

Background

The Cabinet discussed the Can-Do project funding last October and reaffirmed its commitment to investment in the Lincoln Road area. This is subject to a clear business case being established for individual projects which could deliver value for money in addressing local needs. Capital investment is required to regenerate the area and bring about positive change in a sustainable way. The initial funding proposed back in 2017/2018 covered three investment strands:

- Public Realm and Street Scene
- Community Facilities
- Improvement to areas of open space.

To date £663k has been spent or allocated on the following projects.

- Three play areas have had new equipment installed.
- A total of 30 planters which had previously been overgrown have been transformed and are still being maintained by the community.
- Over 30 trees have been planted in locations where trees had previously been removed. These are being watered by local volunteers.
- A state of the art 'green gym' has been installed at Connect Park between Gladstone Street and Bourges Boulevard which is used daily.
- A new urban park has been installed along Dyson Close with match funding from WREN.
- We are working with The Combined Authority to find a suitable place to move the Stagecoach Depot which will have a positive impact on the Lincoln Road corridor.
- The council has been working with landscape architects LDA Design to identify public realm improvement schemes to improve the Lincoln Road corridor where many businesses are located.
- Concept schemes have been developed to support the revitalisation of the public realm.
- The Thomas Deacon Trust have, via a community asset transfer, taken over the operation of the Gladstone Park Community Centre.

Peterborough City Council is now operating in challenging and unpredicted times, due to the impact of Covid 19 and increased budget pressures in recent years. This means difficult investment decisions are being undertaken and a small number of funding projects have had budgets redistributed.

Media Statement

Councillor Peter Hiller, cabinet member for strategic planning, commercial strategy and investment at Peterborough City Council, said: "The council is committed to investing in projects in Lincoln Road - subject to available resources - where a key business case has been identified which demonstrates a real return on any investment in terms of residents health, wellbeing and pride in their neighbourhood.

"As a result of financial pressures on the council due to reduced Government funding and the impact of Covid-19, we have not been able to invest as heavily as we would have liked three years ago.

"We are committed to the regeneration of this area which does require considerable capital investment to move it forward and we are actively seeking means to do this. We are currently working on securing a bid for funding with the Peterborough application to the Towns Fund which, if supported, would see considerable improvements to be made in Lincoln Road. News regarding the bid should be heard later in October 2020."