

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF COUNCIL DECISION TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

Subject: Levelling Up Fund – former Market Hall and Windsor Street sites

Brief Statement of Subject Matter:

1. In November 2021, the government approved a £14,492,000 grant for Bromsgrove District Council from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The grant will support the redevelopment of the former Market Hall site and pre-development works (demolition and remediation) on the Windsor Street site to enable a future site redevelopment. Windsor Street site is owned by the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) and Worcestershire County Council (WCC). In addition, Bromsgrove District Council committed £1.610m in match funding, as required by the LUF programme.
2. In January 2022, the Cabinet approved the acquisition of the HWFRS site. A copy of the Cabinet Report is attached in Appendix 1. In March 2022, the WCC site became available for purchase. Its acquisition would give the council 100% control over the site and the future development options.
3. The funding allocation outlined above is sufficient to purchase the combined sites at a cost of £1.806 million and SDLT of £79,800 although the allocation of funding in respective financial years will need to be adjusted to enable the purchase to be completed by the end of March 2022. For the purposes of this decision the overall funding envelope remains unchanged it is merely the allocation in respective financial years and the consequential adjustment to the budget and capital programme that requires approval.
4. Members are therefore asked in this urgent decision to agree to reprofile the capital programme, so that £385,800 originally allocated for expenditure in 2022/23 can be brought forward for use in the 2021/22 financial year and that the consequential underspend in 2022/23 be similarly approved.

Decision:

The project requires Council approval to bring forward £385,800 of capital funding originally allocated to 2022/23 into 2021/22 to purchase the site. This will then result in an amended budgetary underspend in 2022/23.

Date: March 2022

RESOLVED:

Council RESOLVE that

The capital programme be amended, so that £385,800 of capital funding originally allocated to the 2022/23 financial year is brought forward into the 2021/22 financial year to enable the purchase of the site and the that the consequential underspend in 2022/23 be approved.

Grounds for Urgency:

The Levelling Up Fund grant allocated for the Windsor Street site acquisition must be spent by 31 March 2022.

DECISION APPROVED BY:

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Chief Executive

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Dated

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Section 151 Officer

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Dated

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Monitoring Officer

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Dated

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Leader

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Dated

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Chairman, Overview & Scrutiny Board

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Dated

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Chairman

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Dated