

## **WHITBY TOWN DEAL FUND**

The Towns Deal Fund is part of the Government's Levelling Up programme for the UK. The overarching aims of the Towns Fund are to drive sustainable economic growth, regeneration and productivity across the UK.

In 2019 the Government announced that Whitby would be one of the 101 Towns nationally to be eligible to secure up to £25m of Town Deal funding. In accordance with the requirements of Government, a Whitby Town Deal Board comprising of representatives of local government, private business, community groups, and the local MP was established to undertake local research and consultation and submit a Town Investment Plan.

A number of thematic working groups were established, made up of representatives of local organisations and communities, each of the groups came up with a long list of potential projects. These projects were assessed against local needs and deliverability. The Town Deal Board selected the final projects to go into the Town Investment Plan (totalling £25M) which was submitted to the Government in 2020.

In 2021, the Government awarded Whitby £17.1m for delivery of its Town Investment Plan. Unfortunately, not all projects identified in the Town Investment Plan could be delivered due to a reduced award. All projects were reassessed against Towns Fund priorities, economic and financial criteria using Government guidance. The Town Deal Board then selected the projects to take forward utilising the funding in agreement with the council as the accountable body.

Project teams were established to take all six selected projects forward. Two projects have been successfully completed providing new amenities for residents and visitors. The Whitby Wayfinding project has provided new signage with its digital element is exceeding targets for downloads. The Eastside Community Hub created a new home for Whitby Boxing Club and an extension to the community centre, allowing for many more services to be provided for the east side of the town.

## **WHITBY MARITIME TRAINING HUB**

- **OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT**

The Whitby Maritime Training Hub (WMTH) project will create an exemplar facility on Endeavour Wharf in Whitby to provide training opportunities for the maritime and offshore renewables sectors for residents and the wider market. The Hub will address the recognised need to develop a better supply of technical skills to support the local maritime sector through modern, fit-for-purpose facilities. Additionally, the Hub will also provide facilities for maritime businesses and service providers, including the growing off-shore power sector. This will strengthen the economy and reduce reliance of seasonal, tourism jobs.

- **INVESTMENT**

£10 million is allocated to the development of the Whitby Maritime Training Hub.

- **OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES**

The Whitby Maritime Training Hub aims to provide training space for a range of maritime industry courses across the sector ranging from fishing to engineering. The space will also be home to the Harbour Master to carry out operations across the harbour whilst also offering accommodation to maritime organisations.

- **FAQS**

**Q. Why was Endeavour Wharf selected for the building?**

A. Endeavour Wharf is an established part of Whitby's harbour operations and the proximity of the wharf is seen as operationally essential for some of the proposed uses. To attract the high quality tenants and training providers from the Maritime sector it is important that excellent access to the water is available. The location will help to establish the centre as a beacon of excellence for the Maritime sector.

**Q. How can the Whitby Maritime Training Hub be built if it is in a flood zone?**

A. As the development is specifically for maritime uses as a part of an operational harbour the building can be constructed within a floodzone. We are working with the Environment Agency to ensure the scheme meets flood resilience and mitigation requirements.

**Q. What happens to the existing carpark on Endeavour Wharf?**

A. The designs are being developed to minimise loss of public parking on the Wharf, options are being explored to further utilise other parking sites in the town to compensate for any loss of parking.

**Q. Is the Whitby Maritime Training Hub just another office block?**

A. The building is made up of training space for maritime courses, laboratories for research activity and offices for maritime sector organisations and the harbourmasters operations.

**Q. Is Endeavour Wharf structurally stable for such a building?**

A. A full intrusive survey of the Wharf structure has been undertaken by the scheme engineers which has determined the building can be safely constructed on the site.

**Q. What will the building look like?**

A. Designs for the building are still being developed. We have consulted with various representatives from the community, Historic England and the Local Planning Authority in developing designs. We intend to do wider community engagement on the proposed designs once we have collated and incorporated their comments.

## **WHITBY OLD TOWN HALL**

- **OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT**

Build on the history and heritage of the Old Town Hall and Market Place, restoring the building as a key focal point for Whitby whilst creating a vibrant and improved Market Place.

- **INVESTMENT**

£1.015 million was awarded for the improvements of the Whitby Old Town Hall and Market Place.

- **OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES**

The Old Town and Hall and Market Place project aims to restore a Grade II\* Listed heritage building, establishing a sustainable future, providing a venue for community activity and improving the market facilities for both the public and traders.

- **FAQS**

**Q. How can you guarantee that the historic building will be protected?**

A. A principle driver for the project is the renovation and restoration of the Market Hall. The building is in a poor state of repair and in urgent need of work. Conservation architects have been engaged to advise on renovations and all building materials are in keeping with the buildings original fabric. The internal alterations are sympathetic to the heritage asset and will help to provide a sustainable use, securing the buildings future.

**Q. What will be the main use of the building?**

A. It is planned for the building to be used for cultural and heritage activities for the community, visitors and local organisations.

**Q. Is the building going to be used as a café?**

A. No. There has never been any intention to use the Old Town Hall as a café, or any other drinking/eating establishment. The vision for the building is to use it as a heritage facility for residents and visitors.

**Q. Can all the existing market traders be accommodated?**

A. We have worked closely with the existing traders. There will be no reduction in available pitches. The small extension of the under-croft plinth is of a suitable depth to accommodate a market stall.

**Q. Can the other external markets be held on the Market Place to provide increased revenue?**

A. The improvements to the Market Place such as anchor points and electricity for lighting are for the benefit of existing traders to increase their sustainability. It is a small market with restricted access that is unable to accommodate larger markets, such as Made in Yorkshire.

**Q. Who will maintain the building both structurally and day to day on project completion?**

A. By bringing the building back into use and creating a viable future for it, income can be generated to help pay for the building's future maintenance. Whitby Town Council has previously expressed an interest in taking over management of the building once the project is completed.