



Officer Decision Record

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

The property at 5-7 Osborne Street, is part of the wider Poundland site acquired by the council in 2022 as a strategically important town centre location which could be utilised for a transportation hub if funding were available.

NELC submitted a Round 2 Levelling Up Fund bid for the construction of a Transportation Hub on this site, alongside two further bids from Grimsby and Cleethorpes town centres. While the two town centre bids each secured significant amounts of grant funding, this bid was not successful. Future funding opportunities may present themselves, and the project group are considering options in readiness. In view of this, there is no intention currently to offer the vacant units within the site on the open market for rent.

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in Grimsby town centre has been a concern for many years, and not feeling safe has been identified through consultation as a reason for people not visiting the town centre.

Youth ASB has been on the increase and while there are problem solving initiatives which are showing good results through Public Space Protection Orders, ASB rapid deployment cameras, targeted youth teams and environmental services, there remains a need for positive, targeted engagement to address and support the problems these youths face which are the cause of their ASB.

These have been highlighted in recent months with youth related crime and disorder identified at the below locations, all of which have had a partnership problem solving model developed and delivered to increase community safety.

Abbey Walk Car Park

MacDonalds

Freshney Place

The Elms

The Abbey walk car park has recently had a structural change to design out the crimes and ASB and now youth services are working with heritage services in NELC to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment to change the appearance internally by contracting a graffiti artist to work alongside the young people to again design this out.

In the coming months, major redevelopment works will commence in the town centre, in conjunction with the town centre property project which is engaging property owners to bring town centre properties up to a good standard of repair. To give town centre businesses confidence that community pride and ownership is improving, there is a lot of work to be done to address ASB issues. In addition, the Onside Youth Zone, once complete, will offer town centre activities to young people, and there are youngsters who need support to be ready to take advantage of such facilities without being disruptive to others.

An idea to create a pilot pop-up youth hub in the town centre, where the Young and Safe Street team and GRAFT (exploitation services) could be based has been developing, and we have been working with the team to identify a suitable premises.

The unit which has been identified as most suitable, is 5-7 Osborne Street, Grimsby, a central location, strategically positioned between the locations above, and large enough to provide consultation rooms, activity space, and staff offices.

There is still appetite to pursue alternative funding to develop the transportation hub, and utilising this building for existing NELC staff to deliver this project on a temporary basis would not prevent the progression of a planning application for such a development.

There would be a small revenue saving to the council of c£14,000 for business rates, repairs and maintenance, and utility standing charges, as these would be financed through the project.

Once fully costed, the project team intend to submit funding bids to the Community Safety Partnership, Activation Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund to resource 100% of the additional costs for refurbishment and running costs and are confident that it fits within the priorities of each funding stream. It is expected that in total, costs will be in the region of £70,000 over an 18-month project lifespan.

2. Is it a Key Decision as defined in the Constitution?

No

3. Details of Decision

1. That the Executive Director for Environment, Economy, and Resources (Now Executive Director Place and Resources), in consultation with the Leader of the Council:

a. Approve utilising 5-7 Osborne Street, Grimsby for NELC staff to deliver a temporary youth hub to support youngsters and address town centre anti-social behaviour.

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)

Young people will benefit by being provided with somewhere safe to go and something positive to do and will therefore be less likely to become involved in criminal activity. This will lead to the town centre being a safer place to visit, improve footfall and public perception and give businesses more incentive to invest.

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

We could choose not to pilot this scheme. However, there is rising pressure from the local business community to find solutions to ASB, particularly from groups of youths, within the town centre. In addition, works to regenerate the town centre are commencing, along with positive place messaging, and ASB will undermine this. As a 100% grant funded project, there would be no additional resource required from the council.

7. Background documents considered

None

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)

N/A

10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer)

The decision being taken is appropriate for a matter of this type. It is a low risk proactive approach, which aligns to both the Council's priorities and schemes being undertaken in the Town Centre.

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

Progress of the proposal will depend on whether bids for external funding are successful and in order to cover the estimated £70k cost over the pilot period.

12. Human Resource Comments (Strategic Workforce Lead or nominee)

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

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

There is a risk that the project will be unsuccessful and that youth ASB will not reduce. However, this is a risk worth taking, and shows the council is being proactive in its approach to finding alternative ways of supporting vulnerable young people and addressing the problem of crime and ASB in the town centre.

There is a risk that funding will not be approved, and the project will not be able to proceed. However, all the funding streams are local initiatives linked to delivering local need and the project fits with the eligibility criteria for all.

There is also a risk that a funding opportunity arises for the Transportation Hub during the lifetime of the pilot. We are confident that due to the timescales of grant bids, this would not be detrimental, and the necessary plans and approvals for the scheme could continue but would seek to locate alternative premises if needed.

14. Decision Maker(s):

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director Place and Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 02/08/2023

15. Consultation carried out with Portfolio Holder(s):

Name: Councillor Philip Jackson

Title, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing Name:

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 3rd August 2023