

**Funding is 100% capital to a cap of £20m for regeneration bids and £50m for transport bids**

**The Levelling Up Fund will invest in local infrastructure** that has a visible impact on people and their communities. This includes a range of high value local investment priorities, including local transport schemes, urban regeneration projects and cultural assets.

**Bids must be backed by MPs and this determines the number of bids that can be put forward.** We expect Members of Parliament, as democratically-elected representatives of the area, to back one bid that they see as a priority. The number of bids that a local authority can make will relate to the number of MPs in their area. Accordingly, local authorities can submit **one bid for every MP whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary.**

The above rule infers one bid per Local Authority relating to the Rt Hon Paul Bristow MP and the Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP. However, Stephen Barclay's constituency also includes some parts of East Cambs (in particular the town of Littleport) and this may mean that Littleport should be included in the bid. Officers will seek clarification.

**Local authorities submitting multiple bids to spread these fairly and equitably within the authority boundary** and across their full range of constituencies, targeting pockets of deprivation as appropriate.

The first round of the Fund will focus on three themes:

- smaller transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas;
- town centre and high street regeneration; and
- support for maintaining and expanding the UK's world-leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets.

**Transport investments** including (but not limited to) public transport, active travel, bridge repairs, bus priority lanes, local road improvements and major structural maintenance, and accessibility improvements. We are requesting proposals for high-impact small, medium and by exception larger local transport schemes to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, cut congestion, support economic growth and improve the experience of transport users.

Town centres are a crucial part of our communities and local economies, providing both a focal point for retail and hospitality trade and a meaningful centre of gravity for local communities. The UK Government recognises that in recent years, changing consumer behaviour has made things tougher for retailers in our town centres and high streets, an issue made even more apparent by the impact of COVID-19. In addition, while some local areas have benefited from programmes such as the Towns Fund, **some places such as smaller towns have not yet been able to access this investment**

At the 2018 Budget, the UK Government published 'Our Plan for the High Street', spearheading a number of initiatives including the Towns Fund, to renew and reshape town centres and high streets so they look and feel better and can thrive in the long term. The regeneration pillar of Levelling Up Fund seeks to build on this philosophy and on the investments made so far through the Towns Fund.

Regenerating key leisure and retail sites and improving their security, in order to encourage new businesses and public services to locate there.

Removing derelict buildings and other eyesores to make way for new developments.

Site acquisition and remediation of abandoned or brownfield sites, for both commercial and new residential use.

Creating better connectivity between and within key retail and leisure sites.

**Cultural investment** maintaining, regenerating, or creatively repurposing museums, galleries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces) and heritage assets as well as creating new community-owned spaces to support the arts and serve as cultural spaces.

Perception of place is an important 'pull' factor in investment and business location decisions and can affect a place's capacity to attract talent – especially young people – and retain workers. Many towns already have a strong heritage and sense of place, and benefit from their cultural and civic assets both directly, from tourism and visitor revenue, and indirectly, by inspiring a sense of local pride and community cohesion, making places more attractive to live and work in. Alongside towns, rural areas also often possess a rich tapestry of local culture and heritage assets. Interventions that have a heritage and cultural focus when combined with other interventions in a place function in a complementary manner, greatly increasing the overall impact. Investments in cultural assets should be driven by an evidenced place-sensitive need or opportunity and have clear outcomes that align with areas' vision for place-based economic and social development, as well as the health and wellbeing of local people. Projects submitted for appraisal under this investment theme may include:

- Upgrading and creating new cultural and creative spaces including sports or athletics facilities, museums, arts venues, theatres, libraries, film facilities, prominent landmarks or historical buildings, parks or gardens.
- New, upgraded or protected community hubs, spaces or assets (and associated green spaces).
- Acquiring and refurbishing key cultural and heritage sites including hotels and historic buildings.

### **Putting forward 'Town Deals' for individual or groups of smaller towns that did not receive investment from the Towns Fund**

- **Package bids** must clearly explain how their component elements are aligned with each other and represent a coherent set of interventions. They can include a mix of projects from the Fund's three investment themes but any one bid should not include multiple unrelated investments.
- Local authorities may submit joint bids. The maximum bid size for joint bids will be determined by adding up the individual £20 million caps of each bidding authority.
- As part of the strategic case bidders must demonstrate that joint bids are a cohesive and coherent investment proposal. Any elements of a joint bid that are jointly delivered should be fundamental to the joint bid as a whole and serve to unlock any elements of the bid that are not delivered jointly.