



Your questions answered

What is a Town Deal?

A Town Deal is an agreement in principle between government, the lead council (in our case Cornwall Council) and the Town Deal board. It sets out the vision and strategy for the town, and confirms what each party agrees to do to achieve this vision. The Town Deal (or Heads of Terms agreement) is signed once the government has assessed and approved the Town Investment Plan, including its request within it for funding. Towns then have up to 12 months to develop the specific detail of these projects through business cases.

On 9 May 2021 we successfully bid for a Town Deal worth £19.9 million from the Government's £3.6 billion Towns Fund Scheme.

Our bid was designed to deliver three key objectives:

- Generate inclusive green growth and new enterprise, within a year-round economy
- Support the health, wellbeing and aspiration of all residents in life and work
- Create opportunities for young people which allow them to flourish

Who manages the St Ives Town Deal ?

Cornwall Council is the Accountable Body, which means that it holds the contract with the government and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that things happen as specified within the grant funding agreement. It is also providing the practical administration and advice where required to service the Town Deal Board. The St Ives Town Board lead, advocate, support and champion the development and delivery of the Town Investment Plan and are an integral part of the process. All key documents are signed off by both Cornwall Council and the St Ives Town Deal Board.

Who is on the Town Deal Board?

The board includes a mix of representatives from the private, public and community sectors. It includes councillors from Cornwall Council and St Ives Town Council, local businesses, community stakeholders and the area's MP. The make-up of the board was set out in guidance from the government when the scheme was originally announced.

What is a Town Investment Plan?

A Town Investment Plan (TIP) sets out the vision and strategy for a town. It outlines a strategic programme of investment and is developed by a Town Deal Board, a partnership of business, civic and community organisations, and councillors with extensive community involvement.

What are the aims of St Ives Investment Plan?

Our Town Investment Plan is based around three themes:

- An integrated, low carbon, transport system
- New skills, businesses, jobs and supply chains
- New and transformed housing and community assets

Through the vision and the delivery of the plan, the following outcomes will be achieved:

- Generate inclusive green growth and new enterprise, within a year-round economy
- Support the health, wellbeing and aspiration of all residents in life and work
- Create opportunities for young people which allow them to flourish

You can read a full copy of our Town Investment Plan here:

<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FINAL-St-Ives-Town-Investment-Plan.pdf> (add link)

What are the projects in the St Ives Town Investment Plan? `

We have identified a mix of large-scale transformation projects together with a number of smaller scale community projects which fit within our three themes:

An integrated, low carbon, transport system

New skills, businesses, jobs and supply chains

New and transformed housing and community assets

The 12 projects included in our Town Investment Plan (TIP) are:

- Low Carbon Transport
- Bay to Bay
- Future farm Tech Hub
- Delegated Fund for Renewal
 - St Ives Community Orchard
 - Rugby Club/ Affordable Housing
 - Old Vicarage Flats
 - Live West retrofit scheme
 - Palais de Danse
 - Guildhall
 - St Ives Theatre
 - Leach Pottery and Digital Trail

How were projects selected for inclusion in the Town Investment Plan?

All project ideas, suggestions and contributions had to be tested against the government's criteria & guidelines for Regeneration, Skills provision and Connectivity. They were then assessed to ensure that they were viable and sustainable.

This required proposals to either:

- *Address urban regeneration, planning and land use:* ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work, including by: increasing density in town centres; strengthening local economic assets including local cultural assets; site acquisition, remediation, preparation, regeneration; and making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.
- *Provide skills and enterprise infrastructure:* driving private sector investment and ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development.
- *Develop local transport schemes that complement regional and national networks, as well as supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity*

All projects were also required to :

- Show a sustainable self-sufficient level of income generation and the ability to provide future core running costs
- Sit within the defined investment boundary
- Have demonstrable public support (stakeholder engagement)

We worked closely with the community to develop an initial long list of 40 projects. These were then assessed using a robust project selection and management process to produce the short-list of projects which fit within the three themes set out in our Town Investment Plan.

When will work get underway?

We expect the first 'spades in the ground' in early 2023, pending final approval of the business case summaries by the Government.

Why is the process taking so long ?

Each project must go through a complex process to ensure it is deliverable within budget, sustainable for the future and supported by the community. After the initial funding announcement by Government, projects were given 12 months to produce detailed business cases to demonstrate their feasibility and viability. The Government requires the business cases to be first reviewed and approved by both the Town Deal Board and Cornwall Council, before providing its final approval.

After the announcement of our funding allocation in May 2021, the projects short-listed in our TIP have been working on the development of their business cases. These are due to be submitted to government for approval in summer 2022. We are currently expecting a decision from the government at the end of 2022, paving the way for a detailed programme of works and timescales to be developed by early April 2023.

When will it all be finished?

This will vary from one project to another but, in line with government requirements, all of the funding must be spent by the end of March 2026.

Can we spend some of the Town Deal money on other projects?

No. The Government has offered St Ives a "Town Deal" based on the projects outlined in the Town Investment Plan. The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has made a grant offer against each of these projects subject to final Business Case summary submission and will confirm funding once they have reviewed and approved the submission.

What are accelerator projects?

Each of the towns selected by the government to work towards a Town Deal were invited to apply for Accelerated Funding to invest in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places 'build back better' in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was effectively an early release of Towns Fund money to kickstart projects up to the value of £500k in each town.

After successfully securing £500k for St Ives, this funding has been allocated to two projects:

£450k for the St Ives Skate Park Regeneration project.

This project was chosen to receive Accelerator Funding as it had already been submitted to the Town Deal Board and was a sufficiently developed project with huge community support. The Skatepark Group leading the project had raised a considerable amount of money which has been used to match the government grant. This project has been completed.

£50K for new fish landing and selling facilities at Smeatons Pier

This project will improve facilities for fishers working from St Ives harbour and includes a facility to allow fishers to sell directly to the public. It includes converting an existing store and a weight room into refrigerated stores and building a small building to be used as a shop. Construction is currently underway.

How has the local community been involved?

After being selected by the government as one of the 100 towns who could apply for Town Deal funding in May 2020, the St Ives Town Deal Board was formed and we began work on developing our Town Investment Plan (TIP).

We worked with the community to develop our vision and aims and then carried out an initial "Calls for Expressions of Interest" process where people were asked to submit ideas which met the specific criteria set out in the government's Town Deal regulations and also fitted within our developing themes.

We went back to the local community to develop a long list of 40 potential projects, drawing ideas and creative solutions from a wide range of sectors. The long list was then assessed using a robust project selection and management process to produce a short list which met the government's Town Deal criteria.

We then went back to the local community to ask for their views on the proposed projects before finalising the investment plan.

Further consultation and engagement will take place throughout the course of the delivery of the Town Deal programme and associated projects.