

Chairman's Report

Business Case Update and Outstanding Approvals

Darwen Town Deal Board

14th July 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress on the nine Business Cases which form the Darwen Town Deal submission due to Government by August 5th.

Seven of the nine Business Cases are completed and their Executive Summaries are circulated with this agenda for the Board's review and comments. The two outstanding Business Cases for AMRC and Ultrafast Broadband projects are waiting on further information and University Board approval in the case of the AMRC. It is expected these will be finalised in the next 2 weeks.

As Chair of the Board, I have been following closely and been actively engaged with Genecon, our retained consultants and the Council's lead officers in developing the Business Cases and am pleased with progress of what I believe are a strong and exciting portfolio of projects which will truly transform Darwen and help us to deliver our Investment Plan

It is now timely that we, as the Board, endorse and support the submission of the Town Deal Business Cases. I would now ask you to review the information circulated and bring any comments to the meeting of the 14th July. I would also ask that you delegate authority to myself as Chair, alongside Martin Kelly, Strategic Director of Growth and Development and the Council's Director of Finance (S151 Officer) for the approval of the AMRC and Ultrafast Broadband Business Cases, given urgency and pressing deadlines.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

1. Note and comment on the seven Business Case Summaries provided;
2. Approve the circulated Business Cases and delegate authority to the Chair, in conjunction with BwDBC's Strategic Director of Growth and Development and Council's Finance Director (S151 Officer), to submit all the finalised Business Cases to Government by agreed deadlines.