



STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Strategic Recovery Board/Regeneration and Investment Board
DATE OF LAST MEETINGS ATTENDED	25 March 2021 & 29 April 2021

BRIEF REPORT:

The last meeting of the Strategic Recovery Board took place on 25 March 2021. This meeting also served as the inaugural meeting of the Regeneration and Investment Board, established by Strategy and Resources Committee on 4 March, 2021.

Key Items discussed at the meeting on 25 March 2021 included:

- Signing off the Terms of Reference of the Regeneration and Investment Board. A number of minor amendments concerning membership were requested which have now been approved.
- Levelling Up Fund – the criteria for the recently launched Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and potential project bids for Stroud district were discussed. Members noted a combination of factors relating to LUF criteria, including: i) a very tight timetable for round 1 bid submissions, (ii) the need for projects to be ‘shovel ready’ and begin during 2021-22, (iii) the fact that only one successful bid could be supported over the period to March 2024 and (iv) the fact that Stroud is a ‘priority 2’ area, with a preference towards priority 1 areas, including Forest of Dean and Gloucester City. Given the above facts, the steer given was to work towards a strong 2022 bid, rather than rushing a bid for the 2021 deadline. It was noted that this should not be taken as a lack of ambition by SDC. Rather, it was seen as being in the best interests of our district to submit the strongest case when it has the best possible chance of success.
- An update on the Modernisation Programme was provided by Caron Starkey (Strategic Director of Transformation) with a focus on current work to procure a Digital Platform’. Caron would attend again to discuss arrangements for key stakeholder and community engagement.

The Regeneration and Investment Board met again on 29 April 2021, with main items discussed as follows:

- Canal Corridor Strategy. David Hawes Urban Design consultancy attended and described the process just being started to develop a Canal Corridor Strategy for the district. Members will be updated at regular intervals.

- Prospectus for Stroud District. A brief was agreed with some suggested amendments, to create a prospectus for the district that will provide a clear and compelling narrative and context for individual bids for external funding.
- The Board considered ‘work in progress’ work on a pipeline of capital investment and regeneration schemes and a list of brownfield/stalled sites. These would be developed further in consultation with members, as we aim to sharpen our regeneration priorities.
- The Board discussed a potential further bid for One Public Estate funding – entitled the Brownfield Land Release Fund. Officers advised that on initial reading of guidance there were no immediately identifiable sites that met the criteria for bids, which were required by 2 June 2021.

FUTURE MEETINGS	To be arranged
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Brendan Cleere – Strategic Director of Place
DATE	1 June 2021