

Executive decision taken by Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder



Pro-forma for completion in respect of executive decisions taken by Leader of the Council or by an individual Cabinet portfolio holder.

Decision taken by:

Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council, following consultation with other Cabinet members.

Date of decision:

2 April 2020

Subject of report:

Newhaven Development and Regeneration

Exempt matter (if any as given under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972):

Appendices 1 to 3 to the report contain exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Key decision?:

Yes

Open summary of decision made:

- (1) To note the bid to the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF), the timescales and competitive nature of the funding process as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.
- (2) To note the co-funding already secured from the Council and key partners as shown at Appendix 2 to the report.
- (3) To agree the proposed FHSF co-funding identified at Appendix 3 to the report. This is subject to the Future High Streets Fund bid being successful.

- (4) To note the progress with a range of projects that are contributing positively to the Council's overall ambition to support the regeneration of Newhaven.
- (5) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration & Planning in the terms set out at Appendix 3 to the report, subject to:
 - a) consultation with the Lead Member for Regeneration and Prosperity and the Chief Finance Officer and
 - b) the FHSF bid being successful.

Reason(s) for decision:

- (1) Capital funding of the type being sought from the Future High Streets Fund requires co-funding from the bidding authority (and partners) to justify the level of intervention sought from Government.
- (2) There is a need to mobilise activities within the town centre to help address the declining footfall and high vacancy rates existing currently. This builds upon initial activation work to let existing vacant premises in Newhaven Square for new business uses.
- (3) Newhaven remains a regeneration priority for the Council, building upon Enterprise Zone designation and investment from a range of partners (including Local Enterprise Partnerships) over recent years.

Alternative options considered:

None

Was an executive councillor(s) consulted before decision was taken? If so, what was the result of this consultation?

Members of the Cabinet who were available (Councillors MacCleary, Bird, Collier, Meyer, O'Brien and O'Keeffe) met via video conference on 26 March 2020 to discuss the proposals set out in the Officer's report, and were supportive of the recommendations in the report. They asked that the following comments be taken into account:

- Whilst happy with the proposal to agree the proposed FHSF co-funding identified in Appendix 3, Cabinet members noted that circumstances had changed drastically since the date that this report was written and that it was not likely that these FHSF monies would be available as envisaged by the report. Cabinet members asked officers to bring a further report to Cabinet about this matter once the shape of any new funding is known.

Does the proposal involve any unplanned expenditure? If so, please confirm that you have consulted with the Chief Finance officer and include the date of consultation

No

Signed:

Cllr Zoe Nicholson

Leader of the Council