

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the recent announcement from Government on the Future High Street Fund.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A full business case was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 31 July 2020, bidding for grant funding for Scunthorpe to build a mixed-use development on the former Scunthorpe Market Site as well as public realm Improvements to Church Square and Library Square and the delivery of meanwhile uses.
- 2.2 An additional clarification exercise was requested, which was submitted on 12 October 2020. The FHSF was oversubscribed, we were informed that we may not secure our full funding ask.
- 2.3 Government confirmed on 26 December 2020 that North Lincolnshire Council had received a provisional funding offer of £10,675,323.
- 2.4 We received an in-principle offer on 29 December 2020 from Government detailing the next steps.
- 2.5 The above funding offer is subject to updating the proposal to reflect the funding envelope, a revenue grant of £5,000 has been accepted to enable us to adapt our plans.
- 2.6 We are working to submit our revised plan before 26 February 2020 and will have a confirmed offer from Government by the end of March 2021.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Accept the funding allocation from Government to deliver our FHSF proposals.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Through the delivery of our FHSF proposal we will re-purpose and develop Scunthorpe Town Centre, embedding new projects in the history of the town and creating a bold statement to attract people to Scunthorpe in the present and future. It will give us the opportunity to make a 'big splash' intervention in Scunthorpe that will create a vibrant and engaging destination.
- 4.2 We will create a bespoke design connected to Scunthorpe, the design will create a space which will encourage investment and attract activity from residents, businesses and visitors alike. Public spaces will be transformed through the proposal. The innovation hub will be the beginning of a new diversified economy, providing workspace for a range of new businesses and building Scunthorpe's reputation in education, through a new student accommodation offer.
- 4.3 The proposal will deliver the following objectives and themes:

Objectives:

- **Connectivity** - to improve connectivity within the town centre and surrounding area.
- **Housing** - to support the development of housing in the town centre.
- **Employment** - to provide conditions to strengthen employment opportunities.
- **Quarters** - to create the conditions for prosperous quarters.
- **Quality** - to improve the quality of life for those living, working, and visiting the town centre.

The proposals will enable these objectives to be delivered and act as a key catalyst in the wider range of projects being undertaken across Scunthorpe.

The proposal is based upon the ambition in our Economic Growth and Council Plans whilst supporting projects that have already been completed.

The proposals will deliver four themes for change:

Stimulate development: Support and undertake key developments to instigate larger scale development by the private sector.

Higher Value Employment: Support and encourage the creation of higher value employment.

Diversify the offer: Increase the offer of the town centre, including leisure, education, social and employment opportunities to draw more visitors.

Densify the Town Centre: Increase the number of people living and working in the town centre to support the local economy.

4.5 The delivery of this proposal, alongside Towns Fund and Local Growth Fund, is creating a series of showpiece projects that are succinct with our ambitious plans for North Lincolnshire that can draw visitors from further afield and begin the journey of diversifying our economic future.

5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 The grant funding envelope offered to NLC is £10.67m, this is based on match funding of £1m Towns Fund (urban park) and £3m NLC Capital Programme (subject to approval).

5.2 The Council has funded site preparation on the site of the old market.

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 The project team will consider all issues in relation to the Environment, crime, disorder, and equalities through the development of the project. A risk assessment will be maintained for the project by the project lead.

6.2 The project will contribute to the Council's three priorities.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 An integrated impact assessment formed part of the submission to Government.

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Consultation on the FHSF project was undertaken through the formulation of the submission. Further consultation will take place with relevant stakeholders as the project continues to the next stage.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Cabinet welcomes the funding allocation of £10.67m from Government

- 9.2 That Cabinet receives a further update following confirmation of the revised funding offer in April 2020.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –