



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 FEBRUARY 2020

BRIEFING NOTE:

Northampton Forward

1 UPDATE

- 1.1 Since the update provided at the O&SC meeting 11th November 2019 Northampton Forward have continued to meet to provide overview to the Future High Street Fund Full Business Case (FBC) development. Northampton Forward Board meetings have taken place on 26th November, 17th December and 14th January.
- 1.2 The main focus in this time was preparing the FBC for its draft submission on 15th January ahead of the full submission being made by 30th April. The FBC needs to be set out in the HM Treasury's five case business case model which details the Strategic, Economic, Financial, Commercial and Management cases. Grant Thornton are being used to support the council in compiling this business case.
- 1.3 Draft versions of each of the five business case sections have been presented to the Northampton Forward Board over these meetings and ahead of the draft submission. The business case requests funding to enable delivery of interventions that have been drawn from the Northampton Town Centre Masterplan.
- 1.4 The draft FBC was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on January 15th. We have been informed that we will receive feedback in 6-8 weeks of submission, as such we expect to receive this in early March.
- 1.5 The design development for the selected schemes continues to be progressed to inform the final business case submission. As part of the design development a 6-week consultation on the design of the Market Square took place between late November and early January. The results of this have been analysed and will be fed back to Gillespies (Land scape Architects) to inform the next stage of designs. Design development on the proposed schemes will conclude at the end of February so that the revised costs and outputs can be calculated and fed into the final business case submission.
- 1.6 Sitting alongside this work is the development of a Place Marketing Strategy for the town with the first phase of work currently under development. The place marketing tender has subsequently been developed and was reviewed by the

Northampton Forward Board and ahead of this being advertised. Seven companies were invited to bid for this first stage of work with the deadline for tender submissions being the 14th February.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the progress report is noted, and further updates are provided as requested by the committee.

Author: George Candler, Chief Executive, on behalf of Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Chair of Northampton Forward Project Board

10 February 2020