



News Release

ID 17001

28 February 2020

For Immediate Release

Town Deal Board in bid to secure share of £3.6 billion Government fund for Runcorn

Local Runcorn businesses and community representatives are joining forces with Halton Borough Council to bid for a share of a new £3.6 billion Government fund.

The 'Towns Fund' has been set up to support the transformation of towns like Runcorn, with a focus on boosting the economy through improved transport, broadband connectivity, skills and culture.

Runcorn is one of 45 towns across the North invited to work up proposals, which if successful, could see the town benefit from up to £25 million investment.

A condition of the funding is that a 'Town Deal Board' is formed to help shape the funding bid and oversee the implementation of plans, should funding be provided. The new Runcorn Town Deal Board includes representatives from:

Halton Chamber of Commerce, Halton Housing, Halton Employment Partnership, Riverside College, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Halton Hospital, as well as representatives from the Runcorn Town Team. Elected members have also joined the board, including Derek Twigg MP, local ward Councillor Pauline Sinnott, and Halton Borough Council's Executive Board Members, Councillors Ron Hignett and Mike Wharton.

Adrian Fillingham, the Vice Chair for the Astmoor Industrial Estate Business Improvement District board has been appointed to Chair the 'Town Deal Board'. Adrian has been a Senior Project Manager at J Brand Ltd on Astmoor for 14 years and has a keen interest in supporting the local community, to benefit not only those who work for J Brand, but Halton as a borough.

The Board recently met for the first time, with Chair Adrian Fillingham saying "This is a fantastic opportunity for us to secure investment that could make a real difference to Runcorn and its residents. As local business owners and operators, we understand the challenges faced by the town - we can also see its potential. We're excited to work alongside the Council to develop a plan that we hope will see Runcorn flourish."

Councillor Ron Hignett added: "We are pleased that Government has accepted the strong case we have made for Runcorn to be considered as part of the Town Fund process. We will now work with our local businesses and the community, to set out a compelling case that we hope will enable us to push forward with our vision for Runcorn as a place that works for residents, local business and visitors."

To support the work needed to develop the bid, some funding has been awarded.

Local people are also being invited to share their views on how this money should be spent on the MyTown website. The site asks for ideas on how to improve skills and transport, create new jobs and regenerate the local community.

Final proposals need to be with the Government by the end of summer 2020, with a decision expected late autumn 2020.

You can find out more about the Town Deal on [the government's website](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-prospectus)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-prospectus>.

Contact details:

E-mail - publicrelations@halton.gov.uk
Tel - 0151 511 7770

Issued by Communications & Marketing, Halton Borough Council, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF

Tel: 0151 511 7770 E-mail: publicrelations@halton.gov.uk

www.halton.gov.uk

[Click to Unsubscribe](#)