

1. **Towns Fund Accelerated Funding - Public Realm Scheme** (Pages 1 - 7)

CABINET MEMBERS DELEGATED DECISION

Open		Would any decisions proposed:		
Any especially affected Wards	Mandatory/	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	YES/NO	
	Discretionary /	Need to be recommendations to Council	YES/NO	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision	YES/NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Graham Middleton E-mail: cllr.graham.middleton@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds		
		Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Jemma Curtis E-mail: jemma.curtis@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Officers consulted:		
Financial Implications YES/NO	Policy/Personnel Implications YES/NO	Statutory Implications YES/NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES/NO
If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s)				
Date meeting advertised: 17 th December 2020		Date of meeting decision to be taken: 4 th January 2021		
Deadline for Call-In: 11 th January 2021				

TOWNS FUND ACCELERATED FUNDING – PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Summary

The Council received £750,000 in September 2020 from the Towns Fund Accelerated Fund to provide immediate support to towns who have been earmarked for a Town Deal. The requirements of the funding specified that projects must be aligned with the Towns Fund intervention framework and be spent by 31 March 2021. The Town Deal Board and Cabinet agreed that the funding should be spent on the School of Nursing (£597,000) and town centre public realm (£153,000) which was subsequently approved by Government. Work has progressed to develop the proposals for the public realm element using the available funding and this report seeks approval to proceed with a scheme for the High Street.

Recommendation

1. Approve the scheme to enhance the High Street as proposed in appendix 1
2. Delegated authority to Assistant Director, Regeneration, Housing & Place to progress delivery of the scheme and complete necessary procurement and legal arrangements.

Reason for Decision

To support the enhancement and attractiveness of the town centre in line with the priorities set out in the Town Investment Plan and ensure project delivery within the timeframes set out in the Towns Fund Accelerated Funding.

Background

On 1st July the Council received a letter from MHCLG offering those locations, which had been identified for Town Deals, a grant to fund capital projects that can be delivered by 31st March 2021. King's Lynn was offered £750,000 to support capital spend within the Towns Fund Intervention Framework. This is in addition to the £25m already allocated for Town Deals.

The schemes submitted from the agreed long list of priority projects and approved by ministers were the School of Nursing and Town Centre Public Realm. The accelerated funding for these projects was confirmed by government on 25th September under Section 31 (Power to pay grant) of the Local Government Act 2003.

A Public Realm Action Plan has been commissioned to inform the development of a new spatial strategy for the historic town centre in King's Lynn to coordinate immediate and future investment and provide design guidance for public realm interventions to support the repurposing and economic recovery of the town centre. The Action Plan will be a key component of the spatial plan for the King's Lynn Town Investment Plan (TIP). In parallel with this work, options and consideration to immediate public realm improvements have been identified to utilise the accelerated funding.

Options Considered

As part of the development of the Public Realm Action Plan, a variety of public realm interventions and concept schemes have been developed on key routes through the town centre. The options also took into consideration feedback received from stakeholder and business engagement which was undertaken in the development of the Town Investment Plan. A number of the concepts and options were discussed with key stakeholders including the Environment Agency (in relation to South Quay) and Norfolk County Council highways on what would be deliverable and achievable in the time frame.

As a result, the scheme identified for delivery with the immediate funding available is proposed to be focused on the High Street (appendix 1) to include new surfacing, seating, planting, streetlighting and power supplied for pop up stalls. The cost estimate prior to tendering for a contractor is circa £150,000 within the available funding.

Subject to the final costings being confirmed there may be scope to widen the extent of planting, seating and new signage to other areas of the town on key routes identified in the emerging Public Realm Action Plan which can be funded by the financial support received by the Norfolk Tourism Support Package.

Policy Implications

The proposal for the submission is in line with the Corporate Business Plan objective to protect, promote and enhance the borough's natural and built environment and maintain accessible, clean, pleasant and safe public places and communities.

The proposal is also in line with the Town Investment Plan endorsed by the Council in October 2020 and the priority to support repurposing and renewal of the town centre.

Financial Implications

None - the scheme is fully funded by the Towns Fund Accelerated Funding received by the Council in September 2020.

The scheme cost estimate has been based on previous rates from the Saturday Market Place project with allowances for inflation etc. The intention at this stage is the work will be tendered through a NCC highway approved contractor in early January 2021. If the tendered scheme cost is higher than estimated this may require additional funding from the tourism support package grant or an option to scale the project back to within the funds available.

Personnel Implications

None

Statutory Considerations

None

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

N/A

Risk Management Implications

Procurement - Officers are working at pace to deliver the public realm scheme for in order to meet the funding timeframes. The lead times for the surfacing materials are circa 8-10 weeks so it will be necessary for the Council to order the long lead times items ahead of a contractor appointment in order to facilitate as earliest delivery of the project as possible.

PR/Reputation – the council is mindful of the impact the pandemic has had on the town centre. The works are expected to take 2-3 weeks to complete and will require appropriate level of communications and engagement with businesses by the appointed contractor to minimise any impact on their business. The requirement from the funding perspective to spend by 31st March 2021 would also ensure the impact on the town centre is minimised before any potential events i.e. GEAR and main visitors season, should the pandemic restrictions be eased by then.

Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

Background Papers

High Street enhancements concept (appendix 1)
Towns Fund Accelerated Funding Cabinet Report, 19th August 2020

Signed:.....

Cabinet Member for:..... Date:.....

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function					
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?		New / Existing (delete as appropriate)			
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations					
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age				
	Disability				
	Gender				
	Gender Re-assignment				
	Marriage/civil partnership				
	Pregnancy & maternity				
	Race				
	Religion or belief				
	Sexual orientation				
Other (e.g low income)					
Question	Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	Yes / No				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	Yes / No				
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	Yes / No				
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	Yes / No	Actions:			
		Actions agreed by EWG member			

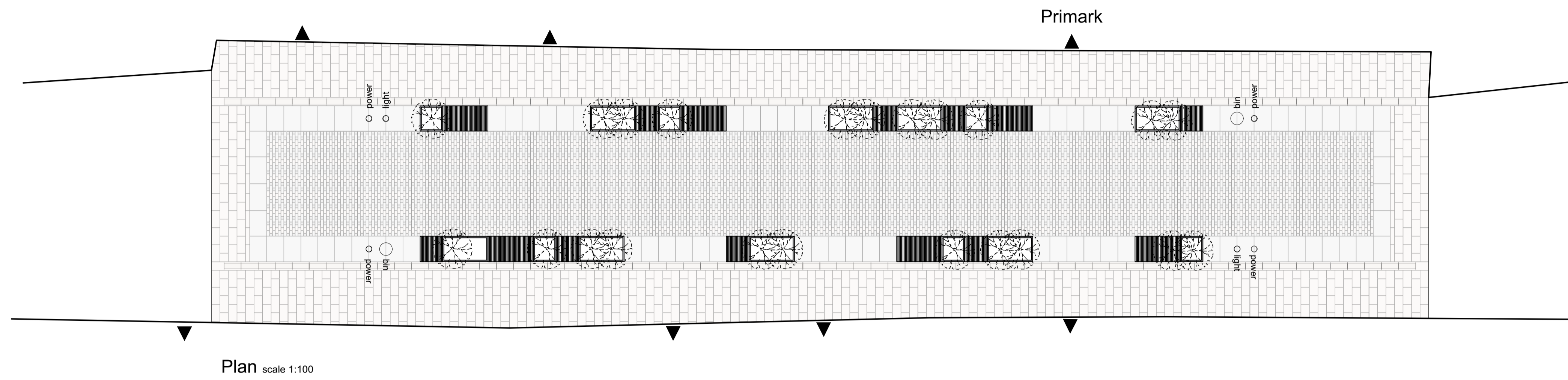
Assessment completed by: Name	
Job title	Date

Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.

Notes:

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Job Title:
King's Lynn Public Realm

Client:
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Drawing Title:
High Street Layout
Drawing Status:
Information

Drawing Number:
2019-001

Scale: 1:100@A1 Date: 23.11.20 Drawn: Checked: -

Revision: