



## 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)

Grimsby town centre, using the boundary of the Masterplan but with a focus on the Victoria Street area between Riverhead Square and St James Square, was selected as one of 10 pilot streets for the High Street Accelerator Fund in September 2023, with an allocation of £237,000 to deliver community led interventions to improve an identified High Street by 31 March 2025. An ODR in October 2023 sought approval to take part in the scheme and to put forward Victoria Street as the selected High Street.

The High Street Accelerator partnership was formed utilising the existing and very successful independently led 2025 Group, with additional members included (police, VCSE, and Freshney place representative). A vision for Victoria Street, based on consultation already taking place through the 2025 Group with town centre businesses and communities was created.

In April 2024, the Partnership was allocated £500,000 (£450,000 capital and £50,000 revenue) through the Green Spaces fund which was only available only to High Street Accelerators. Projects must be predominantly for plant life and greenery e.g., the creation of pocket parks or parklets, green walls or spaces, hanging baskets, etc. However, capital enhancement interventions such as lighting can be incorporated to

enhance the overall street scene. This must also be spent and completed by 31 March 2025.

A full business case was approved at Business Development Group in May 2024 outlining the three priority interventions the Partnership have identified following a public workshop and consultation with town centre businesses.

1. Safety and security
2. Regular small-scale activities
3. Creating a more inviting street scene through lighting and creative planting.

Priorities 1 & 2 are being progressed through the High Street Accelerator Fund and subject to a separate ODR.

Priority 3 is divided into two parts, planting and a proposed lighting scheme. This ODR seeks approval to progress the lighting scheme through the Green Spaces Fund.

The proposed lighting scheme will deliver festoon 'string' type lighting along the pedestrianised areas around Victoria Street and Old Market place. It will have provision for extending into the new public realm area created as part of the leisure scheme and will provide all year-round lighting with colour changing options.

Equans have been appointed to secure quotes on behalf of the High Street Accelerator Partnership and 5 organisations were invited to tender for the works, including several local companies. As Victoria Street is a highway, a requirement is that the installer must be part of the Highway Electrical Authority sector scheme 8 (NHSS8). This scheme has been developed to highlight the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 that apply directly to the highway electrical sector.

Two formal quotes were submitted, both including £10,000 contingency.

Equans professional advice is that the Studiotech quote offers the best from both a pricing and quality perspective and having consulted with the Partnership they recommend we instruct Equans to award the contract to Studiotech, with a request for installation in January 2025.

## **2. Decision being taken**

That the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council approve defrayal of £123,000 capital grant funding awarded to deliver the High Street Accelerator pilot, specifically the lighting scheme for Victoria Street.

### **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

The High Street Accelerator programme is a pilot which builds on the work previously done through the High Streets Task Force (HSTF) 'Unlocking Your Potential' scheme which resulted in a Grimsby Town Centre Action Plan, and the hugely successful 2025 Group which aims to bring businesses, community groups, and residents together to be proactive in positive messaging about the regeneration of Grimsby town centre.

These funds provide revenue and capital funding for several interventions which will support and build on current activities, resulting in a long-term vision for the town. This in turn will inform the refresh of the Grimsby Masterplan and provide advance activity to support delivery of the Long-Term Plan for Towns programme.

### **4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

The High Street Accelerator and Green Spaces Fund are ring fenced to activities in one chosen high street and must be utilised for specific interventions to revive and regenerate the high street. The priorities deliver the outputs chosen by the community as those which will have the biggest positive impact on Victoria Street. Lighting, specifically festoon 'string' type lighting which draws the eye up and is all year round, was one of the most asked for interventions during the consultation. Other, more modern options were proposed but it was not felt these would deliver the same impact.

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

None

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

No

**7. 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

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

This is an operational decision and clearly within the constitutional remit of the named Director, following on from the previous ODR seeking approval to take part in the scheme.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The costs of the proposed lighting scheme is to be met from the Green Spaces Fund grant allocation.

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

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

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

There is a risk that if the projects are not delivered by the end date of 31 March 2025, the grants will be clawed back.

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

N/A

**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director Place and Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 22.11.24

**14. Consultation carried out with Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Councillor Phillip Jackson

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

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024