

## Appendix B - Summary of On-line Survey Findings and Other Contributions.

### Introduction:

Swale Borough Council is immensely grateful to the individuals and organisations who gave their valuable time to learn about the Levelling-Up Fund opportunity and to share their ideas, expertise and experience.

324 individuals and organisations took part in the on-line consultation, which ran from 4<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February. A further eight contributions were sent directly via email or post. Over 70 people attended an Extraordinary Sheppey Area Committee meeting which took place in Sheerness East Working Men's Club on 8 February, with virtual attendance via MS Teams.

### Headlines:

The minutes of the Extraordinary Sheppey Area Committee are published separately to this report (see [Agenda for Sheppey Area Committee on Tuesday, 8 February 2022, 6.30 pm \(swale.gov.uk\)](#) which focuses on written consultation responses.

The survey consisted of 12 questions, and the opportunity to provide general comment.

Question 1 verified whether respondents had read the consultation pack prior to completing the survey and provided a link to the pack for respondents to view. 79.6% of people had read the pack prior to responding.

Question 2 asked if people were taking part in the consultation as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation. Of those who responded (all further questions were optional), 95% were responding as an individual, with postcode detail as follows (question 3):

ME12	202
ME11	17
ME10	16
ME9	9
ME13	2
Other ME codes	4
Non-ME codes	4

14 representations were submitted from groups or organisations, as follows (question 4):

- Big Fish Arts
- Sheppey Promenade
- The Sheppey Bluetits (two responses)
- Green Spaces team at Swale Borough Council
- Local Giving Foundation
- Sheppey Matters / Sheppey Tourist Information Centre / Sheppey FM
- Ideas Test

- Sheppey Sea Cadets
- Sheerness Planning and Transportation Group
- Sheerness Salvation Army
- East Kent Mencap
- Bounce DMT & TC
- Queen Philippa B&B
- Island Projects

In questions 5-8, respondents were asked to indicate if they supported each of the four project proposals. The results were as follows:

<b>Do you support...</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Beachfields leisure and health proposals	76.19%	23.81%
Sheppey College expansion	78.37%	21.63%
Master's House studio workspace	74.04%	25.96%
Connectivity and wider placemaking	85.65%	14.35%

Overall the project proposals were supported by 79% of respondents.

If respondents stated they did not support individual proposals, they were encouraged to set out in free text the reasons for their view. These narrative contributions have been summarised under the following headings.

#### **Beachfields:**

<b>Summary of Response</b>	<b>No.</b>
Support the principle and offering suggestions to develop it	20
Would prefer a different project (tidal pool, shuttle bus service; adopting roads; launch / recovery slip; town centre / Broadway)	11
Object but no explanation offered	9
Do not believe the pool needs improvement	9
Do not think this will meet the objectives	5
Support the principal but would like the pool located elsewhere on the Island	3
Would prefer the bid to focus on a different geography	3
Object to the loss of the paddling pool	1
Concerned by what this will cost to maintain	1

#### **Sheppey College:**

<b>Summary of Response</b>	<b>No.</b>
Don't see the need for expansion	8
Object but no explanation offered	8
Project should be funded by the college	7
College / education offer on the Island should expand in a different way	6
Would prefer a different project (tidal pool; tourism focus; community hub)	3
Support the principle and offering suggestions to develop it	3
No personal interest	3
Do not wish to see loss of car park	3
Concerned by what this will cost to maintain	1

Would prefer the bid to focus on a different geography	1
Do not think this will meet the objectives	1
The money should be spent on the other projects	1

### Master's House Studios:

Summary of Response	No.
Object but no explanation offered	15
Don't see the need for the facility	13
Not enough detail provided to take a view	5
Would prefer a different project (tidal pool; youth club)	4
Support the principle and offering suggestions to develop it	3
Should combine with the College expansion project	2
No personal interest	2
Support the project in principle, but in a different location	2
Won't encourage visitation	2
The money should be spent on the other projects	1

### Wider placemaking and connectivity:

Summary of Response	No.
Would prefer a different project (tidal pool; cinema; reduce High Street rents; connectivity to the mainland; rooftop restaurant)	7
Not enough detail provided to take a view	4
Support the principle and offering suggestions to develop it	4
Object but no explanation offered	3
More project work is needed before we can focus on the bigger picture	3
Would prefer the bid to focus on a different geography	1
Not enough car parking for residents to promote visitation	1
This will be a natural outcome of the other projects	1

### Detail:

Questions 9 – 12 asked for specific detail with regard to

- What respondents would like to see within the new built leisure and health facility
- What respondents would like to see within the wider Beachfields footprint
- What industry sectors and types of courses could be considered for Sheppey College
- How the projects can benefit the town centre, waterfront and beyond.

A final question provided a free text opportunity for respondents to submit any further comments related to the bid or regeneration in general.

A wide range of practical and exciting ideas were put forward across these final five questions. Those which meet the priorities of the Levelling-Up Fund and sit within the framework for the bid have been shared with the master planners and architects who

are working with Swale Borough Council to develop the project proposals. They will be assessed for feasibility over coming weeks.

Where ideas cannot be incorporated within the Levelling-Up Fund bid – for example, because they require revenue, rather than capital funding – they will be considered outside of the Levelling-Up Fund process, for other future funding streams. A list has been created from consultation responses and will be maintained by officers and discussed with members.

Narrative summaries of responses to questions 5 -13 can be found as appendices B(i) to B(ix). Please note that these are direct transcriptions of the comments received.

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

Consultation yielded a wide-ranging and exciting response, with many respondents looking outside of the Levelling-Up Fund bid framework to other priorities for the Isle of Sheppey and Swale. Whilst many ideas must be assessed for their viability, for Levelling-Up investment and other funding streams, Swale Borough Council has committed to progressing at this early stage:

- Considering soft play for inclusion within the new leisure centre
- Exploring the concept of town centre gateways
- Promoting emphasis on history and heritage
- Focussing the Master's House studios towards arts and culture-based uses
- Placing more emphasis on placemaking, including making the most of our natural assets, including connectivity with the sea
- Embracing, if practical, the possibility of bringing the masts from SS Montgomery on shore.

More detail on how consultation has informed the bid development process will be summarised as the project proposals evolve, and will be submitted alongside the bid for funds.

Further detail will be added to the Swale Borough Council dedicated webpages as proposals develop, with social media updates and press releases at key milestones.