

Long Term Plan for Towns (LTPfT) – Frequently Asked Questions

Since being awarded £20m by the previous Government, the new Labour Government has made the decision to suspend the deadline and subsequent funding. Whilst we await the outcome of this review, which we hope will be announced as a part of the Autumn budget, your Town Board has made the decision to continue working on the 10-year Vision and Investment Plan to ensure that we are well prepared for any new submission date and revised funding programme.

- 1. Why have we got a Town Board?** The Eastbourne Town Board was set up to oversee the strategic use of a £20 million government investment aimed at levelling up the town over the next 10 years. This initiative focuses on driving economic growth, regenerating key areas, and creating a lasting positive impact for the community and is for the benefit of everyone who lives, works, studies, and visits here.
- 2. What will the Town Board do for Eastbourne?** The Board will manage and distribute the £20 million funding to projects that drive economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the overall quality of life in Eastbourne.
- 3. How were the Town Board members chosen?** Members of the Town Board were selected through an open application process to ensure a diverse and skilled team. The process involved interviews and assessments by a panel that included local government representatives and other stakeholders. Those representative of communities within our Borough and those with the most relevant professional experience were invited to join the Board. Individuals in statutory roles such as the Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council, East Sussex County Council's Lead Member for Economy, our MP, and the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner are also required by central Government to be on the Board.
- 4. How are the Town Board members qualified for their roles?** Board members are chosen based on their ability, experience, and commitment to the community. They bring a mix of skills from various sectors, ensuring well-rounded decision-making for Eastbourne's development.
- 5. Are Town Board members paid?** No, Town Board members serve in a voluntary capacity. Their involvement is driven by a commitment to improving Eastbourne.
- 6. Do Town Board members claim expenses?** Yes, members can claim reasonable expenses incurred while fulfilling their duties, ensuring they are not out of pocket for their voluntary work.
- 7. Is the Town Board an independent body?** Yes, the Town Board works independently but is answerable to central Government to draw down the new funding, as key milestones and criteria must be met. We believe the best outcomes for our town will come from collaborating closely with the local community and partners, including local and regional authorities, community groups, education, and business.
- 8. How much time do Town Board members devote to their duties?** Members commit varying amounts of time depending on the Board's needs, including regular meetings, project oversight, and community engagement activities.
- 9. How do I know that the Town Board will represent my interests?** The Board is committed to transparency and community involvement. Regular updates, consultations, and feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure residents' voices are heard and considered in decision-making.
- 10. How much money is there to spend?** The Board has a total of £20 million to distribute over the 10-year project period.
- 11. What measures are in place to ensure transparency and accountability?**
The Nolan principles, which relate to standards of behaviour in public life, will apply to all members of the Town Board. The Town Board will maintain transparency by publicly

sharing meeting minutes and funding decisions. All key documents and updates will be available on this webpage.

12. **Where is the money coming from?** The funding is provided by the UK government as part of the national initiative to support regional development.
13. **Will I be paying for this?** No, the funding comes from central government sources, not local taxes or additional charges to residents.
14. **Can the money fund business-as-usual council services?** No, this funding cannot be used to fund business-as-usual council services such as temporary accommodation or staffing costs.
15. **How will the money be spent?** The funding will be distributed over a 10-year period, allowing for long-term planning and sustainable development as well as short-term gains. The Town Board's priority is to develop a new 10-year Vision and 3-year Investment Plan by the autumn for central Government approval. More details on the process of allocating funds will be made once central Government has approved the short-term investment plan. At this stage, it is envisaged that a committee comprising Town Board members and community representatives will review shortlisted projects against specified criteria. Final decisions will be made based on these evaluations and available budget. The Town Board aims to support a diverse range of inclusive projects and will ensure every ward in our town benefits.
16. **What will be done to make sure that it goes to the right causes?** Rigorous project selection criteria, oversight, and accountability measures are in place to ensure funds are used effectively and transparently.
17. **What kind of projects will be funded?** Central Government has set out the criteria under which capital and revenue projects can be funded. This includes potential upgrades to town amenities, parks and the seafront, heritage assets, the high street, and transport and wellness facilities or projects which make our town safer. The Board is committed to include a Community Pot which enables local community groups, charities, and non-profit organisations to apply for grant funding for small projects that meet the criteria and support disadvantaged groups. Funding may also be allocated to larger projects that offer strategic benefits to our town.
18. **How do I apply for funding or get involved?** Detailed guidelines and application processes will be made available on the Eastbourne Town Board website. Interested parties can apply through formal channels outlined in these guidelines. Residents can take part through public consultations, attending Board meetings, or applying for project funding. Specific opportunities will be communicated via the Board's website and local media. Contact details, including email addresses and meeting schedules, will be available on the Eastbourne Town Board website.
19. **Is the Town Board part of the Council?** No, the Town Board operates independently from the Council, although it collaborates closely with local government and other stakeholders.
20. **What is the Town Board's involvement with projects such as Black Robins Farm, Towner Centenary, Victoria Place and the Eden Project?** None. We are not involved with the delivery of 'Levelling Up' projects such as Black Robin Farm, Victoria Place, or the Towner Centenary project but will take account of their impacts in our approach.
21. **What are the Town Board's priorities?** A list of priorities has been provided by Central Government, and prior assessed interventions fall under the headings, Safety and Security, Transport and Connectivity, and High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration.