



CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 18th February 2021

At a special meeting of the Cabinet held on the 17th February 2021 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors Cracknell, Lindley, Proctor, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

DN.102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

DN.103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regard to items on the agenda for this meeting.

DN.104 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council providing an update on the work undertaken since the announcement of Government funding was confirmed and outlining the approach used to review the original scheme.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the outline revisions to the original Future High Street Fund scheme be acknowledged and authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to complete the submission to the Future High Streets programme by the closing date of 26 February 2021.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with**

the Leader of the Council, to accept the resultant grant funding on behalf of the Council.

- 3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to develop the revised Future High Streets Fund scheme and enter into negotiations with third party landowners and delivery partners with a view to delivering the scheme and bringing the same to fruition.**
- 4. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to exercise powers to compulsory purchase various parcels of land and interests in land designated as the development site for the Future High Streets Fund scheme where a negotiated position is impracticable, accepting that the final decision of completion of any such order rests with Cabinet and would be subject to a further report.**
- 5. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to deal with all matters arising from and ancillary to the above.**
- 6. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.**
- 7. That a report be received by Cabinet at a later date detailing the scheme delivery timeline together with further detail on design development.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - To enable the Council to meet the requirements of the £17.28m 'in-principle' grant offer by submitting revisions to the scheme by the deadline of 26th February 2021. This is the next step required of the Council and its delivery partners, the owners of Freshney Place, before Government agree the terms and conditions of the final funding award. Further detail of the scheme will be presented at future Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Not responding to government's offer of investment would be an option which would not achieve the Council's key strategic aims for the regeneration of the town centre, as described in the Local Plan and Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan (2020).

Development of an alternative scheme - any revisions to the scheme have had to remain focused on the original objectives of the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) bid made in July 2020. This original site at the west end of Victoria Street and Freshney Place has also remained at the heart of any re-engineering of the scheme. A requirement of the

FHSF programme is that there are no fundamental changes made in-light of the reduced funding offer.

Revising the original scheme – as explained in section 3 of the report, the review of the original scheme has already examined two options and is continuing to explore the third. This option is still being worked on further with the scaling back option being pursued at pace, in order to establish costs and financial viability. A key economic measurement required by the FHSF programme is the value for money element of the scheme, notably job creation, socio-economic benefits and place-making, so this remains at the centre of the options review work.

DN.105 SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills seeking authority to approve a rolling programme of capital works for the local authority's Schools Condition and Basic Need Government Grant allocations within the Council's school estate.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That authority be delegated to the Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills, to:**
 - a. Implement the rolling programme of identified highest priority works within the Schools Capital Maintenance Programme.**
 - b. Implement the programme of new pupil places schemes to ensure that the local authority has sufficient and suitable school places to meet its statutory responsibility in accordance with the Education Act.**
 - c. Subject to governance, further explore the Decarbonisation Salix Grant bidding opportunity (which if successful will enhance and further support an identified Basic Need scheme at Beacon Academy to create an additional 100 secondary places within the Cleethorpes area in the first instance), to submit a bid and if successful settle any award documentation.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets to execute any documentation arising from the above recommendations.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient and suitable provision of school pupil places for its residents. The national increase in the birth rate has resulted in a significant increase in pupil numbers which are now starting to impact upon secondary provision. There are also still some remaining

pressures within specific primary planning areas which continue to require new pupil places to meet the demand.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Other schools in the area of required growth have been consulted. However, the immediate need is in the Cleethorpes area of the borough and all providers within this area of the town which in the first instance makes Beacon Academy the priority for expansion.

Ensuring sufficient pupil places across all of its school estate is a statute duty of local authorities, and Central Government provides all local authorities with an allocation based upon the annual School Capacity Return (SCAP) specifically for the purpose of supporting this need.

The good practice of robust asset management for school buildings ensures that buildings do not fail and have to close unexpectedly, and Central Government provides all local authorities with an allocation based upon its maintained schools pupil count specifically for this purpose.

An option to do nothing would result in a lack of pupil places and an inability to fulfil the statute duty and a risk of school closure if priority condition matters are not addressed.

DN.106 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION GRANT FUNDING FOR ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY ASSETS

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council to accept grant funding from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial to improve energy efficiency in five Council owned non-domestic buildings and reduce running costs.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to accept the grant funding in principle on behalf of the Council.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to accept the final grant offer and deal with all matters arising from and ancillary to the above including negotiation with the funder, implementation and award of resultant contracts and works.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets to execute all documentation arising.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – Accepting the funding from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as administered through SALIX will help deliver energy efficiency improvements to five Council buildings, to reduce future environmental impact and running costs.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Do Nothing – To do nothing would mean that the Council would not complete the specified energy improvements and the environmental impact and energy cost for these buildings would remain high.

Use North East Lincolnshire Council Funding - NELC could use capital funding to carry out these works, to delivering energy efficiency. This would affect the availability of capital funding for other projects.

Accept the Funding This is the preferred option, delivering the scheme outlined in the report. This is the preferred option as this would deliver substantial environmental improvement and future energy savings for the Local Authority, without requirement of using already stretch local funding.