

# Newcastle Town Deal

## Board Update

July 23

Thanks to the continued pro-active engagement of the project sub-groups, we are pushing on with project delivery as summarised in the project updates below.

In June the latest monitoring return to Government was submitted capturing all the good work that has been going on and the Council has since received further Town Deal funding to enable delivery.

We have a new lead from the DLUHC local area team who are our key Government contact for all things Town Deal. Jon Gray visited in June for an orientation tour for both Newcastle and Kidsgrove Town Deals and is likely to join us for future Board meetings.

### **Smart Digital Infrastructure (NTD funding £2.285M)**

Further development work has been completed on this project to develop proposals that are in line with the business case and Board aspirations. Development work continues and Board Members will be asked to review project delivery proposals later this year.

### **Sustainable Transport Solutions (NTD funding £3.421M)**

The project has seen the first element of delivery with installation of bus information totems around the campus at Keele University. Planning permission has also been granted for the installation of three further bus information totems at Newcastle bus station. Installation is planned later in summer. Next in line for improved bus information are the bus stops in Merrial Street with options for delivery currently being discussed.

The team at Keele University are progressing with procurement of consultants and contractors for delivery of the new bus entrance at Keele University, which has already been granted planning permission. The Keele team are also in discussions with bus operators about the best route through Campus to ensure the most efficient delivery of services.



Early-stage options have been reviewed for delivery of a new bus service in the core urban area but further consideration is needed to ensure that any proposals support existing bus routes whilst improving connectivity.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Points (NTD funding £400,000)**



Planning permission has now been granted for construction of the new Castle Car Park where the EV charging points are to be delivered. Construction will start in autumn with the car park and new EV charging points opening in early 2024.

### **Town Centre Permeability (NTD funding £950,000)**

Following survey work to finalise arrangements for delivery, the first phase will be at Gallowstree Roundabout, planned to start in October. The town centre section at Barracks Road and Hassell Street will follow next year.

### **Key Gateway Sites (NTD funding £3.81M)**



Following consultation on the draft proposals to redevelop the former Zanzibar nightclub site, further work will shortly be undertaken to revise the delivery proposals and it is expected that a planning submission will be brought forward in early 2024.

Procurement of a demolition contractor for the Midway car park will start shortly. The intent is to start demolition as soon as the new Castle Car Park has opened in early 2024.

### **Astley Centre for Circus (NTD funding £1.81M)**

Despite much chasing there is no news on approval of the Astley project. In the meantime, the project group are doing as much as possible to ensure that phase 1 refurbishment work at the Merrial Street property starts as soon as we get a positive response.



## **New Keele University facility in the town centre (Digital Society Centre) (NTD funding £3.51M)**



The team at Keele University has been working closely with their appointed design team and stakeholders to finalise proposals to deliver 'Keele in Town'. A planning submission is imminent to transform the building in Ironmarket into a mixed-use facility, providing a hub for students, businesses and community groups to come together with access to modern learning and meeting spaces.

## **Knutton Village Masterplan (NTD funding £3.534M)**

Planning permission has been granted for the football changing rooms at the Wammy. Appointment of a contractor is under way and work is due to start on site late in August. An application to the Football Foundation for a contribution to this project is due to be submitted later in July.

*"Putting the heart back into Knutton"*



Detailed planning has taken place between partners on the former recreation centre site on Knutton High Street site. This has established the site layout and redline boundary for each of the developments that are taking place in line with the masterplan - the Enterprise Centre, housing development and space for the new village hall. Submission of a planning application for the Enterprise Centre is imminent with work due to start on site in early 2024. A Project Adjustment Form has been submitted to DLUHC for approval. This relates to removal of some housing outputs from Town Deal to enable Homes England funding to be attracted to the High Street and former Community Centre site.

## **Cross Street Chesterton (NTD funding £2.955M)**

Aspire are continuing to deliver the earlier housing phases of this development. Town Deal funding was requested for the later phases of delivery however it has been necessary to review outputs attributable to each funding provider to ensure the correct outputs are being attributed to each funding source. The Council is still working with Aspire to finalise details for a Project Adjustment Request for the amended outputs and review whether it will be necessary to re-commission Stantec to re-assess some of the economic case for this project.