

PRESS RELEASE



Title: £1 billion Future High Street Fund expanded to include Barrow Town Centre

Content

Barrow Town Centre has been successfully shortlisted to progress to the second phase of the Future High Streets Fund and receive up to £150,000 to support the development of detailed project proposals that can be submitted for capital funding.

In March 2019 Barrow Borough Council submitted an Expression of Interest to the government for funding to boost Barrow Town Centre. The Council worked in partnership with Furness Economic Development Forum and Barrow BID to submit the EOI which was supported by local businesses, employers and Barrow and Furness MP John Woodcock.

The bid aims to improve the towns shopping and leisure provision, making the town centre more attractive, encouraging residents to spend more time there and breathing new life into the area through regeneration, development and improving access and infrastructure.

The Council will now work on developing the proposals in more detail over the coming months.

Councillor Ann Thomson, leader of Barrow Borough Council, said: "Our team put in a great bid and now with the initial money we can work on a creative effective bid for the second phase. Well done team!"

Ends

Background Information

An additional 50 towns will benefit from the £1 billion Future High Streets Fund, Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed on 26th August.

Towns across England – from Dudley to Dover and Scarborough to Stockport – will join 50 successful areas already shortlisted to develop plans to reinvent their high streets.

The funding could be used by these areas to improve transport and access into town centres, convert empty retail units into new homes and workplaces, and invest in vital infrastructure.

The extension to the shortlist comes on the back of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund announced last month, which included an additional £325 million for the Future High Streets Fund, taking the overall Fund to £1 billion as the Government looks to drive forward local growth.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Our high streets are right at the heart of our communities, and I will do everything I can to make sure they remain vibrant places where people want to go, meet and spend their money.

BBC: 27 August 2019

But with our town centres facing challenges, we're today expanding the High Streets Fund to support over 100 high streets to regenerate – backed by £1 billion of vital investment.

This scheme is going to reenergise and transform even more of our high streets – helping them to attract new businesses, boost local growth, and create new infrastructure and jobs.

Successfully shortlisted places will receive further guidance in due course.

See full list of the places going on to the next phase of the Future High Streets Fund here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-future-high-streets-fund-expanded-to-50-more-areas>

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