



CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 16th January 2025

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on the 15th January 2025 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 Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors Cracknell, Dawkins, Harness, Hudson, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

DN.60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence were received for this meeting.

DN.61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dawkins declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item DN.65 due to his spouse being employed by Equans and left the meeting during the agenda item.

DN.62 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 11th December 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

DN.63 KASBAH REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills seeking approval for the proposal for the Council to act as Accountable

Body for the Historic England grants and agrees to take receipt of the funds

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the proposal for the Council to act as Accountable Body for the Historic England grants in connection with the PSiCA programme and authorises receipt of funds be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be delegated authority to implement the PSiCA programme as set out, to finalise the project appraisal, approval and claims processes for the award of grants to third party property leaseholders, and to carry out all actions reasonably arising.**
- 3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to identify and secure, where possible, subject to extant internal governance measures, further external funding to support delivery of the Kasbah Regeneration Programme.**
- 4. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute all documents arising.**

REASON FOR DECISION – Acceptance of funds from Historic England and ABP, and accountable body status for the delivery of a new Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas (PSiCA) programme as part of a wider, ABP-led regeneration programme for the Kasbah Conservation Area, will make a significant contribution to the achievement of economic, community and health and wellbeing outcomes.

The new PSiCA scheme will support additional businesses and not-for-profit community organisations to set up work spaces, generating employment opportunities whilst also supporting and safeguarding jobs in the construction industry, and helping to create a high-quality environment to work in.

The economic re-use of heritage assets will contribute to a low carbon North East Lincolnshire by utilizing their embodied energy, rather than replacement with new buildings, and the programme will also support and sustain specialist heritage construction skills, seeking opportunities to make use of apprenticeship and training opportunities where possible.

Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires the Council to formulate and publish proposals for

the preservation and enhancement of Conservation Areas, and the new PSiCA will facilitate this. The PSiCA programme will support the conservation and economic re-use of heritage assets within the Kasbah Conservation Area. The provision of grant support to businesses and not-for-profit organisations will de-risk and stimulate private investment in the restoration and re-use of further historic properties in the area.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Option 1 – Take no action.

The Council could choose not to accept the funding, and thereby not support the Kasbah Regeneration Programme. This would mean that the buildings will continue to deteriorate, the Conservation Area will remain on the National Heritage at Risk Register, and the cost of repair will continue to escalate leading to higher repair bills in the future. Due to the poor condition of many of the buildings it is likely that many of them will, without intervention, deteriorate to a point where they become unsafe and the damage to their significance, the Conservation Area and the Borough's fishing heritage would be irreversible. This would cause further reputational damage to the Council and partners.

The NELC / HE / ABP strategic partnership was developed due to the previous Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas. Through this, an ABP-funded programme of urgent works to 12 priority buildings has been agreed, and ABP are also preparing a long-term strategy and investment plan, in close consultation with NELC and HE. Without a new PSiCA scheme, the partnership is put at risk, and without some public investment to help bridge the conservation deficit viability gap for new leaseholders, it is unlikely that the proposed regeneration programme would be delivered.

Option 2 – Statutory Action

The Council could require ABP to carry out work to the buildings using its statutory powers set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. However, the Council, Historic England, and colleagues at ABP would prefer to work in partnership to improve and enhance the area. This has already been successful in delivering the previous PSiCA scheme, and in developing a new strategy for the area under ABP's leadership. Statutory action is not, therefore, the preferred option, although this remains available to us if progress is not maintained.

Option 3 – New PSiCA and Capacity Funding

This is the preferred option, which involves a follow-on PSiCA scheme, and continuation of a dedicated project manager to deliver the scheme and to support the development of further heritage-led regeneration

projects. This option forms part of, and indeed enables, a wider regeneration programme for the Kasbah area. This option is most likely to result in premises being brought back into use, and as a result a long-term uplift in market conditions to stimulate further private investment in the area beyond the three-year lifespan of the PSiCA. This option will also leverage significant investment from ABP and will enable delivery partners and grant recipients to leverage additional investment from other funding bodies, the PSiCA being used as any necessary match funding.

This option will result in NNDR (business rate) uplift to the Council and the attraction of new investment and jobs. It is also the only one of the three options that will help to deliver the Council's Creativity Strategy in this area, the only option which will deliver the ambitions of the adopted Local Plan (2018) for the Kasbah Conservation Area, and the only option to fulfil the Council's duties under the 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of the Conservation Area.

DN.64 SPORTS ENGLAND PLACE EXPANSION FUNDING GRANT FUNDING

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy seeking acceptance of Sports England Place Expansion grant funding.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Sport England grant funding grant of £401,159 for the development of place expansion in North East Lincolnshire be accepted.**
- 2. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage, and the Visitor Economy be authorised to accept the funding and thereafter implement the proposed initiatives and to take all ancillary actions reasonably arising**
- 3. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute and complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.**

REASON FOR DECISION - To enable the Council to accept a grant funding award from Sport England to support the delivery of the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – There is the alternative option to do nothing and not accept the grant funding, however this may have a negative impact on wider health and wellbeing outcomes and limit the Council's ability to invest in sport and physical activity across North East Lincolnshire. It would also undermine the extensive work that has been put to developing a deeper relationship with Sport England.

DN.65 EQUANS REVIEW

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills asking Cabinet to note the progress made to date.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That progress made to date be noted**
- 2. That due to the assurance received, Cabinet reaffirmed the delegations already made in that the Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to continue to oversee the strategic and operational aspects in the implementation of the proposed delivery model.**

REASON FOR DECISION –

The proposed delivery model was set out in the closed appendix of the report to Cabinet on 14th February 2024. Since its approval by Members, officers have been working alongside Equan's senior leadership team to implement the decisions.

The report and appendix 1 (closed report) outlines the governance set up, progress made to date, the challenges and risks encountered and outlines the next steps.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – None – Cabinet requested an update report six months prior to contract expiry on 30 June 2025.