



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

Grimsby was included by government in the Long Term Plan for Towns (LTPFT) programme in September 2023. This was not pursuant to a competitive process. A requirement of the LTPFT is the submission of an Investment Plan and Vision by August 2024 that has been subject to community and business engagement. Whilst this is not a key decision it could unlock up to £20m of funding for Grimsby over a ten year period and this ODR seeks to capture and record the first step in the process to creating the required Investment Plan and Vision.

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

In September 2023, HM Government confirmed that Grimsby was one of 55 towns identified to benefit from £20m of endowment style funding (approximately 75% capital and 25% revenue) over a 10-year period as part of the Long Term Plan for Towns. Overseen by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLHUC) the initiative is designed to drive ambitious plans to regenerate Towns around 3 key themes, namely:-

- Safety & Security
- High Streets, Heritage & Regeneration
- Transport & Connectivity

Local areas are required to:-

- Establish a Town Board to bring together community leaders, employers, local authorities, and the local MP to oversee and deliver the Long-Term Plan by the 1st April 2024. (completed)
- Develop a three year Investment Plan and 10 year vision to invest in and regenerate their town, developed with and based on the priorities of local people, and put to local people for consultation.

In terms of the final bullet point, the Council has considered the options for developing these items including:

- Undertaking the work internally
- Engaging the Town Centre focused 2025 Group or other local providers
- Commissioning external support

The first two were discounted due to resourcing availability and the timeframe set by DLUHC to deliver. Moreover, the 2025 Group is made up largely of town centre stakeholders who all have day jobs. However, they have a clear role in terms of both being engaged but also, having some oversight of the development of the two documents given its role representing key stakeholders.

The potential for external support requires an organisation that can demonstrate significant reach into the community and value for money. This is both to ensure the development of credible documents and also provide economic, efficient and effective delivery ensuring, so far as possible, genuine and credible community buy-in and ownership has taken place. Our Future has developed some deep relationships with elements of our community and as a local organisation, is well placed to be seen as credible when engaging. In addition to this, work needs to commence as soon as possible and then at some significant pace if the engagement is to be accepted as 'real'. On this basis and subject to the commission being under £100k, the Director, as budget holder, is satisfied a direct award is appropriate in the circumstances as there are no other local organisations that could undertake the work.

This will enable the Council and Greater Grimsby Board to meet the requirements ahead of the 1st August deadline to submit a three year investment plan and 10 year vision around the themes of:-

- Safety & Security
- High Streets, Heritage & Regeneration
- Transport & Connectivity

3. Decision being taken

That the Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, directly appoints “Our Future” to undertake the development of the ten year vision and three investment plan in agreement with the Greater Grimsby Board.

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.**

This decision is urgent in order to mobilise the provider in order for them to deliver against the timelines set out in their proposal ahead of the 1st August 2024 submission to DLUHC.

5. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

As set out in the proposal “Our Future” will work with local stakeholders develop a programme of work around six modules to:-

- Engage and mobilise citizens
- Consolidate and share what we already know
- Create a vision
- Prioritise
- Develop fund concepts with other partners
- Develop and share output

This will enable an informed three year investment plan and 10 year vision to be formulated as part of the requirement from DLUHC ahead of the 1st August deadline which in turn paves the way to unlock the £20m worth of endowment funding.

6. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision (this should be similar to original cabinet decision)

Due to the tight timescales as set out by DLUHC it has not been possible to utilise Yor-Tender, nor explore the market informally for alternative providers as the process would not allow sufficient time to then undertake the work and submit the three year investment plan and 10 year vision ahead on the 1st August deadline.

7. Background documents considered (web links to be included and copies of documents provided for publishing)

Long-Term Plan for Towns Guidance: guidance for local authorities and boards

[Long-Term Plan for Towns: guidance for local authorities and Town Boards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/Long-Term-Plan-for-Towns-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-Town-Boards-GOV.UK.pdf)



Long Term Plan for
Towns Draft Proposal

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 conflict of interest declared.

10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules permit exceptions to stated process where certain conditions exist.

In this case:

Where there is only one potential supplier of the required supplies, services or works due to market factors and/or service exigency.

Where exceptionally it is not expedient to undertake an open process below £100k.

Where there are other exceptional circumstances.

Where the value of the proposed contract is less than £100k, it is the discretion and decision of the Director to invoke the use of the exceptions.

Exceptions should be used sparingly and should not be seen to circumvent market engagement however informal.

The issues around Central Government making allocations and enforcing limited timeframes for compliance are well rehearsed, and unhelpful, given the Council's commitment to open and transparent governance. This therefore usually necessitates taking advantage of exceptional (but lawfully and constitutionally permitted) governance routes.

Given the scale of this program a Cabinet decision and appropriate delegations will be required to cover off activity leading to the anticipated submission in August 2024.

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

The three year Investment Plan and 10 year vision will be funded from DLUHC capacity funding previously allocated to the Council. The development of the plan will unlock £20M worth of endowment funding over the next 10 years.

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)

As part of the contract award the provider will be required to consider the Equalities Act 2010, Strategic environmental issues and GDPR. Wider considerations around reputational impact have also been considered, with a conclusion that the timeframe imposed by DLUHC justifies the Council on behalf of the Greater Grimsby Board appointing a direct award.

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

No

15. Decision Maker(s):

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director, Place & Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 02/04/2024

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

Name: Cllr Philip Jackson

Title: Leader of the Council

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 3rd April 2024

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

Name: Cllr Oliver Freeston

Title: Chair Economy Scrutiny Panel

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 8th April 2024

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.