



CABINET

13 JULY 2021

Energising Blyth Programme (Future High Streets Fund and Town Deal)

Report of: Rick O'Farrell, Interim Executive Director of Local Services and Regeneration

Cabinet Member: Cllr Wojciech Ploszaj, portfolio holder for Business

Purpose of report

To update Cabinet regarding the establishment, development and delivery of the Energising Blyth Programme supported by the Governments Towns Fund including the Future High Streets Fund and Town Deal.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- Agree the establishment of the Energising Blyth Programme as set out in section 1 of this report noting the role and implications on the council as funding recipient and Accountable Body regarding the HM Government Towns Fund.
- Note the process for developing the Town Deal as set out in section 1
- Agree that following receipt of the Town Deal Heads of Terms from HM Government in Summer 2021 that the final deal arrangements will be confirmed and final approval of the deal will be delegated to the Head of Paid Service in liaison with the Leader of the council and Town Deal Board Chair.
- Agree the establishment of the associated programme management and assurance arrangements to support the Programme's delivery as set out in section 2 of this report whilst noting:
 - the staffing and resource arrangements to support the development and delivery of the Programme as set out in section 2; and
 - that this significant body of work as a new devolved regeneration programme in Northumberland will be kept under constant review regarding any additional resources that may be needed to support the programme's delivery.

- Note the financial profile of the Programme as set out in section 3 of this report and agree that individual project business cases will be approved by Cabinet. NCC match funding is identified currently within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which will be updated during the annual budget setting process to take account of the Town Deal outcome which is expected in June/July 2021.
- Note that the Northern Gateway Phase 1 Project approved last year has been formally added to the Energising Blyth programme as set out in section 1.

Links to Corporate Plan

The Town Deal is a placemaking ‘whole town’ programme which contributes across most of the Council’s Corporate Plan Priorities but particularly to the “living”, “enjoying”, “thriving” and “connecting” strategic priorities.

Key Issues

The Energising Blyth programme combines the resources from the HM Government Towns Fund allocated to support Blyth into one major £70m regeneration programme combining resources from the Governments Towns Fund available to the town.

Future High Streets Fund and Accelerated Towns Fund have been awarded and the Blyth Town Deal application is pending an announcement from Government expected in June 2021. The council, in liaison with the Town Deal Board will need to agree the Town Deal Offer with Government once received.

The Programme aims to deliver the growth and renewal objectives of the Blyth Town Investment Plan and transform the wider town of Blyth, with a focus on addressing market failure in the town centre between 2021-2026.

To drive the Town Deal process forward in Blyth, the Council established the Blyth Town Deal Board with a private sector Chair and cross-sector representation as required by Government. The partnership will play a key role in liaison with the council in the programme’s delivery.

The Programme comprises a portfolio of up to 12 strategic capital projects, including a new flagship culture centre; education and innovation facilities; industrial, commercial, leisure, and residential developments; and sustainable transport infrastructure.

As accountable body, NCC is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of the Programme and that public funding is invested effectively and appropriately, in accordance with the FHSF and Town grant funding agreements with MHCLG. Ultimate decision-making responsibility lies with the accountable body, as confirmed in MHCLG’s Town Deal guidance.

This involves fully establishing programme management and delivery arrangements to manage this funding effectively. Staffing and resource arrangements are set out in the

report and will be kept under regular review given the scale and nature of the programme.

The current indicative capital allocations from NCC in the capital programme are noted in the report and total £20,147,969 with the total amount of capital funds levered £47,407,839 (FHSF, Town Deal and other External sources) between 2021-26 to support delivery. As project business cases are developed, they will be assured by the Council and brought to Cabinet for funding approval in close liaison with the Town Deal Board.

BACKGROUND

Section 1: Energising Blyth Programme Overview

Energising Blyth Programme

1. The Energising Blyth programme combines the resources from the HM Government Towns Fund allocated to support Blyth into one major £70m regeneration programme.
2. It aims to deliver the growth and renewal objectives of the Blyth Town Investment Plan and transform the wider town of Blyth, with a focus on addressing market failure in the town centre.
3. The Programme comprises a portfolio of up to 12 strategic capital projects, including a new flagship culture centre; education and innovation facilities; industrial, commercial, leisure, and residential developments; and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Town Investment Plan

4. These proposals are presented in the Blyth Town Investment Plan which sets out the proposed approach to the transformation of the town up to March 2026.
5. The Blyth Town Investment Plan (TIP) was submitted in January 2021 to Government. It sets out a strategy for the town's future development and the rationale for the investment "ask" of Government in the form of the 'Town Deal'.
6. The preparation of the TIP has been informed by an extensive public consultation and engagement exercise. Further details of this and the feedback it generated are available [here](#).
7. The TIP outlines that Blyth is re-inventing itself as a 21st century clean growth port town, providing new jobs, better skills, more homes, and a great environment for its people and businesses. The town is at the forefront of the Government's levelling-up plans and is leading Northumberland's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vision and objectives

8. The Town Investment Plan establishes a bold vision for the transformation of Blyth:
By 2030 Blyth will be a thriving UK and international centre of renewable energy and advanced manufacturing growth and innovation, providing new jobs, better skills, more homes, and a clean environment for people in the town and the wider North East region, leading the way in delivering the UK's net zero ambitions. It will be a vibrant and welcoming community, offering a great quality

of life on the doorstep of the beautiful Northumbrian coastline and countryside.

9. The strategy to transform Blyth and achieve the vision is based on four strategic objectives and one cross-cutting priority.
 - SO1: Growing Town
 - SO2: Vibrant Town
 - SO3: Connected Town
 - SO4: Inclusive Town
 - Cross Cutting Priority: Clean Growth Town

Towns Fund

10. The government's Towns Fund comprises three funding streams which Blyth is eligible for as a place prioritised in need of support to 'Level up' the local economy – the Future High Streets Fund, the Town Deal and the Accelerated Towns Fund. The Energising Blyth Programme will bring all of these funding streams under one managed and co-ordinated programme.

Future High Streets Fund (FHSF)

11. In 2019 the Government announced that Blyth was eligible to apply for the FHSF to address market failure in the town centre. Following significant engagement and development work in Blyth a FHSF submission was approved by Cabinet in June 2020 and a full programme business case made to Government in July 2020 which focuses on the regeneration of the town centre.
12. It includes a suite of significant projects with four – (Creative Culture Space and Market Place, The Laurel Restaurant and Hotel, Energy Campus Phase 2 - Energy Central Institute and the 'Link' improvements to Bridge Street) – forming the basis of the Council's preferred option. Within this, it should be noted that the FHSF for the Energy Central Campus Phase 2 - Energy Central Institute is available to support the site acquisition and development costs. This project is also included in the Town Deal seeking funding support to deliver the project.
13. Cabinet agreed in June 2020 that each project will be reported to cabinet once a project business case is prepared. The council was awarded £11.121m from FHSF in December 2020, this part of the programme has commenced and the council have now entered into a funding agreement with MHCLG.

Town Deal

14. In September 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced that 101 towns in England will benefit from the £3.6 billion Towns Fund as part of its efforts to level up economic growth and productivity between regions.

15. Blyth was invited to submit an evidence-based Town Investment Plan (TIP) and to work with the Government towards agreeing a Town Deal to access £25m of mainly capital funding from 2022-26. The objective of the Town Deal programme is to drive sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth.
16. The County Council began to develop the Town Deal application in September 2020 as part of Tranche 3 of the eligible towns as part of a staged development process.
17. To drive this process forward in Blyth, the Council established the Blyth Town Deal Board with a private sector Chair and cross-sector representation. The Board is chaired by Alan Ferguson of Fergusons Transport. The Council is represented by the Leader; Cabinet Member for Business; and Interim Executive Director of Local Services and Regeneration. The Town Deal Board led and oversaw the development of the Town Investment Plan.
18. It is important to note that Government expects the Town Deal to be delivered and governed by this private sector led Partnership with decisions about the programme made in close liaison and agreed jointly between the Town Deal Board and the council in its role as accountable body involving significant engagement with stakeholders at critical stages. As such the programme arrangements outlined in this report seek to ensure this is the case with clear internal and external governance arrangements that work closely together.
19. The Town Deal process is currently in Stage 1 – which involved the preparation of a Town Investment Plan to agree a Town Deal. This was submitted in January 2021 following a 6-month process of development, engagement, and consultation.
20. Since January 2021 the Economy and Regeneration Service has focused on developing the planned integrated Energising Blyth Regeneration Programme whilst awaiting the outcome of the Town Deal application which is now anticipated in June 2021.

The County Council's Role

21. The Council is the Accountable Body for the Town Deal and has utilised internal capacity through the Economy and Regeneration Service and external support incorporating development funding provided by MHCLG to ensure this process is robust and meets the expectations of Government.
22. The Council and Town Deal Board will receive a Head of Terms offer from Government outlining the funding offer from Government to support delivery of the Town Investment Plan. Upon receipt the council and Town Deal Board will need to agree the offer within three weeks.

23. Following receipt of the Town Deal Heads of Terms from HM Government in Summer 2021 it is proposed that the final deal arrangements will be confirmed, and final approval of the deal will be delegated to the Head of Paid Service in liaison with the Leader of the council and Town Deal Board Chair. Meetings of the Town Deal Board are planned in to enable this. This triggers the start of Stage 2 of the Town Deal process.
24. The offer from Government will provide up to £25m and this will be reviewed upon receipt by both the Council and the Town Deal Board. The projects included in the Town Deal are indicative only at this stage and could change, be combined or removed depending on the offer NCC receives from MHCLG.
25. Stage 2 of the Town Deal process – this involves a 12-month period where the details of the submitted projects must be confirmed within 2 months and the completion of detailed business cases for all projects included in the deal within this period. Stage 3 is the agreed funded programme of delivery from 2022 onwards. The Energising Blyth Programme arrangements and capacity are designed to support this process, which will be a significant resource need during this period.
26. The effective establishment of the programme management arrangements is critical to enabling the Council to progress effectively with Stage 2 of the Town Deal. Towns with agreed Heads of Terms for a Town Deal will be required to produce a fully costed business case for each of the agreed projects, setting out the details of how each will be delivered. They should be sufficiently detailed and robust to pass through the council's local assurance framework which will be developed as part of the Accountable Body arrangements. Using the agreed Accountable Body's (the County Council in this instance) 'green book' compliant assurance processes. Once detailed business cases have been developed for each project, towns will be required to submit a Town Deal Summary Document to the Towns Hub (this advisory service is appointed by MHCLG to support the Town Deal process) including project information, delivery arrangements and the assurance process undertaken.
27. This is a similar process for other funded programmes currently or recently managed by the Economy and Regeneration Service such as Rural Growth Network (RGN), Leader, Borderlands where the County Council acts as the Accountable Body for the funding etc.
28. However, unlike the Borderlands Growth Deal in which project level funding approvals are decided centrally by UK Government, decision making for the Town Deal element of the Energising Blyth Programme is delegated to the local area. This means that, once the overall Town Deal funding allocation has been agreed with UK Government, the final decisions about funding approvals for individual projects in Blyth will be made by Northumberland County Council, working in tandem with the Town Deal Board.

29. When business cases have been formally approved, and the Summary Document has been signed off, year 1 of the project funding will be approved by MHCLG and released to the council. During this time, a grant agreement will be developed in line with the funding agreement from MHCLG and the funders conditions attached. The Economy and Regeneration Service will prepare this in liaison with the Council's Finance and Legal teams ensuring the transparency of decisions is maintained and appropriate project appraisal arrangements are put in place for this significant programme of delivery.

Accelerated Towns Fund

30. Alongside the development of the Town Deal above, in July 2020 government announced that Blyth would be allocated £750k funding from the Accelerated Towns Fund.
31. The Council's submitted project approved by Cabinet in October 2020 is the Northern Gateway Phase 1 project which involves major improvements to improve this part of the town centre including Bowes Street, Wanley Street and Church Street. This project will now be added to the Energising Blyth Programme management arrangements to ensure it is linked to the wider programme development.
32. The project costs and delivery arrangements are being finalised to deliver in 2021-22 and a further report on the final scheme will be brought back to CSG and Cabinet in July/August 2021.

Project Overview

33. The 12 projects to be delivered through the Programme are listed overleaf, presented under the primary funding source.
34. The projects included in the Town Deal are indicative only at this stage and could change, be combined or removed depending on the offer NCC receives from MHCLG.

Energising Blyth Programme - Project Overview	
Project	Towns Fund Source
Culture Centre and Market Place - New flagship Culture Centre, with complementary transformation of Market Place to provide	FHSF

attractive public realm.	
Restaurant and Hotel - A new restaurant and hotel development targeting business visitors, alongside a food and beverage offer for the local and visitor markets.	FHSF
'The Link' - Highway and public realm improvements along Bridge Street, improving connectivity with the Quayside area of the town.	FHSF
Energy Central Campus Phase 1 (Energy Central Learning Hub) - Vocational skills and STEM education facility located at Port of Blyth, to support growth in the low carbon energy sector.	Town Deal
Energy Central Campus Phase 2 (Energy Institute) - Higher level skills, education and innovation, facility located in the town centre, to support growth in the low carbon energy sector.	FHSF and Town Deal
Blyth Town Centre Northern Gateway (Phase 1) - Improved transport connectivity and public realm at northern entrance to town centre.	Accelerated Towns Fund
Blyth Town Centre Northern Gateway (Phases 2) - Improved transport connectivity and public realm at northern entrance to town centre.	Town Deal
Blyth Bebside to Town Centre Connectivity - Walking and cycling infrastructure to connect Blyth Bebside Station to town centre, key employment sites and residential areas.	Town Deal
Northumberland Energy Park (Phase 1) and Battleship Wharf - Investment in essential road and quayside infrastructure.	Town Deal
OREC Bearing Technology and Innovation Centre - New UK-leading innovation facility for next generation wind turbine bearing technology.	Town Deal
Energising Blyth Culture and Placemaking Programme - Cultural events, promotion and placemaking to raise Blyth's profile and amplify benefits of wider investments.	Town Deal
Blyth Town Centre Living - High quality new homes in the town centre, bringing a key heritage building back into use.	Town Deal

Alignment with other strategies, programmes and investments

35. In addition to the 12 funded projects, the Town Investment Plan presents a range of other planned investments in Blyth. These other investments, combined with the Town Deal and FHSF projects, will together deliver the Vision and objectives described in the Town Investment Plan.

36. This includes planned investment in Northumberland Energy Park, investments by Port of Blyth, OREC, NTCA and NELEP in business infrastructure to support renewable energy growth, and Government investment in the new Northumberland line rail passenger service.

Outcomes and impacts

37. Combining the Towns Fund and FHSF projects, alongside the other strategic investments, the Town Investment Plan will deliver the following outcomes and impacts:
- Create 7,500 jobs by 2030
 - £374m gross GVA per annum by 2030
 - 5,000 pa more education / training learners by 2030
 - 250 ha land developed for employment, public realm, and green space by 2030
 - 25,000 m2 of floor space developed by 2030
 - 119,000 extra tourist visitors pa by 2026
 - 15 km of sustainable travel infrastructure (walking and cycling routes) by 2030
 - Hundreds of new homes by 2040.
 - Reduce carbon emissions from businesses and homes.
 - Improve perceptions of Blyth among residents, visitors, businesses, and investors.

Section 2: Programme Management Arrangements

Funding Programme

38. Subject to the announcement expected in June 2021 the council will receive a multi-million-pound grant from the Government's Towns Fund, administered by MHCLG. This is alongside the funding already received from FHSF and Accelerated Towns Fund.
39. In total this will support the delivery of 12 strategic capital regeneration projects. This includes:
- An £11.1m award from the Future High Street Fund (FHSF), covering the period April 2021 to March 2024. The MOU for this funding was signed in May 2021 and the first years funding has been received.
 - A Town Deal award of up to £25m (to be confirmed in Summer 2021), covering the period April 2022 to March 2026.
 - Accelerated Towns Fund - £750k previously awarded to Blyth for the Northern Gateway Phase 1 project and match funding. The council has received this funding from MHCLG.
40. As accountable body, NCC is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of the

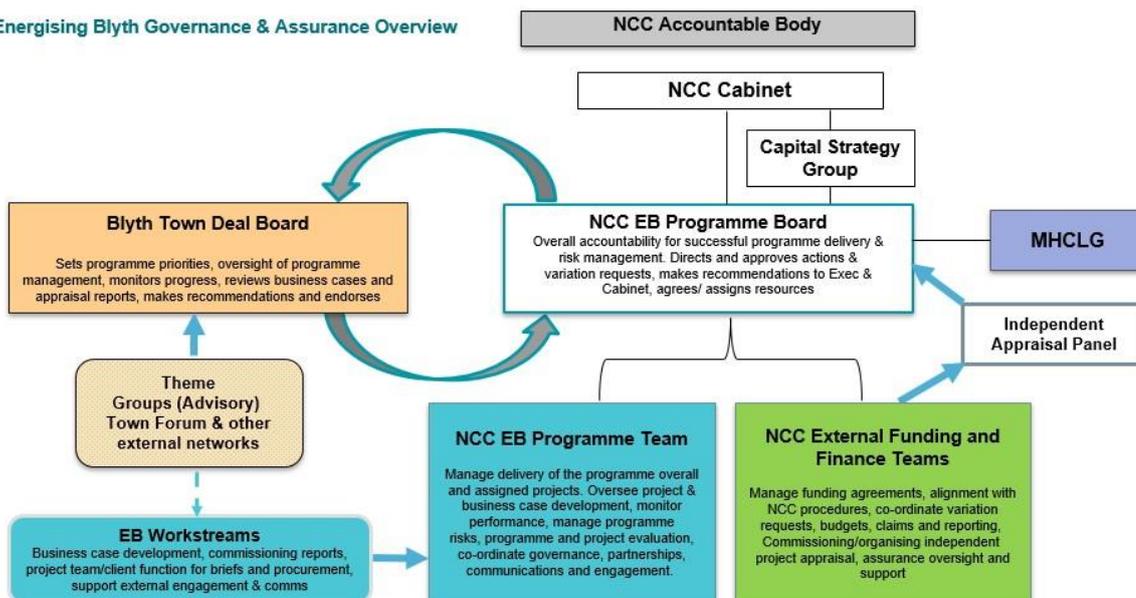
Programme and that the public funding is invested effectively and appropriately, in accordance with the FHSF and Town grant funding agreements with MHCLG. Ultimate decision-making responsibility lies with the accountable body, as confirmed in MHCLG's Town Deal guidance.

Programme Board and Governance

41. A Programme Board has been established in May 2021 to oversee the programme. The remit of the NCC Programme Board is to provide strategic direction and exercise control and oversight to ensure successful delivery of the Programme, ensuring that NCC's accountable body responsibilities are met in full. Its role includes:
 - Ensuring the Energising Blyth Programme Team has the resources needed, including funding as well as support from across Council departments, to ensure successful Programme delivery.
 - Provide advice, guidance and direction to the Programme Team on key delivery and strategic issues, supporting the Team to manage and resolve key risks and issues.
 - Endorsing decisions on the appointment of contractors and suppliers necessary to deliver the Programme and projects (e.g. design teams, construction contractors).
 - Receive and consider reports from the Programme Team about project delivery, risks, and issues, as well as progress and performance reports.
 - Make recommendations to NCC's Capital Strategy Group (CSG) and Cabinet, and to the Town Deal Board, about the approval of project business cases and funding allocations.
 - Consider and approve project change requests
42. The programme Board is part of the wider governance arrangements for EB reporting to the Town Deal Board and Cabinet. An overview of the Governance arrangements is set out below.

Figure 1: Energising Blyth Governance and Assurance Overview

Energising Blyth Governance & Assurance Overview



NCC Cabinet and final decision making

43. The NCC Cabinet is the final decision-making authority in relation to NCC's role as accountable body. Cabinet will have two areas of responsibility:
- Final decision to accept all twelve projects into the Energising Blyth Programme, since all will involve capital expenditure through the Council's financial system and / or medium-term capital programme.
 - Final decision to approve NCC capital funding and business cases for individual projects requiring such funding so long as there is sufficient budget available.
44. All decision making beyond this scope will be delegated to the Programme Board and the Executive Director responsible for Regeneration. This will include: the appointment of contractors and suppliers; approval of claims and monitoring reports for submission to funders; and project change requests (following an initial project approval by CSG and Cabinet).

Assurance Framework

45. To underpin the programme and as required as part of the Town Deal process, the council is developing a comprehensive Assurance Framework which describes the local governance arrangements and assurance processes to be applied in ensuring that decisions are taken in an open and objective manner, with appropriate oversight and rigour to provide transparency and accountability in the use of public funding. It sets out the way in which funding will flow and the checks and gateways to enable funding to be drawn down in relation to evidence of need and appropriate use.
46. The key elements of the assurance framework include:

- Governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities including the role of the council as Accountable Body and of Programme Board, Capital Strategy Group, Cabinet, Blyth Town Deal Board, Independent Appraisal Panel, NCC support functions and workstreams.
 - Programme Management Processes including business case assurance, ongoing project delivery, monitoring and grant claims, monitoring and evaluation, recovery of funding, risk management, project change requests and project closure.
47. Following confirmation of the Town Deal, the Framework will be reviewed and approved by the Programme Board including finance and legal input.
48. The Framework has been designed and will be implemented within the context of the council's corporate policies and procedures including the constitution and finance and contract rules. It will be in accordance with MHCLG Towns Fund Business Case Guidance, as well as the FHSF Grant Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding, ensuring that the funder's requirements will be met in full.
49. In performing its role as accountable body for these funds, Northumberland County Council (NCC) will ensure that it acts in a manner that is lawful, transparent, evidence-based, consistent and proportionate, in line with its established internal assurance procedures and standards, and with Public Sector Equalities Duties.
50. This Framework will be reviewed annually and refreshed as appropriate and in line with updates to NCC procedures and Government funding guidance to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Staffing and capacity

51. As part of the Town Deal process Government has committed to introducing a devolved programme management approach meaning the County Council will be responsible for the management and delivery of this major regeneration programme. The FHSF town centre regeneration programme, if approved, also requires the council to provide similar services.
52. Taken together this represents a significant capital programme totalling in excess of £70 million for investment in a range of complex and still outline projects over the next six years. On this basis, it is considered that the Council's existing programme management and delivery capacity and capability will need to be expanded to successfully deliver this programme within budget and to timescale.
53. This will be achieved by progressively establishing, subject to the successful securing of both funding applications, a new 'Regeneration Capital Programme Management and Delivery Team' within the Economy and Regeneration Service. This additional resource, consisting of around 4 to 5 staff with an operational budget, will meet the requirements of both external funding opportunities and

provide a dedicated team to ensure delivery of programmes levered in by both funds.

54. This will be complemented with ongoing in-kind support from the existing capacity within the Service to undertake the following duties and functions between 2021-26:
- Accountable Body role
 - Programme Management Office function including monitoring and evaluation
 - Programme development and delivery support
55. The role of the team and support staff will be to ensure the programme is developed and delivered and that the new Assurance Framework outlined in the previous section is fully adhered to which is a requirement of the Town Deals devolved programme management approach will be developed in 2021. It will provide all necessary safeguards to minimise and manage financial and other risks upon the County Council given the scale and nature of this programme.
56. As noted earlier the role of other NCC departments is critical a number of staff across the council are or will be involved in Programme development and delivery, as follows. The management and resourcing of this support will be co-ordinated through the NCC Programme Board and includes:
- Strategic and delivery teams (e.g., technical services, highways, planning) who will be involved in the development, design, assurance, statutory approval, and delivery of projects.
 - Finance, legal, and procurement teams, who will provide corporate support services.
57. The successful establishment of the expanded and integrated function will ensure that the Council is well placed to develop and deliver other strategic regeneration programmes in future years, subject to other funding being sought from Government. For instance, in the delivery of the Northumberland Line Economic Corridor.
58. It is important to note that the speed of the delivery requirements and scale of this programme are significant, and resourcing will be kept under regular review. The council may need to consider additional resourcing to match the scale of ambition to deliver this transformative programme and meet funder requirements.

Section 3: Financial Summary

Programme Financial Overview

59. The Energising Blyth Programme includes 12 projects and three funding streams drawn from the government's Towns Fund. NCC Match funding is identified currently within the MTFP. The MTFP will be updated during the annual budget setting process to take account of the Town Deal outcome which is expected in June/July 2021.
60. The Programme and Project summary financial tables below do not include the funding allocation to the Northern Gateway Phase 1 project as that was approved separately by Cabinet in October 2020 and is already included in the capital programme as a project. This project will be programme managed within the Energising Blyth Programme going forward.
61. With regard to the FHSF element of the programme, it is anticipated that there may be ongoing revenue costs to the Council in the delivery of both the Cultural Centre and the Energy Central Campus. The detailed business model for these projects is being worked up and will be presented to Cabinet for approval in due course. Any ongoing NCC revenue contribution will be further justified building on the FHSF Full Business Case in terms of overall transformative impact of the scheme as part of the detailed future plans that come back to CSG and Cabinet, in terms of direct benefits to the Council's corporate objectives.
62. A strategic summary is set out below of the overall programme finances.

Figure 2 – Energising Blyth Programme funding summary (2021-2027)						
	FHSF Funding	NCC Match FHSF	Town Deal Funding	NCC Match Town Deal	External Funding	Total Budget
Total Capital	11,121,061	6,074,846	24,043,339	14,073,123	12,243,439	67,555,808
Total Revenue	0	0	956,661	419,661	0	1,376,322
Totals	£11,121,061	£6,074,846	£25,000,000	£14,492,784	£12,243,439	£68,932,130

Project Financial Summary

63. A summary of the programme funding allocated to individual projects is set out below.

Figure 3 – Energising Blyth Financial Summary by Project							
Project	FHSF	NCC Match FHSF	Town Deal Ask Capital	Town Deal Ask Revenue	Other Funding	NCC Match Town Deal	Total Funding
Culture Centre & Market Place	7,253,198						7,253,198
The Laurel Hotel & Restaurant	977,819	4,879,164					5,856,983
The Link - Bridge Street	1,668,508	860,682					2,529,190
Energy Central Campus (Phase 1)			4,500,000	200,000	3,000,000	500,000	8,200,000
Energy Central Campus (Phase 2)	996,536	*	5,500,000			8,484,794	14,981,330
Northern Gateway (Phase 2)			2,100,000			900,000	3,000,000
Blyth Bebside to Town Centre Connectivity			4,748,720	60,000		2,120,880	6,929,600
Northumberland Energy Park (Phase 1) and Battleship Wharf			1,250,000		1,250,000		2,500,000
OREC Bearing Technology Centre			2,000,000		3,000,000		5,000,000
Culture and Placemaking Programme			510,000	490,000		500,000	1,500,000
Blyth Town Centre Living			3,223,458		4,993,439	1,533,103	9,750,000
Programme Management & Evaluation	225,000	335,000	211,161	206,661		454,007	1,431,829
Total	11,121,061	6,074,846	24,043,339	956,661	12,243,439	14,492,784	68,932,130

*The current identified match funding from NCC for the Energy Central Campus Phase 2 is shown under the column 'NCC match Town Deal' in this table. This is currently anticipated to be £9,481,330 on the basis that £5.5m is awarded to the project from the Town Deal. The capital programme currently includes a higher allocation in total of £13,984,794 which was set aside as part of the FHSF Cabinet report in June 2020 which preceded the Town Deal application. This will be amended in the capital programme subject to the outcome of the Town Deal as part of the next MTFP exercise.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy	The project fully supports the NCC Corporate Plan and the Northumberland Economic Strategy
Finance and value for money	Significant funding can be secured from the government's Towns Fund which can be matched to local resources. The report outlines the current resources identified in the Capital programme. The financial implications of these proposals are outlined in the main body of the report including the recommendation to note the staffing arrangements and potential need for Cabinet to review this at a later date. Business Cases for individual projects will be brought back to Cabinet as they are developed for a final decision to proceed.
Legal	Legal Services are members of the NCC Programme Board. Legal advice will be sought as part of the establishment of the programme subject to funding approval including project-based subsidy control advice where applicable.
Procurement	In line with all other capital expenditure, programme spend will be subject to the Council's recognised procurement procedures.
Human Resources	A dedicated Programme Management Team is required within the Economy and Regeneration Service to operate this long-term strategic regeneration programme as set out and budgeted for in the report. The resourcing of this major programme will be extensive and require long term commitment from multiple services and officers in the council as well as partners.
Property	Implications for council property will be considered in detail at business case stage – if applicable.
Equalities	Impact Assessment attached Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Assessment	A risk assessment is included in the council FHSF submission to MHCLG. A programme risk assessment is included in the Blyth Town Deal submission and each project has a risk assessment included. Detailed risk assessments will form part of the operation of the programme and the business case development for individual projects. As part of the council accountable body role for the programme a series of assurance processes will be put in place which manage and mitigate risk.
Crime & Disorder	The proposals outlined in this report include various measures intended to reduce crime and disorder in Blyth through positive regeneration measures an example of which is the introduction of new day and night time uses to the town centre which are expected to impact on antisocial behaviour in the area and attract a broader user base and associated benefits such as increased spend in local businesses. This links closely to objectives around health and wellbeing mentioned below. This builds on the continued joint working with Northumbria Police and Public Health including Operation Aurora

	in the town centre to address anti-social behaviour established in response to Energising Blyth community consultation feedback in 2019.
Customer Consideration	There has been extensive partner and community consultation as part of the Town Deal development and the proposals respond to the feedback received. Further virtual engagement is planned within the current Covid-19 restrictions as the business case and detailed proposals develop.
Carbon reduction	The Town Deal proposals outlined in this report include the development of significant new assets in the town which will support the clean growth economy and promote sustainability for example including an 'Energy Campus' (encompassing the Energy Central Learning Hub and Energy Central Institute) which will support the county's contribution to carbon reduction and clean growth objectives. This will provide new research, development and education facilities supporting industry needs in the offshore wind and energy industry. Several of the Town Deal projects will potentially include the co-location of low carbon energy generation activities and contribute to Blyth's growing role as a centre of excellence in this sector.
Health & Wellbeing	The Town Deal proposals include an underpinning objective to support the development of an 'Inclusive Town' supporting positive health and wellbeing outcomes through successful town centre regeneration. A Health Impact Assessment has been conducted on priority projects in the FHSF proposals which form part of the Town Investment Plan. The Public Health Team's input has had a direct impact on shaping proposals to ensure they impact positively on the health and wellbeing of residents, businesses and visitors to the town. For instance, this includes a focus on encouraging greater physical activity within the town centre environment one element of which is connecting the town centre to the existing national cycle route network and wider plans through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the town. A major focus of the proposals is designing a better town centre which is well equipped to support recovery from Covid-19 and be more resilient in the future – for instance in delivering more attractive public realm around new attractors including green space connected to the rest of Blyth effectively.
Wards	All wards in the town of Blyth

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Name
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Service Director Finance and Deputy S151 Officer	Alison Elsdon
Relevant Executive Director	Rick O'Farrell
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