This has been so successful the fifth floor is being developed independently of Towns Fund.
- d) **White Rock Courtyard** – installation of the lift to the courtyard allowing the mix of restaurants and businesses to be fully accessible.
- e) **Priory Meadow (repurposing of New Look building upper floor)** – Gym Group is open on the upper floors offering affordable gym memberships which has increased the provision of affordable health and fitness facilities to a larger catchment population for a longer period of the day.
- f) **Broadening Futures Together** – This is a unique partnership between Education Futures Trust and Plumpton College, with the development of the 18,000m2 semi-derelict site and the Firs classroom now complete. This new education facility offers courses related to the land-based economy. Courses are underway and Plumpton College will be hosting twice a week at City and Guilds Levels 1 & 2 from January 2024.

Previously completed projects having to reset.

- a) **Former Debenhams Building (2)** – joint venture between Moxie Management Two and Owens Entertainment – after opening in autumn 2022, the building provided a mixed entertainment, game, and leisure venue (Ground, first and second floors of the former Debenhams building). It is currently closed and parent company, CFEC has stated the attraction will undergo a multi-million-pound redevelopment in 2024. Plans to upgrade the offering of entertainment, immersive gaming and leisure will require investment by CFEC. A statement on their website reads: “We remain closed for a full redevelopment of Owens Entertainment to bring more new and exciting entertainment to Hastings community and its visitors.”

Officers visited the building back November 2023 to discuss the future of the project with the new manager, Jamieson Berriman, and the owners of the building, Moxie Management Two Ltd. CFEC confirmed their intention to bring in further investment to the project and to reopen with a revamped and improved offering. We are in regular contact with the new manager of the project and at this stage we believe the operation may reopen as stated in the recent press release. In parallel, we are taking advise with regard to compliance to the Grant Funding Agreement signed by both parties.

b) Priory Meadow (repurposing of New Look building ground floor)

There are new office spaces on the ground floor where an alternative user is being sought after the departure of Jobcentre Plus. The board will be kept informed on developments.

Progress on all other projects

Hastings Castle – In October 2023, the council launched the [Hastings Castle Expression of Interest](#), the purpose was to gauge interest from the market on delivering its ambitions for the site and to test the viability of its aspirations to deliver the project, on time and on budget. Its purpose is to gauge stakeholder and market interest as well as engagement regarding the long-term future of the castle and the café site and its development as part of the Town Deal project.

The closing date for responses to the Expression of Interests was early December, the EOI received positively, with 32 organisations registered their interest via the Procurement Hub and 7 full EOI responses submitted.

Following discussions with the Section 151 officer the council will now be proceeding to the next stage of requesting full submissions form applicants with a specialist being employed to both invite further full submissions and making assessments and recommendations to the Council and the Town Investment Plan for decision. The deadline for a specialist consultant to submit a quotation to manage the bid process is the 22nd January 2024. This will be subject to further DLUHC approval.

Hastings Commons – The Towns Fund is enabling Hastings Commons to transform three formerly derelict heritage buildings (Eagle House, 12 Claremont and the Observer Building) into revitalised mixed use community spaces for living, working and play.

- 12 Claremont – planning permission has been granted and the tender process for the construction phase is underway.
- Eagle House – Town Fund enabled the purchase of the freehold and resulted in a grant from Youth Investment Fund to be used to renovate the whole building. The project is going through its RIBA stages but on track for full outputs by the end of the programme.
- All projects (including the Observer building roof terrace) going out to tender before the end of January 2024 with the idea that works will begin in April 2024.

Public Realm and Green Connections update to be provided at Board meeting 25th January 2024. ESCC and Arup will be presenting their update at the Board meeting.

Green Construction, Energy and Vehicle Training Centre – The project will provide new training and skills opportunities with focus on installing and maintaining green and sustainable technologies in homes, industry and transport (electric vehicles).

Progress is being made on the implementation of the project although now delayed until March 2026 for completion. Delays have been caused due to delays in finalising the funding agreement and a pause due to concerns over increasing construction costs. The funding agreement has now been finalised but awaiting signature from ESCG.

Town Living - This project is also currently being reviewed by the council given its current financial position. It is not being taken forward by the council as originally envisaged (refurbishment of heritage property in Wellington Square). This is because of various risks including financial, suitability, deliverability, and future management of a refurbished listed building. The council has proposed alternative ways of delivering homes in the town centre by opening discussions with other potential providers using the £1m Towns Fund allocated for this project.

A call for proposals amongst 17 selected providers to deliver affordable housing in the town centre was launched prior to Christmas and is due to close on 22nd January 2024. This will then be assessed by council Housing Officers, the Town Deal Investment Panel and finally DLUHC for approval.

5.2 Communications update

This will be delivered verbally by Town Deal Communications Officer, Suzanne Oakley.

5.3 Programme finance update

Project	Allocated from town fund	Total spent to date	Total left to spend	% TDF spent
TOTALS	£23,085,000.00	£3,636,830.69	£19,448,169.31	15.75%
PROJECTS CLOSED				
Source / Courtyard lift	£65,000.00	£65,000.00	£0.00	100.00%
Hastings co-working, flexible office, community space	£116,732.00	£116,732.00	£0.00	100.00%
FACILITIES DELIVERED				
Churchfields	£778,211.00	£778,211.00	£0.00	100.00%
Broadening Futures Together	£417,121.00	£417,121.00	£0.00	100.00%
Priory Meadow shopping centre (Fast Track element)	£349,676.00	£337,000.00	£12,676.00	96.37%
ON SITE				
Former Debenhams Building	£400,000.00	£400,000.00	£0.00	100.00%
Hastings Commons	£3,997,203.00	£1,227,099.58	£2,770,103.42	30.70%
IN DESIGN				
Public Realm & Green connections	£9,754,458.00	£65,695.00	£9,688,763.00	0.67%
APPROVED				
Green construction, energy and vehicle training centre	£2,638,758.00	£0.00	£2,638,758.00	0.00%
PENDING REAPPROVAL				
Hastings Castle	£3,450,069.00	£111,187.00	£3,338,882.00	3.22%
Town Living Pt1	£1,037,615.00	£38,628.50	£998,986.50	3.72%
WITHDRAWN				
Priory Street	£80,157.00	£80,156.61	£0.39	100.00%

5.4 Hastings Station Gateway Project/Town Centre Regeneration Update

This initiative follows the cancellation of the ESK / Priory Street Car Park development project which was included in the Towns Fund Programme. This was due to the large funding gap to enable a mixed-use development but also because of interest from Homes England to regenerate the town centre.

The council has been working with Homes England over the past year to consider ways of regenerating the town centre, originally focusing on the land and sites surrounding Hastings Station, the scope of the project has widened to include the Hastings Town Centre area and the wider connections and opportunities beyond the immediate area around the station.

This work continues to develop, and via funding from Homes England, a Strategic Regeneration Investment Framework (SRIF) for the town centre has been commissioned. A SRIF will be like a masterplan, delivery plan, management plan and a funding plan. More details to follow. The work has started, and engagement activities will commence from January to March 2024.

Board members should note several possible private housing developments are being taken forward in the town centre:

1) Hastings Station Yard site:

Planning details are here:

[HS/FA/06/00983 | Demolition of warehouse and workshops, mixed-use development of five new buildings comprising education, health, retail and 103 residential units \(62 x 1 bed, 39 x 2 bed, 2 x 3 bed\) with associated open space, landscaping, car parking and engineering works. | Station Plaza, Station Approach, Hastings, TN34 1BA](#)

The residential building's locations are shown here.

[HS FA 06 00983-CONDITION 4 PLAN-646101.pdf \(hastings.gov.uk\)](#)

HS/FA/06/00983 | Demolition of warehouse and workshops, mixed-use development of five new buildings comprising education, health, **retail and 103 residential units (62 x 1 bed, 39 x 2 bed, 2 x 3 bed)** with associated open space, landscaping, car parking and engineering works. | Station Plaza, Station Approach, Hastings, TN34 1BA

The site has acquired by Purple Pepper Partnership and we have been informed the development is due to commence January 2024.

2) University of Brighton Building Priory Street

The building has been sold to Stonegate Homes for development.

The planning application for the building was validated in Sep 2023 – details here [HS/FA/23/00393 | Change of use of rear ground floor level and first to third floor levels from Use Class F1 \(Education\) to Use Class C3 \(Residential\), change of use of rear basement level from Use Class F1 to Use Class E \(commercial\), retention of Use Class E \(commercial\) at front basement and ground floor levels and erection of single storey](#)

[roof extensions at fourth and fifth floor levels to provide 41 residential dwellings and 667sqmm Class E floorspace and associated installation of wheelchair ramp and landscaping.\(Amended Description\) | Former University of Brighton in Hastings, Priory Street, Hastings, TN34 1EA](#)

It is not clear as to when the construction work will start at the moment.

3) Queensbury House

The property has been sold to a Real Estate Investment Company and council has had one meeting with the company to understand it's plans. The Town Board will be kept updated as information becomes available.

4) Former Youth Centre and CAB offices on Cornwallis Terrace / Priory Street has also recently been sold. No contact made with the new owners at the moment by the council.

5.5 Long Term Investment Plan for Towns – Endowment Fund

Hastings has been pre-selected by the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) to receive £20,000,000 of funding and support to regenerate the town. The funding is released over a seven year period and can be spent over ten years. DLUHC will provide a data pack curated by their Spatial Data Unit as well as a policy toolkit outlining available powers available to towns and a list of policy interventions with an already agreed case for investment. An independent High Streets and Towns Taskforce will be established to support towns.

£50,000 capacity funding has been paid to the council to cover the upfront costs of setting up a Town Board by 1st April 2024. This will take the form of a refreshed Local Strategic Partnership in Hastings. Once the board is established a further £200,000 of capacity funding will be released for 2024/25.

The local authority will remain the accountable body, but the board will be responsible for delivering a Long-Term Plan for Hastings. The plan will set out the town's vision and priorities for investment and regeneration, aligned to themes of safety and security, high streets, heritage and regeneration, and transport and connectivity.

The board will advise how to spend the capacity funding to develop the Long-Term Plan. This could include appointing consultants or increasing in house capacity or a combination of both. The plan will comprise a ten-year vision, identifying the longer-term priorities for Hastings with a three-year investment plan as an annex. The funding covers the whole borough, and it is anticipated that the plan will cover five town centres: Hastings, Old Town, St Leonards, Silverhill and Ore. It is intended to be flexible, enabling private and philanthropic investment to be capitalised to help investments, assets and land go further, generating more opportunities and benefits for the town.

Should the board pursue the policy interventions prepared by DLUHC business cases will not be required. However, they are not compulsory and there are no set requirements for allocating money between themes, though at least one intervention per theme is expected.

5.6 Levelling Up Partnership update

Hastings has been selected as one of twenty areas to establish a Levelling Up Partnership as part of a programme to deliver a tailored approach to place-based working. £20 million has been allocated to Hastings with £5 million due to be spent by April 2024 and the remaining £15 million by April 2025.

Detailed work on the Levelling Up Partnership between Hastings Borough Council (HBC) and the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) got fully underway in September 2023. HBC facilitated introductions with over sixty local stakeholders covering the local business sector, the cultural sector, voluntary and not for profit organisations, and other public sector bodies working in Hastings. It is hoped that by collaborating with key partners and understanding the challenges and opportunities the partnership will identify practical solutions to bring about change.

DLUHC has worked hard to meet with as many local organisations as possible, listen to their views and ideas and in some cases asking them to prepare a funding proposal. DLUHC has also conducted a desktop review of the data available about Hastings, including educational outcomes, levels of deprivation and health inequalities. They have also undertaken a 'deep dive' into the high levels of demand for temporary accommodation in the town. The council has emphasised to DLUHC the need to focus on solutions to the housing crisis which is having a severe impact on the councils challenging financial situation.

The DLUHC team have now prepared a package of proposals for consideration by ministers. The decision rests entirely with ministers and we are hoping to hear the results of these proposals within the next few weeks.

5.7 Hastings Town Deal 'Deep Dive'

Hastings Borough Council has been selected for a deep dive review regarding their Town Deals project, Hastings, as part of the assurance process outlined in the [Levelling Up Funds Local Authority Assurance Framework](#). The purpose of a deep dive review is to enable the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Domestic Assurance Team to review the governance, decision making, and delivery associated with the Town Deals funding.

The deep dive review will require engagement with the Chief Finance Officer (S151/127/95/54) and project leads, as well as the provision of any procurement, financial and decision-making evidence as requested for review. Wherever possible, the Domestic Assurance Team shall assist us and work together to fully satisfy any review requirements.

Complete and return the attached deep dive documents checklist and procurement register has been extended to 19th January 2024. Documents to be submitted are as follows:

Provide (by email) documentation to demonstrate arrangements for the following:

- Governance and Decision-Making
- Counter-Fraud
- Procurement
- Subsidy Control

Next Steps (as confirmed by DLUHC):

‘To support us with the process we would be grateful if you would **prioritise completing and returning the attached procurement register** as soon as possible. This will enable us to select two of the procurements and then clarify with you the documents required in evidence for this part of the review. Once you have sent us your documents, we will be in touch to arrange a date for a review meeting. We may also contact you by email should any queries come up throughout the review, so we can seek clarification and test out understanding.

Following the deep dive review, we will share our findings with you, including any recommended remedial action(s) and target dates for their implementation, and ask you to sign off the report. When all agreed actions, if any, have been completed you will receive notification confirming the closure of the deep dive review.’

Hastings Town Deal Programme Team
January 2024

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