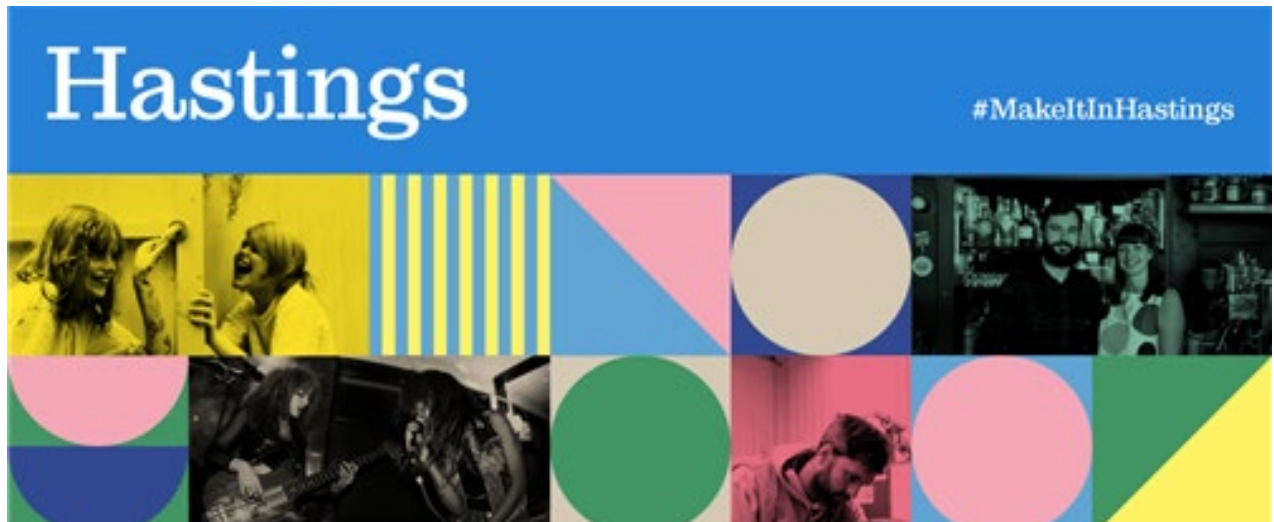


Report Title: Decisions of the Town Deal Investment Panel

Date: 15th March 2022

Report by: Towns Fund Programme Team



The Town Investment Panel is a subgroup of the Town Deal Board. It has been given delegated responsibility to assess business cases and make final recommendations on projects together with the accountable body (HBC) and its representative - the section 151 officer.

This note is to confirm the decision of the Town Investment Panel and the Section 151 officer.

The Town Investment Panel met on 23rd February to consider the business case for **Broadening Futures Together**, a 'fast track' project. Following this meeting and subsequent approval of clarification points, the business case was approved as representing very high value for money, with a high level of certainty around achieving that value for money. There is also alignment with the strategic objectives of the Town Investment Plan as well as national, regional, and other local policy. Summary details of the project and assessment is below.

Project Business case assessment report: February 2022

The Broadening Futures Together business case has been independently assessed by Steer Group* and has been recommended for approval by the Town Deal Investment Panel and confirmed by HBC's S151 Officer as able to proceed to delivery and implementation.

The overall assessment of the economic case is that the scheme will deliver a high benefit cost ratio of 5.2:1 taking account the need for intervention, outputs and outcomes. It presents high value for money. Risks that were identified on the first

review have been discussed in a feedback meeting and resolved. “Therefore, it is our assessment that this project represents **very high** value for money, with a **high** level of certainty around achieving that value for money”.

Project name and sponsor	Description	Assessment comments	Proposed outputs and outcomes	Project cost and Towns Fund offer
<p>Broadening Futures Together</p> <p>Education Futures Trust in partnership with Plumpton College</p>	<p>The Towns Fund project will deliver a teaching facility within a 3 hectare site with additional facilities provided by the other funding.</p> <p>This is to enable the delivery of courses to lower skilled and unemployed local residents with a view to increasing their employability and transferrable skills.</p>	<p>Alignment with national, regional, and local policy has been explained and is compelling. The business case explicitly draws out how the project will address the principles of the Hastings Town Investment Plan, i.e. Inclusive Economic Growth, Clean Growth and Health and Wellbeing. As a ‘shovel-ready’ project, benefits for new learners and local residents would further support local and regional policy.</p> <p>A strong evidence-based case for change has been made regarding the pronounced education inequality in Hastings, with the proportion of unqualified people exceeding South East and national averages. The intervention is needed to stimulate employment, improve social mobility and ultimately contribute to Hastings’ recovery from the pandemic. The scheme targets a number of areas, including conservation (by promoting land based courses to learners), with the main aim being to upskill the most educationally deprived residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening Futures Together will develop a 3-hectare site with sustainable development to include 100m² of new community indoor space by the end of 2022 and develop 2.5 hectares of improved sports and recreation facilities over the project lifetime. • Plumpton College will deliver a new educational pathway offering learners in Hastings a range of land-based courses catering to diverse students, resulting in circa 2,220 over seven years either engaged or re-engaging with education and/or skills development via land-course courses at the Firs resulting in a Level 2 or 3 qualification. • Engage annually with 330 beneficiaries through short taster courses and engage over 120 through medium sized short courses • Over the first seven years, Broadening Futures Together will transition at least 102 learners directly into employment and a further 185 through to level 2 and 3 full time courses at Plumpton College 	<p>Project value £621,775</p> <p>Towns Fund grant £352,000</p> <p>EFT charitable match £151,650</p> <p>Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART) public match £118,125</p>

The Town Deal Board is requested to note the decisions of the Town Investment Panel as the project will now proceed to implementation.

The accountable body will supply a summary document containing details of these projects to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in due course. The summary document will be signed by the Town Deal Board co-chairs prior to submission.

A project summary is attached for information at Appendix 1.

Towns Fund Programme Team 8th March 2022