

Title of Report:	'Long-Term Plan for Towns': £20m Coleraine Town Fund Update
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Information
For discussion In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	The Council facilitates towns and villages in the Borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them.
Lead Officer	Director Leisure & Development / Head of Prosperity & Place

Budgetary Considerations	
Net Cost of Proposal	£20m funding provided + staff time
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	Revenue & Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	No
Legal Opinion Obtained	No

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the ‘Long-Term Plan for Towns’: £20m Coleraine Town Fund. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will receive £2m per year over the next 10 years to address deprivation in Coleraine.

2.0 Background

In September 2023, the UK Prime Minister launched the government’s Long-Term Plan for Towns, as part of the broader levelling up programme. See attached link for more details in relation to the ‘Long-Term Plan for Towns’: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/long-term-plan-for-towns-technical-ga/long-term-plan-for-towns-technical-ga>

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) previously identified 55 towns across GB that would receive funding as part of this programme and, at the Spring Statement (2024), the Chancellor confirmed £400m additional funding to extend this programme to an additional 20 towns across the UK – including Coleraine.

The ‘Long-Term Plan for Towns’ is a fundamentally different way of approaching the challenges towns face, putting power back into the hands of local people so that they can decide on local priorities and how to ensure their towns are places where people and businesses want to invest, creating new jobs and breathing new life into our high streets and town centres.

Coleraine will receive funding and support worth up to £20 million, to deliver projects over the 10-year lifespan of the programme and the flexibility to invest in interventions based on locally identified needs and priorities. The investment will be split 25% resource and 75% capital.

3.0 Establishing a Future Towns Board

DLUHC have provided draft NI guidance on establishing a Future Towns Board. These must be community-led institutions, with Council providing a secretariat support function. Elected representatives must not chair the Board, the chair must be a local community leader or local businessperson such as:

- Director / chief executive of a local charitable organisation.
- A philanthropist.
- The head of a Further Education College.
- A director for the Health and Social Care or Trust.
- A director of a football club.

Board members can include Elected Members, but the majority must come from a range of community organisations such as sports, heritage, faith and community groups, police representation, local charities, businesspeople and statutory bodies. The Future Towns Board must be established by 1 June 2024. Given the restrictive timeframes involved, it is anticipated that the Board will be established as a subgroup of the Community Planning Partnership. Whilst Council will act as the accountable body, the Future Towns Board will be responsible for developing and implementing the strategy and action plan.

Council have received an initial £50,000 in funding to commence the process. Once the Future Towns Board is in place, the department will release the next £200,000 to support the development of a 10 year vision and three-year action plan which should be submitted by 1st Nov.’24 via an extensive community consultation / engagement process. DLUHC have provided an indicative financial forecast (see table below) but there will be some flexibility to rollover funding into future years until the end of the programme.

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	Total
Total RDEL per place £ (000)	250	672	449	449	449	449	454	467	467	467	4,574
Total CDEL per place £ (000)		2,096	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	14,936
Total amount per place £ (000)											19,510

Table 1.0 Coleraine Indicative Financial Forecast

At the end of the first three-year investment plan cycle, for FY27/28, there will be a built-in 'check-in' point, to analyse delivery across the first three years, alongside the submission of the next three-year investment plan. DLUHC are also in the process of developing a tailored data pack, which will include town centric data across the three investment themes:

1. Safety and security.
2. Transport and connectivity.
3. Heritage and high streets.

The proposed town boundary to be used in Coleraine is based on the [Settlements 2015 data](#) as illustrated below. A request to have the boundary modified / extended can be submitted to DLUHC, if it is considered by the Future Towns Board members that a key area(s) is missing.



Proposed Coleraine Town Boundary

4.0 Next Steps

The key milestones for the delivery of the 'Long-Term Plan for Towns': £20m Coleraine Town Fund are set out below:

By 1st June 2024 DLUHC expect that:

- A Chair is appointed
- Council work with the Chair to establish the Town Board
- Town Boards start planning and initiating community engagement / consultation.

By 1st November 2024 DLUHC expect:

- To have released the next £200,000 of capacity funding to support the development of the Long-Term Plan and

- Town Boards to submit their Long-Term Plans (comprising their 10-year vision and 3-year investment plan). The Plan will set out how funding will be allocated and spent, with the local authority as the body ultimately accountable for funding.

As the 'Long-Term Plan for Towns': £20m Coleraine Town Fund is implemented, further updates regarding key milestones will be presented to the Leisure & Development Committee.