

Market Towns Programme Investment Prospectus: Application Appraisal Matrix (with Weighting)				Weighted Score (max 99 available)		
Project Title / Town: East Cambs - Soham to Wicken Fen Cycle Way				Minimum pass is 74 marks (75%)		
Name: Hewdon Consulting Date: 04.01.21				88.0		
		0 = not answered 1 = does not meet the criteria 2 = meets the criteria				
Criteria	Definitions	Marking Guide (1-5)	Comments	Weighting	Mark - Edit	Total
<b>Rationale</b>	Does the application evidence strong market failure?	1. No 2. Partially 3. Yes	The application is based on the opportunities stemming from Soham's new rail connection and the desire to encourage more sustainable local transport with the introduction of a cycle-way between the town and Wicken Fen.	2	x 2 =	4.0
<b>Timescales</b>	What is the planned implementation timetable and can spend be achieved by March 2022?	1. No, expenditure extends beyond 31 March 2021 2. Yes, expenditure achieved by March 2021 3. Yes, expenditure achieved by March 2021 but further work on the project, using alternative funding sources, continues after March 2021	The project ostensibly started in 2015, this final phase is expected to be completed by December 2024. However matching funding has not yet been secured, and contractor(s) are still to be appointed. Therefore slippage is a possibility.	2	x 2 =	4.0
<b>Activities/Milestones</b>	How well defined are the principal activities and what more development work is recommended for the full application?	1. Not defined/inadequate 2. Activities broken down 3. Activities with key milestones identified	The application was submitted with the original f. study, right of way application, and is the final stage of a project started in 2015. The works are modest and should be relatively straight forward to deliver, however it is pending confirmation of matching funding.	1	x 3 =	3.0
<b>Delivery Arrangements</b>	How developed is the project plan and does it have the following attributes? e.g. route to and level of risk in securing land, planning and remaining funding if build or transport project e.g. route to and level of risk in securing remaining funding and competent/experienced delivery resources if a service	1.No strategy to secure any of the key elements 2.Poor strategy to secure some of the key elements 3.Good strategy to secure ALL of the key elements but high risks apparent	As stated above the application is the final stage of a project started in 2015. The works are modest and the local partners are well placed to complete its delivery.	3	x 3 =	9.0
<b>Outputs/Outcomes</b>	Because the value of funding being requested can be considered a Strategic Investment, it is important that the application demonstrates outcomes that make a strategic-level impact against the approved Market Town Masterplan	1. No Output and outcome information 2. Output and outcome information not clearly specified 3. Outputs and outcome detailed clearly specified	2.4km of cycleway will result from this project, though the application also claims £100k GVA increase from extra high street spend per year. If supported it is recommended that this also be monitored to assess the project's impact.	5	x 3 =	15.0
<b>Strategic Fit</b>	Because the value of funding being requested can be considered a Strategic Investment, it is important that the application demonstrates good fit with the CPIER, Skills Strategy, or LIS	1. No 2. Partially 3. Yes	The Town plan for Soham centred on four major themes. This project aligns strongly with the 'Opening up our town through better connectivity' theme following the opening of the new rail station. This cycleway provides a link between Wicken and the town's High Street, is expected to encourage visitor footfall / spend to the town.	5	x 3 =	15.0
<b>State Aid</b>	Is the project State Aid compliant? Has information been submitted on why state aid does not apply?	1. No information 2. Insufficient information provided 3. Sufficient information provided	Public access for the benefit of the local community and wider society. No issues envisaged.	1	x 3 =	3.0

<b>Costs</b>	Are costs set out, at least as an initial budget estimate?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No cost information</li> <li>2. Some top level cost information</li> <li>3. Breakdown of cost information</li> </ol>	High level costings were provided but have yet to be market tested. If supported, ECDC and Soham TC should be asked to provide evidence of an appropriate tender exercise and provide a guarantee that they will meet any costs over run.	3	x	2	=	6.0
<b>Resourcing</b>	Because the value of funding being requested, it is important that there is good leverage and/or match funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No match funding</li> <li>2. Yes, match funding - &lt;50%</li> <li>3. Yes, match funding &gt;50%</li> </ol>	ECDC stated that match funding for this phase of the cycleway will come from an unspecified grant application upon which they are awaiting confirmation of. If supported, ECDC and Soham TC should be asked to confirm match funding before making any claim to the CPCA.	4	x	2	=	8.0
<b>VFM</b>	Because the value of funding being requested and limited resources allocated to each town, it is important that the application demonstrates a competitive cost per outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No VFM information offered</li> <li>2. Poor Vfm</li> <li>3. Good value for money</li> </ol>	As stated above, the project delivers 2.4km of new public access and £100k increase per annum of GVA. If achieved then the project would represent good VFM.	5	x	3	=	15.0
<b>Risks</b>	Is there a realistic assessment of risks?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No risks identified</li> <li>2. Poor risk assesment</li> <li>3. Risks identified and explained</li> </ol>	Adequate risk register provided	2	x	3	=	6.0
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<p>Approval and progress onto next stage (EAP and CA Board approval)  Push back on applicant further information or clarity  Reject as unsuitable.</p> <p>Please comment to explain recommendation decision.</p>		Approval for the requested amount of £330,000 subject to the following conditions: 1. Confirmation of matching funding. 2. Confirmation that any capital cost overrun will be met by East Cambridgeshire DC and/or Soham Town Council 3. An appropriate monitoring framework be agreed to assess the project's impact on high street visitor spend.	<b>Total Score</b>				<b>88.0</b>