

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Report Title:** Developing the Long-Term Plan: Resource Allocation

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## Background

From April 2024, DLUHC will release the £200,000 of revenue capacity building funding to support the development of the Long-Term Plan, including additional community engagement activity.

It is important that the Hastings Board provides a steer to advise Hastings Borough Council, as the accountable body, on how best to use this resource to support the development of the Long-Term Plan. Clearly, it is important that we move quickly in terms of building the strategic case and engaging the local community to shape and work up the vision, Long-Term Plan and priorities for action within the 3-year investment plan.

It is expected that the additional funding is to support the development of the Long-Term Plan between April 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and will need to be programmed for spend during this period.

The table below summarise how the additional funding could be allocated to address the process and meet core requirements to develop the Long-Term Plan. To note, at this stage c£130,000 of the £200,000 capacity funding is proposed to be allocated.

### Board Considerations

1. To agree the indicative the funding allocations and suggested approach to commissioning to support the preparation of the Long-Term Plan as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To agree that any further allocations of the capacity funding will need to be approved by the Hastings Board Executive Group.

## Appendix 1

**Table 1: Funding Allocations**

Activity	Rationale	Indicative Amount	Commissioning Approach
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community engagement is at the heart of the Long-Term Plan so plans need to reflect and respond to priorities identified by the local community, businesses and residents.</li> <li>▪ Any engagement needs to build on local knowledge and the extensive community engagement, which shaped the Town Deal and other regeneration programmes being delivered in the town.</li> <li>▪ Engagement process needs to build opportunities for the development of community leadership and capacity.</li> <li>▪ Attached brief sets out the scope and scale and recommended approach to community engagement.</li> </ul>	£50k	<p>Two options for Board considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Co-commission Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) to manage the design, development and delivery of a comprehensive and innovative programme of community engagement and consultation; or</li> <li>2. Open tender with a priority for local organisations to be included in any commission</li> </ol>
Town Centre Perceptions Survey: Hastings, St Leonards and Old Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong emphasis on addressing the decline of traditional high streets to adapt and diversify their offer.</li> <li>▪ Long-Term Plan needs to better understand shopping, leisure and spending habits and perceptions of the 3 town centres.</li> <li>▪ Core output will be to see how people and businesses perceive the town centres and what actions are needed to improve the town centres offer.</li> <li>▪ Attached brief sets out the scope and scale and recommended approach to Town Centre Perceptions survey.</li> </ul>	£25k	Open tender with a priority for local organisations to be included in any commission

Activity	Rationale	Indicative Amount	Commissioning Approach
Town Centre vacancy rates research and mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up-to-date research and intelligence is required on current vacant properties within the 3 town centres to understand the scale, scope and location of vacant properties, which are a blot on the centres.</li> <li>▪ Further advice will be sort from the Council’s Business Rates team to review information currently available.</li> </ul>	£10k	In-house resource or open tender
Developing and assessing the evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LTP will need to evidence strong links between the data analysis and the proposed interventions.</li> <li>▪ A review and assessment of the DLUH&amp;C data sets (including the Levelling up for Partnerships) will identify where gaps in data, particularly at a local level. For example data held by the Community Safety Partnership, Business Improvement District, ESCC etc</li> <li>▪ Rother DC, has commissioned an independent evidence base project to help underpin its LTP and wider investment programmes in Bexhill.</li> <li>▪ If required a commission brief will be developed to set out the scope and scale and recommended approach to developing the evidence base.</li> </ul>	£15k	<p>Discuss with Rother DC an opportunity to extend the commission of their appointed consultants; or</p> <p>Open tender with a priority for local organisations to be included in any commission; or</p> <p>Extend Marshall Regen Ltd’s remit to include this activity.</p>
Management and Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management and secretariat support for the Hastings Board from April 2024 to October 2024 (when the LPT is anticipated to be approved) is currently a role undertaken by Hasting Borough Council as the Accountable Body for the LTP funding.</li> <li>▪ Costs cannot be fully met by Hasting Borough Council alone.</li> <li>▪ Costs are estimated at c£5,000 per month which include support from regeneration, democratic services, legal and finance teams.</li> </ul>	£30k	Agree allocation for Hastings Borough Council

**Note:** if funds allow, the Hastings Board could also commission the development of a robust Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the Long-Term Plan.