

BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF DECISION TAKEN BY CABINET ON 30 MARCH 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: FRIDAY, 1 APRIL 2022

DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2022

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEMS 64 AND 65 HAVE BEEN GRANTED EXEMPTION FROM CALL-IN ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

A COPY OF THE CABINET AGENDA HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY ISSUE PLEASE CONTACT, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR OFFICER NAMED IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN.

MEETING OF THE CABINET

30 March 2022

Present:

Councillor Nigel Welton Deputy Leader in the Chair

Councillors Tracey Abbott, Richard Austin, Martin Griggs and Jonathan Noble.

Officers –

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive - Communities., Assistant Director - Finance (Deputy S151 Officer), Climate Change and Environment Manager, Assistant Director - Wellbeing and Community Leadership, Climate Change and Environment Officer, Housing, Homelessness and Wellbeing Service Manager and Insights & Transformation Manager and Democratic Services Officer.

52 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 February 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

53 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were tabled by Councillor Paul Skinner, Councillor Deborah Evans and the Assistant Director – Planning.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

55 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was one question from a member of the public, Mr Darron Abbott:

“At the Cabinet meeting on the 8th December 2021 I asked you a question regarding the Councillor Code of Conduct, in your answer you stated the Council would be adopting the new code shortly. Would you care to give me an update as to when this will happen as we are 3 months further down the line”

Answer from the Leader read out by the Deputy Leader in the Chair:

“Thank you for your question Mr Abbott, the new Model Code of Conduct was considered by the Standards Sub Committee on the 9th March 2022 and is on the agenda for the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on Monday 28 March. This is in line with our Constitution

Supplementary question from Mr Darron Abbott:

“In the meeting on the 8th December last year you stated “we all take this behaviour seriously” you mentioned the Nolan Principles. But even when you have this new code of conduct, there has to be a will to enforce breaches and treat everyone equally, recently a Cabinet Member was given the choice to resign or be sacked from the Cabinet for the misuse of a mobile phone yet tonight you are all happy to sit here with a Councillor who has committed and admitted committing a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011 for which I believe is under police investigation, why have you not done to this Councillor as you did previously sack or resign?”

Mr Abbott was advised the question would be put to Councillor Paul Skinner the Leader of the Council for a response within the requisite time line.

56 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

A number of the reports on the agenda had been considered by the relevant scrutiny committee and an update was provided as part of the presentation of those reports as appropriate

57 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE (BTAC)

At the meeting of BTAC held on 24 March 2022 it was agreed to recommend that a Community Governance Review be re-considered when the direction of local government reorganisation for Lincolnshire is known. This would be formally submitted to the meeting of Cabinet on 4 May 2022.

58 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP LOTTERY SCHEME

| DECISION | Portfolio Holders and Officer |
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| 1. Working with South Holland District Council and East Lindsey District Council as our partners in a South and East Lincolnshire Council Partnership (S&ELCP), a | MG/ES |

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| <p>Community Lottery Scheme to raise money for local good causes across the sub-region, in accordance with the provisions of this report be established.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The appointment of Gatherwell as the external lottery management company (ELM) to provide the day to day management and operation of the lottery on behalf of the Councils be approved.3. Delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive - Communities – Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders, to agree final arrangements for process and criteria for the inclusion of ‘good causes’ that would benefit from proposed the scheme.4. The Deputy Chief Executive - Communities – Communities and the Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership are nominated to be the Personal License holders for the S&ELCP Community Lottery Scheme.5. Agree that a one off payment of £2,800 is allocated from the Transformation Reserve to enable to the initial set up of the scheme. | |
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REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Martin Griggs Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities presented the report noting that the recommendations proposed the creation of a Community Lottery Scheme for the partner councils in S&ELCP which would enable additional funding to be raised for local community-based initiatives and in addition partnership opportunities with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in the sub-region of Lincolnshire.

The initiative would enable the Partnership, through each of the partnership Councils, to support the priorities of local communities by working in partnership with our residents. The sub region of Lincolnshire has a thriving Voluntary and Community Sector, providing valuable services of support, advice and activities for their communities. These services significantly benefit the health and wellbeing of residents, providing opportunities for active citizenship and helping people meet their aspirations and live the lives that they want.

Funding for these organisations and their services has often relied on external funding sources, either through small grant schemes or fundraising. Regrettably, over the past few years opportunities for fundraising activities have declined. At the same time demand on the sector has substantially increased, compounded by the impacts of Covid-19.

Covid-19 has highlighted the critical importance of local government to their places and communities. Forging deep connections of understanding and relationship building, local government organisations are required to ensure community cohesion, resilience and community identity is nurtured, developed and well supported at a local level.

With the ability to combine resources and deliver cross-cutting community responses,

the S&ELCP is best placed to align resources to address common challenges which face our communities. For the Voluntary and Community Sector, seeking to address the funding challenges as a partnership will have greater impact.

Each sovereign council of the S&ELCP has set out the importance of its communities within their individual corporate plans. Enabling the Voluntary and Community Sector further will in turn provide additional opportunities for the communities that they assist.

In November 2015 Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) launched the very first Local Authority lottery. This was created directly in response to the pressure on the community funds budgets and to help the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) gain access to new funding streams. AVDC raised £70,000 for good causes in its first year of operation. AVDC use an External Lottery Manager (ELM) to administer the lottery on its behalf. There is no cost to the Council for this service, but the ELM is funded from a share of the ticket cost.

Other authorities have subsequently developed their own lotteries based on a External Lottery Manager model including Essex County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Gloucester City Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Peterborough City Council, North Lincolnshire Council, South Kesteven District Council, Blaby District Council, Melton Borough Council, Mendip Borough Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, Chiltern District Council, South Northampton Council, Torbay Council, Wycombe District Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, South Bucks District Council, Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council, South Staffordshire Council, Corby Borough Council, Hart District Council and Borough of Broxbourne. Gatherwell Ltd support of 90 local authority lotteries across the country including 4 in Lincolnshire.

Establishing a Community Lottery Scheme across the S&ELCP could raise £119,376 annually to support our local communities. This is based on experiences in findings from other council areas and is a prudent estimation.

There are a number of different External Lottery Managers in operation. Each provides a different model in relation to pricing, prize structures, and apportionment of the ticket price.

If Members agree the development of a Community Lottery Scheme, South Holland District Council would, on behalf of the partnership;

- a) contract with Gatherwell to provide external lottery management and
- b) apply for the appropriate license and memberships.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 1) Not to establish a partnership lottery scheme
- 2) Deliver the lottery in-house

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

59 EXTENSION OF LINCOLNSHIRE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGIES

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| <p>DECISION</p> <p>Approve a one year extension of the current countywide strategies</p> | <p>Portfolio Holders and Officer</p> <p>MG/ES</p> |
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REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Martin Griggs Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities presented the report and confirmed that The Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017 - 2021 and the Lincolnshire Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2021 had both expired. It was a legal requirement to publish a revised homelessness strategy every five years. Due to the delay in starting this work, Cabinet is asked to approve a one year extension of the current countywide strategies.

The current homelessness strategy had been approved November 2017 which allowed time for the new combined strategy to be published within the 5 year requirement.

The strategy has an action plan to underpin the priorities and is led by the Strategic Leads of the seven Local Authorities across Lincolnshire.

The Lincolnshire Homelessness Prevention Programme Manager hosted by West Lindsey District Council had responsibility for co-ordinating the partnership and monitoring of the strategy. This later passed to the County Homelessness Partnerships Manager hosted at City of Lincoln Council whilst options for the post were explored by the District Housing Network (DHN).

DHN approved the appointment of a Lincolnshire Housing Partnerships role in May 2021 to take on the duties of the previous postholder, but also include a wider remit linking in with DHN priorities relating to Housing, Health and Social Care.

Recruitment was delayed but the postholder is now in post hosted by North Kesteven District Council and would be responsible for leading on writing the new strategy which will cover homelessness and rough sleeping.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Council could adopt its own individual strategy or a joint strategy across the South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership but would still require an extension of the current strategies.

Having individual council strategies or a SELCP strategy has been discounted because having a countywide strategy is seen as good practice, cost effective and has helped increase grant funding for countywide housing and homelessness initiatives. This is because it evidences the seven Lincolnshire Councils and where applicable Lincolnshire County Council can work together for the benefit of its residents.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

60 NET ZERO ACTION PLAN

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| DECISION | Portfolio Holders and Officer |
| Agree the Net Zero Action Plan in line with the Council's commitment to reduce its carbon emissions by 45% by 2027 and to achieve net zero by 2040 in the line with the strategic aim of the Corporate Strategy. | PS/HP |

REASON FOR DECISION

The Environment Officer presented the report advising that In 2021, a Carbon Footprinting exercise was undertaken by the Carbon Trust for the Council's own operations and a Carbon Reduction Plan was developed and agreed by Cabinet in January 2022. Cabinet agreed to amend the previous net zero target to a more quantifiable and ambitious target to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 with a minimum reduction of 45% by 2027, providing this can be achieved without the reduction or change in quality of services or adversely impacting on the revenues budget. A Net Zero Action Plan has now been produced to outline the programme of work needed to deliver the necessary reductions based on the Carbon Trust's reports, with a view to providing a roadmap for carbon reduction measures and projects in the coming years to assist us in meeting our net zero ambition.

Climate Change is one of the greatest global challenges of our time and local authorities have a crucial role to play in driving forward change, leading by example to enable us to adapt to and mitigate Climate Change effectively and achieve a more sustainable future. Monitoring of our carbon emissions via an annual Carbon Footprint and producing plans such as the Carbon Reduction Plan and Net Zero Action Plan will guide us on our pathway to meet our target of becoming net zero by 2040.

Following on from the recommendations put forward by the Carbon Trust in the adopted Carbon Reduction Plan, a New Zero Action Plan has now been developed to set out the projects required to investigate the feasibility of these recommendations further and provide clear delivery timescales for the proposed actions. The Action Plan also encompassed other environmental initiatives identified by the Climate Change and Environment Team and laid out a more detailed pathway to net zero via the development of our current position in relation to carbon emissions. This would ensure that the most effective and viable pathways forward are taken in relation to our operations. The Carbon Footprint took into account Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions falling under categories for gas, electrical, fleet, waste and business and commuter travel and these categories have therefore been used as a framework for the Action Plan. Investigative and feasibility actions have been highlighted in grey with actions dependant on the outcome of these investigations highlighted in light grey for ease of visualisation. It was not currently possible, at this time, to provide costs or projected carbon savings for some of the projects identified in the Net Zero Action Plan. These details will be identified during the progression of the projects and where significant financial decisions will be required these proposals will be brought to Members for approval as appropriate.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Cabinet could decide not to adopt the Net Zero Action Plan, however Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans and policies to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008.

The Council has also made a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 with a minimum emissions reduction of 45% by 2027 and this plan provides a roadmap to achieving these targets.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

61 ADOPTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

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| DECISION Approve the final version of the Climate Change Strategy following public consultation on the document in winter 2021/22. | Portfolio Holders and Officer PS/SB |
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REASON FOR DECISION

The Climate Change and Environment Manager presented the report advising that it provided background to the accompanying Climate Change Strategy for the geographical area covered by the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP). The document was the next step in our Climate Change aspirations, moving beyond the confines of our own carbon footprint and emissions to look at the wider issues for Climate Change in our local communities. S&ELCP cannot deliver this strategy in isolation and a new South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) will be established to bring together all relevant partners and ensure delivery at all levels as we work towards a net zero ambition. If agreed it would allow officers to progress work on the agreed Climate Change Strategy and enable the establishment of a South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network.

Since establishing Climate Change as a priority within the Corporate Strategy, Boston Borough Council has been working to address its own impact in terms of carbon emissions and commissioned the Carbon Trust to produce a Carbon Reduction Plan which was approved in January 2022. As part of that process, the Council committed to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 with a minimum emissions reduction of 45% by 2027 ensuring it leads by example in encouraging the Borough as a whole to undertake similar steps. The development of a Climate Change Strategy for the wider Borough was identified in the work programme developed following the nine recommendations adopted by Council in January 2020, as put forward by the Climate Change Working Group. Those recommendations also identified that a citizen's assembly should be established. Planning is now underway for a Climate Action Network which will take ownership of the Climate Change Strategy and lead delivery with the support of the Council. In October 2021, Cabinet agreed the draft Strategy for consultation. Consultation has subsequently taken place across Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland and the comments have informed this final version of the Strategy.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

None.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

62 GREEN HOME GRANTS

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| <p>DECISION Cabinet supports the operational arrangements as set out in this report, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That East Lindsey District Council acts as the lead accountable body and delivers the Sustainable Warmth programme on behalf of Boston Borough Council as part of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.2. The entering into of an appropriate written agreement between East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council to deliver the programme, subject to legal advice, with delegated authority given to the Assistant Director Regulatory in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to agree the terms.3. To delegate responsibility in respect of programme delivery to the Assistant Director Regulatory in consultation with the Chair of the Programme Board including all operational matters such as determination of applications for grant funding.4. The establishment of a Programme Board for Sustainable Warmth with appropriate Portfolio Holder representation from each of the three Partnership Councils and Assistant Director Regulatory to monitor quarterly progress as outlined in paragraph 3.10. | <p>Portfolio Holders and Officer</p> <p>PS/SB</p> |
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REASON FOR DECISION

The Climate Change and Environment Manager presented the report advising that Funding of **£7,254,966** has been secured from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP) for the next phase of Green Homes Grants delivery – known as **Sustainable Warmth**. This paper sets out the proposed operational arrangements and eligibility criteria for the next round of grants ahead of a proposed launch in April 2022. The funding will be managed within the Climate Change and Environment Team on behalf of the S&ELCP and would enable officers to prepare to launch the new scheme, with effect from 1 April 2022.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Not to approve the operational arrangements.

To implement alternative arrangements, such as implementing the scheme internally rather than with East Lindsey District Council as Accountable Body.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

63 Q3 PERFORMANCE, FINANCE AND RISK

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| <p>DECISION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To note the quarterly monitoring information for Q3 2021/222. F1: That Cabinet notes the forecast revenue position for 2021/22 as detailed in Table 1 after the proposed use of reserves3. F2: That Cabinet approves the following reserves movements contained within table 2: -<ol style="list-style-type: none">I. That the Transformation Reserve is utilised to support contracts cost in 2021/22 as the PSPS contract value varies in between financial years where initial investment to improve services is required in the first 2 | <p>Portfolio Holders and Officer</p> <p>JN/SK</p> |
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| <p>years of the contract, with a drawdown of £256,000 supporting this investment.</p> <p>II. That the Capital Reserve is utilised to fund the Cremator Flue Replacement Capital Scheme at a cost of £60,000</p> <p>4. F3: That Cabinet notes the following reserve movement and recommends approval to Council: -</p> <p>I. That £729,000 of the COVID Budget Pressures Smoothing reserve is used to offset income pressures being experienced during the year, these relate to Car Parking, Leisure, Markets and Investment Returns.</p> <p>II. Cabinet notes that the use of reserves will be reviewed again as part of the Q4 process and consideration given to any further adjustments required.</p> <p>F4: That Cabinet approves the Cremator Flue Replacement Scheme at a cost of £60,000 be added to the Capital Programme</p> | |
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REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Jonathon Noble portfolio holder for Finance presented the report and advised In total there are 22 KPIs for Boston Borough Council. 11 are on or better than target, 1 is within tolerance, 8 are worse than target and 1 is not available. One measure is an annual measure so not yet due for reporting.

Performance on or better than target or within tolerance included the percentage of commercial rent received against agreed budget, number of properties improved through Council intervention, Percentage of cases opened at homelessness prevention stage (i.e. before they have become homeless), Percentage of homelessness cases that were opened at homelessness prevention stage that resulted in the customer not becoming homeless, number of families with children placed into B&B for more than 6 calendar weeks and time to process Council Tax Support new claims and time to process Housing Benefits new claims.

Performance worse than target in Q3 included the percentage of car parking income received against agreed budget - 85.51% against a target of 100%; car parking income remains below base line forecast level because of the impact of Covid-19, the number of verified rough sleepers – aspirational target of 0; the team managed to reduce the number of rough sleepers down to 2. One of these had recently been evicted from accommodation provided by the Council and the other is refusing to engage with the service, the percentage of Alliance workforce who said 'yes' when asked if they felt valued at work – 72% against a target of 84%, the percentage of 'other' planning applications determined within 8 weeks – 70% against a target of 75%; however, performance against the national government measure including time extensions was 89% against a target of 70% and the percentage of food premises inspections completed against the Food Standards Agency annual inspection plan – 93.51% against a target of 100%; COVID work has increased during this quarter owing to the introduction of plan B legislation by central government and the reactivation of the

county emergency plan. Additional work has also been undertaken to ensure Boston's Fishing fleet is compliant with new export requirements.

Project updates included, a joint project management framework was in place across Boston and East Lindsey Councils, including monthly reporting to SLT and quarterly reporting to Boston's Cabinet and Scrutiny and East Lindsey's Executive Board and Overview Committee. The Q3 update report is attached at Appendix B. 2 projects completed in Q3 – community testing and vaccination site support and the Housing IT system and 2 projects that would not be taken forward – the shop front and 'pop up' shop recovery projects.

Referencing risk management the portfolio holder advised that a strategic risk register is being drafted with Audit & Governance Committee with the workshop taking place on 18th March.

Finance reporting included notification that the revenue forecast showed a deficit position of £299k. Confirmation that the report proposed the use of the COVID reserve to offset income reductions of £729k and the use of the Transformation Reserve to smooth contract costs of £256k and the specific and general reserves of the Council are forecast to be £17.350m at 31 March 2022. The Capital spend at the end of Quarter 3 was £1.433m against a full year budget of £5.593m

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternative reporting arrangements

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

64 BOSTON LEISURE PROJECT - FULL BUSINESS CASE FOR TOWNS FUND

DECISION

- 1. That Cabinet agrees the formal submission of the business case to Government, and approve delegation to the DCX - Growth in consultation with the Deputy Leader to make any necessary amendments to the business case prior to its submission.**

Portfolio Holders and Officer NW/MG

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| <p>2. That Cabinet agrees the principle of additional ‘phase 2’ works, which do not form part of the main business case and will not be funded through the Town Deal, and instructs officers to bring forward a separate costed business case around the repurposing of relevant parts of the site for alternative uses in</p> <p>3. That a full programme of Member Briefings and formal scrutiny to be undertaken prior to final decisions by full Council.</p> | |
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REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Welton Portfolio Holder presented the report advising that the proposals form part of the Heads of Terms for a Boston Town Deal which were confirmed in March 2021 for £21.9m and subsequently seven projects were confirmed with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), including improved Leisure facilities for Boston. The Leisure project has been allocated £2,425,092 of Towns Fund monies, pending Full Business Case approval due to be submitted in March 2022.

The Boston Leisure project proposes to transform the existing Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre site, through significant remodelling and refurbishment. The central aim is to provide improved and remodelled facilities to support the wider area's health and wellbeing. The Boston Leisure project is proposed to be brought forward in collaboration with the Mayflower (Boston College) which is the flagship Towns Fund project. The proposed location of the Mayflower centre is adjacent to the Leisure Centre and is providing a distinct opportunity to enable the wider regeneration of both sites including Rowley Road and the areas adjacent to the Maud Foster Drain. This combined project would aim to a single site/campus/village - with the potential to address Boston's health, education, leisure and well-being needs, as well as meeting the requirements of the Towns Fund for the regeneration of place and providing improved facilities for residents both in the immediate area and wider Borough. Both the Council and Boston College have vested interests owing to existing land holdings, but also an established operational relationship between the two sites.

This report is a follow on from the report presented to Cabinet in January 2022 (Boston leisure project: Towns Fund - Mayflower and Leisure campus).

The five case business case is based on the Towns Fund Delivery Partner Stage 2 template and is comprised of the Strategic Case, Economic Case, Financial Case, Commercial Case and Management Case. The business case sets out the required information to enable DLUHC to approve the funding allocated to this project. Following approval of the Council. Once approved the Council will be able to draw down the funding required within the overall timeframe of the Towns Fund deal. It is important to note that the business case document is not a delivery plan at this stage. There will be further development of the business case and other project milestones before the Council commits to the building contract. These future milestones will enable the Council to further review the overall development costs, in use revenue costs, and operating model for example.

The Business case should be read in conjunction with the following documents to provide the overriding context for investment into the project and delivery of the stated objectives:

- Boston Town Deal Investment Plan (TIP);
- Government approved Towns Fund project variation.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Do nothing. This option would require the project to be withdrawn from the Towns Fund programme and seek DLUHC approval to reallocate the funding to another project within the Town Investment Plan for Boston, or lose the opportunity of the funding. Given the messaging from DLHUC recently regarding project variations and the need for the Business Cases to be completed promptly, there is a significant risk that the funding could be lost.

The allocated match funding would also be removed from the Council's capital programme.

This option is not recommended as the project has significant benefits for the residents of the Borough, and is part of a wider regenerative opportunity including the flagship Mayflower project. Considering both projects together has the potential to deliver much greater benefit. The scheme is considered to be deliverable subject to the identification of funding and as set out in the business case, offers value for money and will provide the catalyst for the rejuvenation and reinvigoration of an important asset for the town. The proposals contribute to a number of areas where the town scores lowly (including health and well-being indicators) and encouraging footfall to the town. Doing nothing would lose this opportunity as the Council would be unlikely to be able to fund and support such a project were it not for the Towns Fund. This option would also erode the partnership with Boston College and undermine the Council's reputation.

Doing nothing over the medium to long term will also reinforce a sense of decline in the local community. The visual amenity of the local built environment will remain low and deter the ability of local partners and businesses to attract repeat visits to the local area. It will represent a failure to deliver the opportunities for our local communities included within the Boston Town Investment Plan and Heads of Term offer from HM Government.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

Note: the above item has been granted exemption from Call-In on the grounds of urgency.

65 TOWNS FUND BUSINESS CASE

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| <p>DECISION</p> <p>That Cabinet approves the submission of the full business cases for the externally managed projects (attached as Appendices to this report): Boston Railway Station and the Mayflower project.</p> <p>That Cabinet notes the submission of the following Towns Fund projects to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC): St Botolph’s Library and Lighting, Blenkin Memorial Hall, Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics, and Healing the High Street and Shodfriars. These projects have been approved by DLUHC.</p> | <p>Portfolio Holders and Officer NW/LR</p> |
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REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Welton Portfolio Holder presented the report advising that the report updated on the Towns Fund process for approval of the business cases; each project requires the Council to support the submission of the business case as the accountable body for the Town Deal. Boston has received a Heads of Terms offer from Government of £21.9m. To secure the Town Deal funding, the projects which formed part of the Town Investment Plan have to submit business cases for approval to Government to release the funding allocation.

There were 7 projects as part of the Boston Town Deal, there are 6 projects which are externally led and 1 project led and supported by Boston Borough Council. For all projects, the Council is the accountable body and has developed a delivery team, delivery arrangements and agreements.

The Boston Railway Station project was externally led by EMR. The total cost for the project is £2,686,800 with the Towns Fund allocation being £2,500,000. Boston Station is a gateway into the town and in its current condition, both aesthetically and in terms of the facilities offered it does not reflect a station in a town that is economically thriving and a place for people to choose as a town to live and work in. Historically, there has been a lack of investment in the East for EMR stations which had only added to the deterioration of buildings and outdated station services, making the station powerless to compete with stations in larger towns and cities. The investment into the full refurbishment of the station creates a credible statement to make the town a more attractive option to work and live in, to provide for the needs of an aspirational, skilled and healthy population. Government strategy for the Midlands is focused on growth, connectivity, skills, enterprise, innovation, trade, and quality of life. The development will enhance services and facilities at the station, playing directly into the Levelling Up agenda by paying attention to what the needs of the community are to enable them to better connect to the station, installing contemporary designs and new infrastructure to modernise the station whilst future proofing the enhancements offering an avenue for further development and investments, leading to a strengthened local economy. The vision is to create a modern railway station offering enhanced facilities to better connect the community to the station. Providing an overall better customer experience whilst maintaining high

levels of security and safety. Creating a community hub and gateway to the town whilst preserving the historical features of the station.

The Boston Mayflower project was externally led by Boston College. The total cost for the project is £16,071,000. The Towns Fund allocation is £10,000,000

Mayflower is an iconic building designed to welcome people into the college environment through a 'non-traditional education aesthetic. The space will offer our showcase hair and beauty salons, a digital skills hub, employability/business support services, entrepreneurial start up space and coffee and restaurant outlets for our award-winning hospitality and catering department. Mayflower will coexist in a wider development that regenerates an entire area and includes a health and leisure facility thus creating a 'destination' for the community. This mix of education, enterprise and entertainment will encourage access and participation in learning through its 'soft' approach in a welcoming and inclusive space.

The Mayflower is part of the regeneration of the Rowley Road area of Boston, it linked through improvements to public realm and accessibility to the re-modelled Leisure Centre.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Prospectus from DLUHC set out that agreeing a Town Deal with investment from the Towns Fund of up to £25m per place would be dependent on the government receiving high-quality proposals that meet the objective of the fund and follow the further guidance published. The Boston Town Deal Board and Council have approved the projects for submission following an extensive consultation and selection process. Failure to meet the agreed deadlines or submission of proposals or projects of insufficient quality, which do not meet the criteria and conditions, are likely to be deemed ineligible for this round of funding from the Towns Fund. It would also risk the positive working relationship established with Government departments. Without external funding these projects will not proceed as planned.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

Note: the above item has been granted exemption from Call-In on the grounds of urgency.

Signed by the Chief Executive



FRIDAY 1ST APRIL 2022

These decisions will come into force (and may then be implemented) on the expiry of five clear working days after the date of this notice UNLESS the decisions are subjected to the Call-In procedure or are starred minutes requiring Full Council approval.

The Meeting ended at 7.40 pm