

Report to: Policy and Performance Advisory Committee

Date: 26 January 2023

Title: Reimagining Newhaven Programme – Project Update

Exemption: None

Report of: Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning

Ward(s): All

Purpose of Cabinet report:

- (1) To provide an update on the progress of the Reimagining Newhaven Programme, including proposals for new health, leisure, and wellbeing services.
- (2) To enable the purchase of other vacant assets within Newhaven town centre to support the programme.
- (3) To accelerate investment into renewable energy solutions to support both the programme and wider sustainability strategy objectives for the district

Officer recommendations to the Cabinet

- (1) To note the progress of the Reimagining Newhaven Programme.
- (2) To approve a new budget of up to £2.5m to develop the proposals for 5-8 Newhaven Square as set out in Appendix 1 (Exempt).
- (3) To approve a new budget of up to £4m, additional to the existing co-funding, to develop the extended proposals for 10 Newhaven Square as set out in Appendix 1 (Exempt).
- (4) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance & Assets, Lead Member for Regeneration & Prosperity, and the Chief Finance Officer, to further the programme as follows including determining the terms of, and authorising the execution of, all related documentation:
 - to make allocations within the General Fund Capital Programme, subject to agreed terms, leases, and business cases;

- to acquire vacant / under-utilised commercial property up to £1m within Newhaven town centre using existing approved budgets, including negotiating terms, subject to a business case;
- to progress programme delivery including feasibility, procurement, professional appointments, development, and award of contracts;
- to make investment(s) of up to £250k in new renewable energy solutions, within existing approved sustainability budgets, to support the programme, also the wider objectives of the Council, including any opportunities for the acquisition of third party company shares, subject to a business case, further legal advice, and full due diligence;
- to take all necessary steps to conclude leases, including financing and negotiation.

(5) To waive compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in the event that the agreed rent for those leases exceeds £25,000 per annum for the reasons set out in this report.

Recommendations to the Committee The recommendations are detailed at 1.3 of this report

Reasons for recommendations to the Committee: To provide a critical friend challenge to the Cabinet decision and policy making process.

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1 Introduction

1.1 In its role as a provider of public scrutiny and as critical friend, the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee has a duty to provide a challenge to the executive decision and policy makers.

1.2 The Policy and Performance Advisory Committee is able to provide this challenge through the inclusion of the Council's Forward Plan of Decisions as a standing item on each of the Committee's agendas, allowing the Committee to request the inclusion of reports due for consideration by the Cabinet on its agenda and by asking that the relevant officers, heads of service or directors, attend the Committee meetings and discuss the content of the reports.

1.3 Following consideration of each item, where the Members will be able to ask questions of the relevant officers, heads of service, directors and other stakeholders, the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee will provide one of the following three recommendations to the Cabinet:

- 1) To support the recommendations in the report in full; or
- 2) To support the recommendation in the report subject to the consideration by the Cabinet of any amendments agreed by Committee; or
- 3) To not support the recommendations in the report and give reasons.

1.4 The Cabinet will be provided with the recommendations from the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee when it considers the main report.

2 Financial / Legal / Risk Management / Equality Analysis/ Environmental Sustainability Implications/ Background Papers

2.1 All implications are addressed in the Cabinet report attached at Appendix 1.

3 Appendices:

- **Reimagining Newhaven Programme – Project Update (and exempt appendix)**