



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY</b>	Regeneration and Investment Board Levelling Up Task Force (key partners)
<b>DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED</b>	7 December 2021 (RIB) 15 December 2021 (LUF Task Force)
<b>BRIEF REPORT:</b>	
<p>The Regeneration and Investment Board (RIB) discussed the following main items at its last meeting, on 7 December 2021:</p> <p><b>Canals Strategy.</b> The emerging Strategy was presented by the lead consultants (David Hawes Urban Design) and it was noted that a draft document would be presented to S&amp;R Committee on 13 January 2022. This would be followed by a period of public consultation prior to the document coming to Environment Committee for approval in Spring 2022, for consideration as a Supplementary Planning Document.</p> <p><b>Levelling up Fund (LUF).</b> Work continues on the development of a Stroud Town Centre 'package' bid that will bring benefits to the whole district, creating stronger gateways to the Town Centre, boosting tourism, creating jobs and improving walking and cycling. The partners' Task Force continues to meet on a monthly basis and includes representation from the Town Council, GFirst LEP, County Council, Stroud MP, Network Rail, Chamber of Commerce and others. The Task Force met on 15 December 2021, with the main focus being on communications and stakeholder engagement. Further details about the package of projects will be shared in the New Year and as the bid develops, for an anticipated submission in Spring 2022. A key area of uncertainty remained around the Levelling Up White Paper and guidance on the next round of LUF bids, including criteria and timetable. Pending publication of this guidance (now expected in early 2022), a bid deadline of April 2022 was the working assumption and it was accepted that the focus of the bid may need to be altered to reflect any significant change in the criteria.</p>	
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	RIB: 1 February 2022 LUF Task Force: 26 January 2022
<b>REPORT SUBMITTED BY</b>	Brendan Cleere, Strategic Director of Place
<b>DATE</b>	20 December 2021