

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Town Deal Programme Manager

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Finance

Recommendation

That Grant of £700k is transferred from Towns Fund X017 to the Capital budget Z787 for the Bedford Square Gateway Project by 31 March 2022. This is already included in the Capital Budget as part of the £1.7m Town Deal Fund.

Reason

To ensure that the Bedford Square Gateway Project receives grant funding approved by the Town Deal Board Delivery Sub Group for 2021/22

Authority for Decision

Officers with delegated authority are able to take such action as may in his/her opinion be necessary or appropriate in connection with all operational matters for those functions they are responsible for under Chapter 8 of the constitution. This by definition includes the Head of Finance.

Decision and Date 31/3/2022

Lesley Tansey

Background

The Loughborough Town Deal is a deal between Loughborough and Government to bring about a step change in outcomes for the town across thematic areas. A Town Deal Board and governance structure was established in 2020/21 and an Investment Plan was agreed and submitted to government in February 2021 seeking £25m in funding to deliver a programme of projects that will realise the town's vision. Government announced an award of £16.9m in June 2021 and in September 2021 they announced 5% of this award (£845k) could be used as capacity funding to support the programme.

In October 2021, the Loughborough Town Deal Board Delivery Sub Group resolved to approve the submission of the business cases for the first two of eleven projects including the Bedford Square Gateway Project. Government

has accepted the submissions and awarded grant of £700k to the Bedford Square Gateway Project as first payment for 2021/22.

As the Council is the accountable body for the Loughborough Towns Fund, a formal grant funding agreement is not necessary. Instead a Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared that set out the heads of terms by which the funding is awarded conditionally to the Council to deliver the project. This MOU is attached as an appendix.

Comments from HR

N/A

Financial Implications

The grant award can be met from the funds received from DLUCH for the Loughborough Towns Fund programme.

Risk Management

There are no significant risks arising from this decision.

Key Decision

No

Background Papers

DSG Report 15 October 2021

Appendix BSGP Heads of Terms

Project Name	Bedford Square Gateway
Project Description	<p>The Bedford Square Gateway project seeks to improve the public realm in Bedford Square, Ward's End and Devonshire Square. It aims to transform the area from a heavily car dominated environment to one that is more attractive, safer and gives greater priority to pedestrians, shoppers, visitors and residents thereby helping to increase footfall and improve overall trading conditions in the area.</p> <p>The project will create new open space to enable the area to host special events and activities and an expanded market. It will also provide increased opportunities for more outdoor seating areas particularly around pubs and cafes while at the same time retaining as much authorised on-street car parking as possible and keep the area open to traffic.</p> <p>The Bedford Square Gateway project comprises seven phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase A: Devonshire Square (East) • Phase B: Devonshire Square (West) and Devonshire Lane • Phase C: Ward's End (no.7 Ward's End to South Street) • Phase D: Bedford Square North and start of Ward's End to no.7b • Phase E: Ward's End (in vicinity of the Post Office) • Phase F: Bedford Square South • Phase G: Connectivity with the rest of the town centre. <p>The works have been partially complete. Town Deal funding for this project addresses/plugs the shortfall of £700k in funding the initial construction programme (Phases A to D) and enables delivery of the final design sections (Phases E & F) alongside additional measures that support delivery of wider objectives of the Town's Investment Plan (£1m).</p>
Grant Recipient	Charnwood Borough Council
Project Lead Contact Details	Sylvia Wright, Head of Leisure and Culture e. Sylvia.Wright@charnwood.gov.uk
Total Project Value	£3,610,000
TD Funding Awarded:	£1,776,000
Project: Capital Revenue	£1,700,000 nil

<p>Programme Management: Revenue</p> <p><i>(Stage 2 Annexe A-1 Financial Profile)</i></p>	<p>£76,000</p>																											
<p>Anticipated TD Project Grant Payments</p>	<p>£700,000 in FY 21/22 £700,000 in FY 22/23 £300,000 in FY 23/24</p> <p>The Grant payments will be paid subject to the receipt of funds provided by the government for the purpose of funding Loughborough Town Deal projects as selected by the Town Deal Board’s Delivery Sub-Group and the Authority’s Section 151 Officer and the Project Lead evidencing to the Town Deal Board’s satisfaction that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the spend is contributing towards the attainment of the key project milestones set out below the spend is contributing towards the attainment of the Required Outputs and Outcomes as set out below. 																											
<p>Key Project Milestones</p> <p><i>(from Stage 2 Business Case dated 30/09/21)</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Programme Stage</th> <th>Start</th> <th>Finish</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Design Stage Phases A to F</td> <td>October 2019</td> <td>December 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pre-construction Stage Phases A to F</td> <td>August 2020</td> <td>February 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction Stage Phases A to D</td> <td>February 2021</td> <td>March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pre-construction Stage Phases E and F</td> <td>September 2021</td> <td>January 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction Stage Phases E and F</td> <td>January 2022</td> <td>June 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post-construction Stage Phases A to F</td> <td>July 2022</td> <td>August 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development Stage Phase G</td> <td>December 2021</td> <td>July 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Implementation Stage Phase G</td> <td>July 2022</td> <td>September 2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Programme Stage	Start	Finish	Design Stage Phases A to F	October 2019	December 2020	Pre-construction Stage Phases A to F	August 2020	February 2021	Construction Stage Phases A to D	February 2021	March 2022	Pre-construction Stage Phases E and F	September 2021	January 2022	Construction Stage Phases E and F	January 2022	June 2022	Post-construction Stage Phases A to F	July 2022	August 2023	Development Stage Phase G	December 2021	July 2022	Implementation Stage Phase G	July 2022	September 2023
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<p>Required Project Outputs and Outcomes</p> <p><i>(TF Annexe 2 M&E Plan)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £ spent directly on project delivery (either local authority or implementation partners): £1,700,000 on project £ co-funding spent on project delivery (private and public): £1,910,000 £ co-funding committed (private and public): £1,910,000 # of temporary FT jobs supported during project implementation: 20 # of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs safeguarded through the projects: 240 % increase in regular market traders: 10% # additional cycling parking spaces created: 12 Amount of public realm improved: 6,800m² 																											

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % increase in retail sales and turnover in 3 years: 15% • % increase in rental and capital values by 3 years: 10% • % decrease in shop vacancy rates below the national average (8.9% at Jan 18) in 3 years: 3% • % increase in footfall over 3 years: 20% • % increase in utilisation of digital technologies by business and visitors to access and/or supply goods and services within 3 years of completion: 25%
<p>Monitoring Reporting Requirements/ Conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project Lead shall provide an operational monitoring report to the TD Programme Manager on the use of Grant funding and delivery of the Project every quarter throughout the delivery/ grant period and in a format to be agreed. • The operational monitoring report will include a financial report detailing the use of the Grant and delivery progress of the Project with reference to the Key Project Milestones • Where funding has been obtained from a third party (public and/or private) for delivery of part of the Project, the Project Lead shall include the amount of such funding in its quarterly financial reports together with details of what that funding has been used for. • The operational monitoring report shall include an up-to-date risk register, project plan and project budget as required. Health and safety of its staff shall be addressed in the risk register. • The operational monitoring report will be provided within two weeks of the last working day of the quarter to which it relates. • Any issues that may adversely impact on the project's budget, timescales and/or delivery of outputs and outcomes must be notified to the TD Programme Manager by the Project Lead within 5 working days. • The Project Lead shall provide a final report to the TD Programme Manager on completion of the funding period or the project, whichever is the sooner, which shall confirm whether the Project has been successfully and properly completed. • Beyond the completion of Stage G (Sept 2023), the Project Lead shall provide the TD Programme Manager with a report the frequency of which is to be agreed on the agreed outputs and outcomes detailed in this Heads of Terms document and in the Project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for 3 years following completion of the projection unless otherwise agreed by DLUHC.