

Executive decision taken by Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder



Decision taken by:

Cllr James MacCleary, Leader of Lewes District Council

Date of decision:

21 August 2020

Subject of report:

UTC Newhaven

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

N/A

Key decision:

Yes

Open summary of decision made:

1. To note the successful submission to the Getting Building Fund for £1.3million, subject to presentation of full business case.
2. To commit the required match funding from Lewes District Council (£500k) as set out in Paragraph 2.4, and to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration & Planning to work with partners, including the Newhaven Enterprise Zone, to secure additional contributions as needed.

Reason(s) for decision:

The funding opportunity means that there is a significant time imperative to agree the match funding for the UTC. If approval for the scheme is sought through Cabinet (24 September), we would miss the deadline for submitting the Getting Building Fund bid to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). This may jeopardise the

funding allocation, as we would be unable to demonstrate that the full project funding has been secured.

The proposals also accord with Council policies and seek to regenerate a vacant, highly prominent and strategic building within Newhaven that will directly contribute to the Council's ongoing regeneration ambitions and the successful delivery of the Enterprise Zone.

Alternative options considered:

Given the timescale for the grant funding, there is a very limited range of alternative uses that could be delivered whilst meeting the value-for-money criteria set out in the Green Book. The building has been empty for around one year, and no viable alternative uses have been presented to the current leaseholder during this period. It is therefore considered that there are no realistic alternative options to meet the requirements of the Getting Building Fund.

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

This proposal has been developed in consultation with the Leader of the Council. Discussions around the future of the former UTC have also been held with Maria Caulfield MP, and discussed briefly at the Newhaven Town Deal Board meeting on 22 July. Further discussions have subsequently been held with Newhaven Port & Properties, to ensure that the proposed uses for the building do not impact negatively on the ferry service / port operations.

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

Yes, as set out in the report, there is a requirement to commit £500k of match funding from the Council as part of overall project costs. The Deputy Chief Financial Officer has been consulted and the Financial Appraisal (Section 7) of this report has been agreed.

Date of consultation: 19 August 2020

Signed: James MacCleary

Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder