

## Heads of Terms offer for Runcorn

### Introduction

Situated to the South East of Liverpool, Runcorn is home to several major international businesses as well as many innovative high-tech SMEs. With productivity levels 20% higher than the national average, and strong connections to other growth locations Runcorn is well placed for investment. Nevertheless, it faces several key challenges; a high rate of unemployment, lower educational outcomes compared to national averages and difficulties attracting and retaining young talent.

Government will work with Halton Borough Council and its Town Deal Board to support the delivery of a Town Deal, with the goal of ensuring all Runcorn residents have a share in the town's success.

### The commitment

This document lays out the Heads of Terms offer to Runcorn, under the Towns Fund. This is not a contractually binding document and the offer is subject to various conditions being met. The Heads of Terms will act as a Memorandum of Understanding for the future development and delivery of Runcorn 's Town Investment Plan and project proposals. It sets out joint expectations as Runcorn enters the business case development phase.

Government will provide up to **a total of £23.6 million from the Towns Fund**, which will be used to enable Runcorn to reconnect the Old Town to the wider town and region, so that it becomes an attractive and vibrant place to work, live and visit. This entails creating a wider variety of job opportunities in the heart of the community and that are more accessible to local people. In addition, this will involve reconfiguring existing infrastructure, making targeted investments in new infrastructure and supporting the growth of the leisure, culture and heritage offer.

Runcorn has proposed a range of projects that will contribute towards achieving this vision. These include:

- Runcorn Station Quarter
- Creative and Digital Skills Centre
- Brindley Theatre Enhancement
- Unlock Runcorn
- Town Centre New Homes
- High Street Connectivity
- Health and Education Hub

Runcorn will need to prioritise these projects within the funding envelope being offered. Funding for individual projects will be subject to successfully completing Phase 2 of the Towns Fund process. This includes detailed project development and business case assurance at local level.

### Process, governance and assurance

Local partners will work with government to demonstrate the feasibility, viability and value for money of their projects by developing and submitting the Town Deal Summary Document,

including (as per the Further Guidance and Stage two guidance: business case development):

- A list of agreed projects
- Details of business case assurance processes followed for each project
- An update on actions taken in relation to the Heads of Terms key conditions and requirements
- A Delivery Plan (including details of the team, working arrangements and agreements with stakeholders)
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- Confirmation of funding arrangements and financial profiles for each project
- Undertaking Public Sector Equalities Duty analysis
- Approval from the Town Deal Board and Lead Council

Runcorn should conduct project assurance in line with agreed routes for each individual project and should provide confirmation of private match funding arrangements and further detail on operational plans across projects.

If the priority projects identified for funding do not progress, MHCLG cannot guarantee that funding can be assigned to alternative projects or that if it is those will be to the same value. This may result in an overall reduction in the amount of funding received.

Within two months of accepting this offer, Runcorn should confirm in writing details of projects being taken forward and a plan for addressing key conditions relating to those projects and the overall Town Investment Plan. This should be sent to [towns.fund@communities.gov.uk](mailto:towns.fund@communities.gov.uk), copied to the town lead.

Runcorn must then complete business cases for the projects being taken forward and submit the Summary Document within 12 months of the deal being agreed. MHCLG will then provide the agreed funding up to the maximum amount of **£23.6m** for those projects, provided that all conditions are met.

Signed:



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Chair of the Town Deal Board



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Chief Executive of lead Council

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MHCLG Secretary of State / Minister

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Date