

# Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Funding update Simplification Pathfinder Pilot

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Cabinet</b>	19 September 2023 21 September, 2023
<b>Report Author</b>	Louise Askew, Head of Regeneration and Growth
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr Rick Everitt - Leader of the Council
<b>Status</b>	For Recommendation
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reasons for Key</b>	Where the effect would be on communities living or working in the district, in an area comprising two or more wards.
<b>Ward:</b>	Margate and Ramsgate wards

## Executive Summary:

This report invites members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to review the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Funding update Simplification Pathfinder Pilot report prior to gaining cabinet approval.

## Recommendation(s):

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel to review the following:

1. Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Funding update Simplification Pathfinder Pilot report

## Corporate Implications

### Financial and Value for Money

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, these are covered within the Cabinet report.

### Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report, these are covered within the Cabinet report.

### Risk Management

There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report, these are covered within the Cabinet report.

## **Corporate**

The Ramsgate Future High Street Fund, Margate Town Deal, and Ramsgate and Margate Levelling Up Fund projects all support the council's corporate priority for Growth, by encouraging regeneration. It will also enhance the environment through a variety of activities including traffic management, greening activities, as well as supporting our communities through new job opportunities and providing improved wellbeing.

## **Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

It is a requirement of the Simplification Pathfinder Pilot that local authorities consider their duty on how policies, investment or decisions made within the scope of this pilot affect persons with the nine protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

## **Corporate Priorities**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Growth*
- *Environment*
- *Communities*

## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 Thanet District Council has been successfully awarded capital funding from three key government programmes - Future High Street Fund, Town Deal and the Levelling Up Fund programme.

- Future High Street Funds - £2.7m - to provide a creative workspace and improved highways in Ramsgate.
- Margate Town Deal - £22.2m - to develop the creative productions and skills, enhance coastal wellbeing, create highway and public realm improvements, and to improve our heritage assets.
- Ramsgate Levelling Up Programme - £19.8m - focusing on projects to enhance the Port, Harbour and providing places for local people to engage and develop skills to access the new job opportunities being created in these areas.

- Margate Levelling Up Programme - £6.3m to deliver a digital campus in Margate high street by East Kent Colleges Group.

1.2 The projects within these programmes have been through a central government approval process and the councils own approvals where required, including the allocation of the funding into the capital programme. All the investments and costs associated with these programmes are fully funded from external grants and contributions. Clear monitoring and evaluation activities have been put in place which will ensure all expenditure relating to the projects are managed appropriately, and within the total package of funding provided, aiming to mitigate any financial risk the council.

## **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has invited a small group of 'pathfinder' local authorities across England to pilot a simplified approach to funding delivery, of which Thanet is one. These authorities were all invited on the basis that they have a number of capital funded schemes awarded through central government programmes.

2.2 The report to Cabinet for approval on 21 September 2023 outlines what the implications are for Thanet being part of the Simplification Pathfinder Pilot and the next steps.

## **3.0 Options**

3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are invited to review the Cabinet report in Annex 1 making any agreed recommendations to Cabinet in advance of its meeting on 21 September 2023.

## **4.0 Next Steps**

4.1 This Report will be presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 21 September 2023.

Contact Officer: *Louise Askew, Head of Regeneration and Growth*  
Reporting to: *Bob Porter, Director of Place*

### **Annex List**

Annex 1: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Funding update  
Simplification Pathfinder Pilot Cabinet Report

### **Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** *included in the Cabinet report*

**Legal:** *included in the Cabinet report*