



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 28th July 2022

CABINET

22nd June 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)
Councillors Cracknell, Furneaux, Harness, Shreeve and S Swinburn

Officers in attendance:

- Rob Walsh (Joint Chief Executive)
- Sharon Wroot (Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets) (Monitoring Officer)
- Michelle Lalor (Head of Communications and Customer)
- Laura Cowie (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)

There was one member of the press also in attendance.

CB.13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from this meeting was received from Councillor Shepherd.

CB.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regard to items on the agenda for this meeting.

CB.15 LEVELLING UP FUND

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing seeking approval to submit a bid for each constituency for the second round of Levelling Up Funding (LUF).

RESOLVED –

1. That the submission of three LUF bids, one for each constituency, Grimsby and Cleethorpes, plus a transport bid, to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy, and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and on behalf of the Greater Grimsby Board, to take all actions necessary, including:
 - 2.1 Formulation and submission of business cases together with responsibility to deal with any arising issues, clarifications sought and engagement with DLUHC or any other stakeholders.
 - 2.2 Acceptance of any successful grant funding award from the DLUHC.
 - 2.3 Defrayal of the grant and all ancillary activity in support and implementation of the above resolutions.

CB.16 FRESHNEY PLACE ACQUISITION AND INVESTMENT

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing seeking approval to acquire Freshney Place under the Future High Streets Fund award.

RESOLVED –

1. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to seek approval from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), for a project adjustment request to realign the residue of the £17.3m of Future High Streets Fund for the purposes set out in the report now submitted.
2. That the acquiring of Freshney Place be supported in principle and the matter be referred to Full Council for debate and ultimate decision, commending the following recommendations to Full Council:
 - a. That Cabinet be enabled without further formality to authorise the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to conclude negotiations with the Freshney Place receivers and their agents, and to acquire Freshney Place for market value as supported by independent advice.
 - b. That in the event of negotiations not concluding satisfactorily then Full Council supports the Cabinet decision to proceed via statutory compulsory purchase powers.

- c. Full Council accepts the vagaries of negotiation for an asset of this nature and agrees to the principle of any further special meeting of Full Council being called under the terms of the Constitution.
3. That, subject to the approval of Full Council to so acquire, authority be delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, with support from appropriate specialist external advice, to undertake and conclude negotiations with the Freshney Place receivers and their agents, and acquire Freshney Place.
4. That subject to the approval of Full Council to so acquire, and if negotiations to acquire Freshney Place do not conclude successfully, authority be delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to take all preliminary actions regarding the exercise of the Council's statutory compulsory purchase powers.
5. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to seek borrowing which would, in the Director's reasonable opinion, enable acquisition of Freshney Place and development of the proposed leisure scheme, subject to the retention of Future High Streets Fund monies.
6. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to commence a procurement exercise to appoint professional asset management, property management, and any other key professional appointments and to carry out all activity including award, implementation and mobilisation.
7. That authority and responsibility be delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to deal with all matters arising from and ancillary to the above.
8. That the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute all documentation arising from the above.
9. That the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources be instructed to update Cabinet by report in six months' time or within two months of the date of acquisition, whichever shall be the earlier and thereafter engage with the Economy Scrutiny Panel.

CB.17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be requested to leave on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose exempt information within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

CB.18 FRESHNEY PLACE ACQUISITION AND INVESTMENT

Cabinet considered an appendix to the report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing referred to at CB.16 above.

RESOLVED – That appendix to the report, pursuant to the decision at CB.16 above, be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.37 p.m.