



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jenny Dibden
Co-Director, Cities & Local Growth Unit
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Stephen Baker
East Suffolk District Council

1 July 2020

Dear Stephen,

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that government is bringing forward £5bn of capital investment projects, supporting jobs and the economic recovery.

The Towns Fund is central to the government's ambition to level up the country – creating jobs and building stronger and more resilient local economies and communities. In recognition of the importance of this fund and the pressing need in the towns that have been selected to benefit, government is bringing forward funding to this financial year to support projects that will make an immediate impact in towns.

We are therefore offering Lowestoft a grant of £750,000 now to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year. Funding is being allocated according to population size from the 2011 Census, using the Office for National Statistics' categorisation of small, medium and large towns. This grant will be used to support capital spend within the intervention framework as set out in the Towns Fund Further Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance>.

We are particularly encouraging projects that will support towns in responding to immediate challenges, including:

- Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
- Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
- Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit

The next step in releasing this money is for you to write to us at towns.fund@communities.gov.uk to confirm what you will do with the grant. You will need to include confirmation from your S151 officer that this spending is in line with the Towns Fund intervention framework, will achieve good value for money and that the project can be delivered this financial year. **Please send your letter by 14 August.** Following receipt of your letter we will review your proposal to ensure it satisfies the requirements above, before releasing the funding.

When your town submits their Town Investment Plan in their agreed cohort, we will ask you to confirm how you are building on this initial investment.

Please get in touch with your named Towns Hub lead if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing your projects and continuing to work with you as you develop your Town Investment Plans.

Jenny Dibden

JENNY DIBDEN