

Thursday, 10 November 2022

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Skills, Planning, Economy & Waste

Gungate Regeneration Programme, Terms of Reference

Exempt Information

None

Purpose

To provide Cabinet with a proposed governance structure for the Gungate Regeneration programme, to oversee the development and delivery of emerging projects, within scope of the wider programme.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approve the terms of reference for the Gungate Regeneration programme.
2. Consider proposals from Corporate Scrutiny Committee, that a member of one the opposition parties become a board member.

Executive Summary

Over the past three years significant work has been undertaken to bring forward development on the Town Centre regeneration site, known as Gungate, comprising land south of Spinning School Lane in Council ownership and land north of Spinning School Lane in multiple ownership. This has included such activity as: a fully consulted, viability focused site masterplan; negotiations and agreements with land owners; applications for funding; a car park demand study; indicative scheme design; strategic relationship development with key external partners.

Through the development of a recent Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 bid, which was approved by full Council in June 2022 and successful conversations with both the County Council and Homes England, there are now projects and works ready to be brought forward with existing identified finance, whilst the Council waits for news from Government if it has been successful in its bid or not, expected by the end of December. A formally approved governance structure is now critical to ensure the right controls are in place to manage any decision making for the wider programme.

The governance approach to the Gungate regeneration programme is brought to Cabinet for approval through the adoption of a terms of reference, identical in nature to that of the Future High Street Fund (FHSF). These terms of reference will create the agreed governance structure, a Board with a similar function to the FHSF Programme Board, relevant delegated powers of decision making and a framework for financial controls to ensure the programme can progress within its set parameters and detailing the necessary scrutiny arrangements.

Options Considered

Do nothing

This option would mean not putting any governance in place to manage the overall programme. This would represent a severe risk to the Council and to programme delivery as there would be minimal oversight on a regular basis, with no clear structure for decision making and approval of key decisions. Without a specific governance framework, the projects under the programme would unlikely to be brought forward as required to achieve the outcomes of the Council and its partners. It is highly unlikely finances and project risks would be managed correctly.

Corporate Scrutiny

Corporate Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 6th October 2022 reviewed and considered the draft terms of reference and proposed governance for the Gungate Regeneration programme. From this review the following was proposed:

- That a member of one of the opposition parties be represented on the Programme Board and for this to be decided at Cabinet. Which member of the opposition to attend would be agreed by the leader of each opposition party.
- The level of financial control remains the same as the current Future High Street levels

Resource Implications

The TOR provides a framework within which Tamworth Borough Council resources can be allocated efficiently and correctly. Resources relates both to staffing and finances required to facilitate the delivery of the programme. The resources required to deliver each project under the programme, will be different, and as such will be kept under regular review, which is written into the Programme Board TOR - see Appendix 1.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

There are no legal issues arising as a consequence of this report.

The TOR and creation of a governance board will allow the management and mitigation of risk to the authority by setting out a clear governance arrangement with appropriate levels of accountability, scrutiny, and relevant controls in place.

Equalities Implications

There are no envisaged equalities implications arising from this report.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

There are no known environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.

Background Information

None

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List of Background Papers

Full Council – Levelling Up Fund round 2 application – 30th June 2022.

Appendices

1 - Gungate Terms of Reference