



## Officer Decision Record – Key Decision

Key decisions taken by an officer are subject to the 5 day call in period from circulation to Members, and therefore the decision will be released for implementation following the call-in period and no call in being received

### 1. Cabinet date and copy resolution this key decision relates to

Approval is sought to sign the Government's contract variation letter which relates to the 'Welcome Back' (WBF) and 'Coastal' Funds' (CF) extension, in accordance with the Cabinet Decision, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021:

#### **DN.20 WELCOME BACK FUND**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism seeking approval to accept resultant grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

RESOLVED –

1. Subject to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government approving submitted plans, authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism, to accept resultant grant funding on behalf of the Council.
2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism, to implement proposals and deal with all matters arising from and ancillary to the above.
3. That the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.

### 2. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision)

WBF builds on the £50m Reopening High Street Safely Fund (RHSS) allocated to councils in 2020. North East Lincolnshire (NEL) was allocated £141,143 RHSS which is currently being delivered. In April 2021, the Council was allocated an additional £141,143 WBF, plus £100,000 CF to extend the RHSS Programme. At Cabinet on 16

June 2021, it was resolved to accept the funding. The Council has now received a contract variation letter from Government and this decision seeks approval to sign it.

### 3. Decision being taken

Government has increased the original grant allocation of RHSS, to include additional funds for WBF and CF programmes and the decision required is therefore as follows:

1. In line with current delegations the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism, supports the participation in further funds and authorises the Monitoring Officer to sign the requisite contract variation.

### 4. Is it an Urgent Decision? If yes, specify the reasons for urgency. Urgent decisions will require sign off by the relevant scrutiny chair(s) as not subject to call in.

No

### 5. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

The additional grant supplied through the Government's European Development Funded, WBF and CF will make a significant contribution to the Council's strategic objective of a 'Stronger Economy' and 'Stronger Community'. This funding has been allocated to North East Lincolnshire to support the return to high streets and tourism areas safely and help build back better from the pandemic. The WBF forms part of wider support government is providing to communities and businesses, to protect jobs, support the most vulnerable and ensure no one is left behind as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be tackled and begin to build back better. The fund will allow North East Lincolnshire Council to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local businesses, particularly in high streets. It will also pay for a range of activities which will encourage local people to revisit our key tourism areas safely.

### 6. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision

**Do Nothing** - Not responding to the Government's offer of funding would not achieve the Council's key strategic aims for a stronger economy, specifically in terms of economic recovery and growth.

**Not accept the allocated funding** - This will result in losing the opportunity to support the safe reopening of businesses in North East Lincolnshire and welcoming back the community and visitors to our tourism areas.

### 7. Background documents considered

<https://democracy.nelincs.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/17.-Welcome-Back-Fund.pdf>

**8. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No

**9. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

No

**10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The decision to accept further funding on offer by way of variation of extant funding agreement is consistent with the will of Cabinet and in line with existing delegations.

**11. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The acceptance of the funding will allow the Council to support high street businesses and the tourism sector to safely reopen, encouraging business and tourist activity in the area.

There is no match funding requirement from the Council.

**12. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications

**13. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

There are financial and reputational risks to the Council if this funding is not accepted through the contract variation letter. The proposed activity will not be able to proceed as planned and publicised and it is unlikely that there will be another opportunity to access this type of funding in the foreseeable future.

**14. Has the Cabinet Tracker been updated with details of this decision?**

Yes

**15. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director, Environment,  
Economy and Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 20.09.21

**16. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Cllr Callum Procter

Title: Portfolio Holder for Economic  
Development, Housing and Tourism

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 24.09.2021

**17. If the decision is urgent then  
consultation should be carried out  
with the relevant Scrutiny  
Chair/Mayor/Deputy Mayor**

Name: N/A

Title: N/A

Signed: N/A

Dated: N/A

Key Decisions are defined in the Constitution as:

A decision (whether taken collectively or individually by members) which is likely:

- (i) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

A decision will be considered financially significant if:

- (i) in the case of revenue expenditure, it results in the incurring of expenditure or making savings of £350,000 or greater;
- (ii) in the case of capital expenditure, the capital expenditure/savings are in excess of £350,000 or 20% of the total project cost, whichever is the greater

In determining whether a decision is significant in terms of its effect on an area comprising two or more wards, consideration shall be given to:

- (i) the number of residents/service users that will be affected in the wards concerned;
- (ii) the likely views of those affected (i.e. is the decision likely to result in substantial public interest)
- (iii) whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic or environmental risk.