



Report to:	ASHTON TOWN BOARD
Date:	29 July 2024
Reporting Officer:	Mike Reed – Head of Development and Major Programmes
Subject:	TERMS OF REFERENCE
Report Summary:	The report sets out the Terms of Reference for the Ashton Town Board
Recommendations:	That the Ashton Town Board approve the proposed Terms of Reference.
Corporate Plan:	Key aims of the Corporate Plan are to provide opportunities for people to fulfil their potential through work, skills and enterprise and to ensure modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations. The interventions that can be supported in Ashton by the Long Term Plan for Towns Funding will deliver against these aims in the areas of job creation, modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment.
Policy Implications:	The interventions that can be supported by the funding in Ashton will support the policy aims of the Borough's Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021, the Housing Strategy 2021 to 2026, Tameside Climate Change & Environment Strategy, the Council's growth priorities agreed at Council February 2020 and the draft Greater Manchester Places for Everyone joint development strategy.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There are no direct legal issues arising from this report.
Risk Management:	Allows for transparent and democratic decision making.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Mike Reed, Head of Development and Major Programmes.
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has identified the Ashton Growth Corridor, comprising St Petersfield, Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre, as one of its priority areas to deliver growth and implement the objectives of the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021-26. The location forms part of the Greater Manchester (GM) Eastern Growth Cluster, which is one of six Growth Locations across GM that will deliver new development, create and retain jobs, offer better job opportunities, enable training and skill development to increase the number of residents in employment. The major development opportunities within the Ashton Growth Corridor are St Petersfield, Aston Moss, and Ashton Town Centre.
- 1.2 On 1 October 2023 it was announced that Ashton was one of the 55 towns selected nationally as part of the Long Term Plan for Towns programme to receive a 10-year fund with £20 million of funding of which 75% will be capital and 25% revenue.

2. LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS

- 2.1 The Long Term Plan for Towns will support improvements to towns in the UK with a ten year commitment of funding and the creation of Town Boards.
- 2.2 The £20m revenue and capital funding (split 25% revenue and 75% capital) will be awarded to the local authority, acting as accountable body on behalf of the Town Board, and be released over a seven year period with flexibility to spend it over a ten year period. Town Board will need to be properly constituted to assure good governance and respect for the purpose and objectives of the fund. The Levelling Up Funds Local Authority Assurance Framework will apply, requiring the Council's s.151 Officer to provide assurance updates around the proper administration of the funding, including in regard to conflict of interest, subsidy control, procurement, counter fraud and risk.

3. ASHTON TOWN BOARD

- 3.1 The guidance notes that the Town Board must be chaired by a local community leader or local businessperson with the membership requirements set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Town Board Required Membership

Required Membership	Notes
Parliamentary representatives	The relevant local MP(s) whose constituencies sit within the boundary of the town must sit on the Town Board.
Local councillors	In unitary authorities, there should be two councillors from the authority
A senior representative from the police	It is expected that this will be the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), though subject to the agreement of the chair, a local senior representative from the police can act as an alternative.
Other membership tailored to local context	This is at the Chair's discretion and the guidance is non-prescriptive in terms of these requirements

- 3.2 The Town Board will be responsible for developing the Town Plan and reviewing this prior to submission to DLUHC. The local authority are required to act as secretariat to the Town Board.
- 3.3 There is a requirement for the Town Board to be responsible for:

- Identifying the issues and priorities to focus on within the Town Plan, including supporting a process of ongoing community engagement.
- Working with the Council to develop the Town Plan, setting out how local partners will use their knowledge, powers, assets and new funding to deliver for their communities.
- Identifying opportunities for Board members to utilise specific powers to deliver the Town Plan.
- Identifying opportunities to bring in additional investment.
- Overseeing the delivery of projects set out in the Town Plan.

3.4 The proposed Terms of Reference are set out at **(Appendix 1)**.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That the Ashton Town Board approve the proposed Terms of Reference.