



CABINET
DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 14th December 2017

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th December 2017 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 Oxby (in the Chair)
Councillors Bolton, Hyldon-King, James, Patrick, Watson and P. Wheatley

DN.77 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received in regards to this meeting.

DN.78 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received for this meeting.

DN.79 **REVIEW OF SOUTH HUMBER INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Assets, Skills and Housing reviewing the overall progress of the project to date, and requesting additional funds to continue the project.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That in principle an increased investment into the South Humber Industrial Investment Programme (SHIIP) by £8.4m be authorised, and notes the three main reasons for the increased requirement set out in the report now submitted. Such preparedness to increase investment be subject to and conditional upon all possible positive outcomes and mitigation measures arising from recommendation 4 below.**
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Growth, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Assets, Skills and Housing, to take all actions necessary to secure the continued implementation of SHIIP.**
- (3) That the Director of Finance, Resource and Operations be authorised to secure investment through borrowing on behalf of the Council up to a maximum of £23.6m to enable delivery of SHIIP in the event that no further funding is secured by virtue of the following recommendation below. Any such borrowing shall be entered into the Council's Capital Programme and incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.**
- (4) The Director of Economy and Growth be authorised to continue seeking all applicable uncommitted funding sources to support and, if secured, replace investment made by the Council including but not limited to via the Greater Grimsby Town Deal.**

REASON FOR DECISION - The South Humber Industrial Investment Programme requires additional financial investment to enable the full programme to be delivered and the benefits to the economy, communities and return on investment to the Council to be realised. These benefits include the generation of almost half a million square metres of employment floor space, significant employment land, creation of ecological mitigation to protect the environment and significant business rate return.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – As part of the SHIIP financial review, three exploratory cost options were presented to the SHIIP Board for consideration at the 21st July 2017 meeting.

Option A, the preferred option of the SHIIP Board, delivers the full SHIIP programme, increasing the cost of the programme to £41.805m, but delivering all of the project outputs as outlined above, providing NELC

with a significant rate of return on investment over the next 20 years and beyond. This option also helps deliver the Economic Strategy and the Local Plan, and directly contributes to the objectives of the Council Plan

Option B looked at a reduced SHIP initiative. This option delivered the Humber Link Road but reduced the scope of the Stallingborough Business Park Project site to include strategic site infrastructure, Phase 1a and Phase1b only within the first 5 years, reducing job generating outputs and potential business rate revenues. This option also reduced the amount of land to be secured for strategic environmental mitigation subsequently reducing development opportunities on the South Humber Bank.

Option C considered further reductions to the programme. Once again, Phase 2 of the Stallingborough Interchange Employment site was taken out and the Humber Link Road project was also removed from the wider programme thus reducing job generation outputs and potential business rate revenues. In discussing this option, the SHIP Board agreed that the Humber Link Road provides the critical link which will help support further development of both Immingham and Grimsby Port areas, and associated land between.

DN.80

COUNCIL TAX BASE AND COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism seeking agreement of the proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme and agree the Council Tax Base for 2018/19.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council Tax base for the financial year 2018/19 of 42,614.4 properties (Band D equivalent) subject to the agreement of the Council Tax Support Scheme recommendations, be approved.**
- (2) That the recommendations within section 1.5 of the report now submitted be approved, and refers the proposals for the new scheme to Full Council for approval.**
- (3) That subject to approval by Full Council, authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance, Resources and Operations) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism to implement the detailed revisions to the Council Tax Support Scheme, and to the Council Tax Hardship Fund.**
- (4) That subject to the approvals within recommendations 2 & 3 above, the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance, Resources and Operations), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism be**

authorised to revise and implement the success criteria for the revised Council Tax Hardship Fund.

REASONS FOR DECISION – Setting the Council Tax Base is a statutory requirement that forms the basis of the calculation of the council tax charge for 2018/19. The tax base needs to be agreed and notified to major precepting bodies by the end of January 2018.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

There is discretion in estimating the Council Tax collection rate. For 2018/19 it is considered prudent to assume the same collection rate as applied in 2017/18.

As part of the review process leaving the current scheme as it was has been fully considered.

Provision of the Council Tax Hardship Fund was reviewed and an intention to increase the scope of the Council Tax Hardship Fund has been put forward for consideration as part of the recommendations of this report.