



Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

1. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

To provide a capital grant of £200,000 to enable Phase 2 of Projekt Renewable Group (previously known as Grimsby Renewables Exploratorium, utilising an element of the Town Fund monies awarded to North East Lincolnshire Council, which was approved at Cabinet on 16th June 2021. PR is a Community Interest Company (CIC) , with Trustees including experts in the fields of modular construction and events/visitor attractions.

Strategic Objectives and Phase 1 delivery:

Phase 1 of PRG has already delivered a new educational and cultural facility situated at Alexandra Dock, adjacent to the Fishing Heritage Centre, which has been funded by a combination of private sponsorship and public grant funding. The scheme showcase both the technological & environmental achievements of North East Lincolnshire's burgeoning Low Carbon & Renewables sector and promote the various career opportunities available within it. The aim is to inspire young minds, the local community, and visitors of the opportunities being created by the Low Carbon & Renewables sector, within a visible town centre location.

Phase 1 has successfully engaged with a range of private sector renewable energy companies located in the Humber region. Deliverables that are now actively on the ground including:

- a. Podcast
- b. Sector specific meeting & workshop hosting
- c. Event hosting & coordination for Alexandra Dock
- d. Cultural & arts activities

Delivery of Phase 1 was made possible based on a combination of grant and private sponsorship in the form of cash funding, sponsorship & benefit in kind such as donation of entire podcast studio equipment, donation of workable solar panel infrastructure & installation, sponsorship of RWE Virtual Reality equipment, sponsorship of MyEnergi EV demo equipment and support of local businesses with donations of fixtures & fittings. The project is not reliable on public funding for its operation.

Phase 2 ambitions:

Phase 2 aim to address the evidence gathered on the ground from Phase 1 and work with the wider Towns Funded Connectivity Scheme. This will primarily focus on activating the Heritage Car Park & surrounding area. Currently the site is well hidden & primarily only used a walk-through for Sainsburys. This has become problematic in the evenings in particular & evident in the vandalism encountered at PRG.

The proposed Town Fund grant funding will be dedicated on x3 distinct deliverables that we believe will help to start to generate unique & increases visitor footfall, dwell-time & help enable positive community use & ownership of the Alexandra Dock. The £200k will be allocated as follows:

- a. The PRG Café £50k + VAT
- b. The PRG Jetty £125k + VAT
- c. Start to refurb the bandstand £25k + VAT

Building on the initial interest of Patron & Private Sector engagement of Phase 1 we have seen a significant uplift in tangible requests to be formally involved incl. support & sponsorship. The Phase 2 Private Sector funding round has been closed in order to set complete delivery budgets & lead-times, resulting in Phase 3 already in planning with credible private funding of at least 200k already secured. Current

committed contributors include CATCH, Crown Estates, NSPCC, RWE and MyEnergy.

2. Decision being taken

To award a grant of £200,000 to Projekt Renewable CIC to support the development of the GRE facility on Alexandra Dock.

An initial amount of £100,000 would be released immediately to support professional fees expended on design and planning.

The remaining £100,000 would be released using a phased approach once key milestones have been achieved by PRG regarding phase 2 of the development of the Alexandra Dock facility. Agreement regarding achievement of the milestones would be provided by senior Council Officers, including the Monitoring Officer. The grant would be allocated from the Council's existing Towns Fund grant.

3. 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

4. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

The PRG development will provide an opportunity to create a learning experience for children and young people across North East Lincolnshire and further afield via digital learning opportunities emanating from it. The additional work in Phase 2 will activate the area around Fishing and Heritage Centre and complement the Towns Fund connectivity scheme.

PRG will also enhance the links between industry and education within North East Lincolnshire, providing an exciting, visual, and stimulating learning experience that will:

- promote the scientific and environmental technologies within the low carbon & renewables sector within North East Lincolnshire; and,

- enhance the area's careers, skills advice and guidance opportunities, arising from the sector.

In addition, the PRG will supplement the Council's wider ambition for Grimsby town centre, including the Towns Fund projects underway, or about to commence. PRG would enhance the existing Alexandra Dock area of Grimsby town centre and aligns with the Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan for the dock, by creating: more diverse uses into the town centre; reconnecting the town centre with the waterfront; promoting and support community ownership & participation; and enhancing opportunities for employment, skills and enterprise.

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

The alternative option is not to provide a grant to PRG.

This has been rejected because without the Council's contribution, PRG would not be able to achieve its ambition to create a facility and activation that will support the area, its industry, and young people.

6. Background documents considered (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

Cabinet Report – Towns Fund – 16th June 2021

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

No.

8. 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

9. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)

The award of the grant is consistent with the will of Cabinet and delegations. It is also in line with the overall Town Investment Plan and aligns with other town centre

projects, contributing to the Council's priorities. The funding terms suggested are sensible for a grant of this nature.

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

The capital grant will be funded entirely from the Council's Town Fund allocation so there is no direct impact upon the Council's revenue position.

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

There are no direct HR implications

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

The risks associated with this project are:

- planning permission not permitted
- private sector support & funding not secured
- development not viable

The key personnel behind the PRG are experienced in the development of modular build schemes and activities such as that proposed within this document.

Consequently, they have produced a full planning application based on their previous experience and submitted this for consideration. Early-stage discussions with NELC planners hasn't caused any fundamental concerns with the scheme, but further consultation, etc, will ensue, as per the normal process. However, given the staged payment proposed above, even should planning permission not be permitted, the Council's funding allocation would not be at risk.

The PRG team has carried out extensive engagement with key private sector organisations across the North East Lincolnshire area and secured backing accordingly. The support offered to PRG includes financial backing (sponsorship & patronage), gifting of equipment to put in the PRG, and in-kind support. PRG has secured sufficient support (alongside the NELC grant) to develop Phase 2 as outlined in this report.

As outlined above, the key personnel behind the PRG are experienced in the development of schemes such as this, having developed a variety of facilities across

the UK. Consequently, a business plan and cost estimate has been produced for the GRE, based on this experience and extensive knowledge of the supply chain involved in the development, which shows it's viability.

In addition, to cost viability, the consultation conducted with industry, alongside engagement with organisations that support young people, has indicated that the concept is viable. Further consultation will ensue as the facility is developed and feedback will be sought when operational, to ensure the content of the GRE remains valued.

13. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?

Town Deal – Cabinet – 1st June 2021

14. Decision Maker(s):

Name: Carolina Borgstrom

Title: Director of Economy,
Environment and Infrastructure

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 12/2/2023

Name: Cllr Philip Jackson

Title: Leader

15. Consultation carried out with Leader of the Council :

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 4th December 2023

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

Name:

Title:

Signed:

Dated: