



Please read guidance note before completing

Officer Decision/Mayoral Decision No.:	MDN23-2020
DECISION TITLE:	
St Neots Market Towns Funding Application	
NAME OF OFFICER/MAYOR EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS:	
Mayor James Palmer	
DATE OF MAYORAL DECISION: 27/07/2020	

Responsible Director/Mayor:	Mayor James Palmer
Report Author and contact details:	Domenico Cirillo, Business Programmes Manager
Is it a key decision?	YES
All reports will be published on the CA website. Does your report include exempt or confidential information?	YES Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
KEY DECISIONS ONLY	
Insert forward plan ref number	Key Decision No: 2020/041
Date when Mayor intend to make decision.	27/07/2020
Date report published on the website	27/07/2020
Implementation Date	Initially an offer letter will be sent to HDC, funding release date is TBC.
Does the report have any annex that contains exempt information?	YES Appendix 1 – Market Towns Funding Application for St Neots.

Decision taken	<i>Please provide the exact details of the decision taken.</i> The Mayor, in consultation with the CA Board, approved the funding application received from Huntingdonshire District Council requesting £3.1m under the CPCA's Market Towns Programme, as match funding towards the FHSF bid for St Neots.
Authorisation (delete as	<i>This decision has been taken under:</i>




<p><i>appropriate)</i></p>	<p>Powers of the Mayor -Chapter 3</p> <p>1.5.2 The Mayor may otherwise individually exercise a general power of competence to do anything that the Combined Authority may do subject to the restrictions which apply to the exercise of that power and after having due regard to advice from the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officers.</p>
<p>Background Information</p>	<p>On 27 June 2018, the CA Board were asked to approve the St Neots Market Towns Masterplan and several direct investments in St Neots of which the St Neots Great Ouse Northern Crossing Cycle bridge was one. The CA Board agreed a contribution of £3.1m (£2.5m for the construction of the bridge and £600,000 for the footway improvements to the riverside area) to support the construction of a new foot and cycle bridge in St Neots town centre, alongside improvements to the riverside area.</p> <p>On 29 April 2020, a paper was taken to CA Board to summarise work to date on the St Neots Foot and Cycle Bridge and Regatta Meadows, confirmed that the projected construction costs for the project exceeded the allocated budget and sought the agreement of the CA Board that the scheme should not proceed as it no longer met the requirements for Value for Money set out in the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework. The CA Board agreed that the £3.1m CPCA funding allocated to that project be re-allocated to projects to support delivery of the St Neots Masterplan, and to recycle the market town investment back into St Neots through the Investment Prospectus process.</p> <p>Securing £3.1m of grant funding from the CPCA Market Towns Programme as match to FHSF bid will help to leverage in over £9m of funding from other sources, primarily the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).</p> <p>The CPCA funding will play an integral role in helping the FHSF Programme deliver core elements of the St Neots Masterplan for Growth. Proposals were developed through collaboration with the Masterplan Steering Group, including working group sub-groups, to design solutions that best complement the town's short/medium/long term aspirations. Enhanced urban realm and a more attractive town centre will create a solid foundation for future delivery of further Masterplan objectives. Proposals were also developed through collaboration with the Cambridgeshire County Council St Neots Town Centre Transport Study, meaning proposals complement long term local transport ambitions.</p> <p>The funding application was received on 7th July and has been assessed internally by CPCA officers and evaluated by members</p>



	<p>of the EAP (Entrepreneurial Assessment Panel) and the Business Board. The resulting consensus has awarded an overall score of 89.7 (out of 99 and pass mark of 74) and the project proposal is recommended for approval.</p> <p>The application has been through the programme criteria and governance process however requesting approval at CA Board on 5th August 2020 is not possible as this falls outside the MHCLG submission date of 31st July 2020. A decision on the application is required immediately to allow an offer letter to be issued to Huntingdonshire District Council confirming approval of £3.1m CPCA funding as match funding to the FHSF bid for St Neots.</p>	
<p>Alternative options considered.</p>	<p><i>List alternative options considered and rejected and the reasons for rejection. Do not leave this section blank or put 'None'. There is always an alternative even if it is to do nothing.</i></p> <p>To agree to the funding in principle, subject to the application being approved at CA Board on 5 August 2020. This would delay the confirmation of match funding ahead of FHSF bid to MHCLG by 31 July 2020.</p>	
<p>Financial Implications</p>	<p><i>Please include the total costs and how the project will be funded. Please include budget codes for your directorate</i></p> <p>As set out above the CA Board approved a budget of £3.1m for the St Neots Great Ouse Northern Crossing Cycle bridge and, in response to project changes, withdrew this funding but ringfenced it for other projects within St Neots. There was no expenditure on the project budget prior to its cancellation so the £3.1m is available from a combination of the £600k unspent in 2019-20 and £2.5m in the current year St Neots Masterplan Capital approved budget.</p>	
<p>Consultation</p>	<p><i>List any relevant consultation undertaken in relation to the decision. For example portfolio holders, other Chief Officers.</i></p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Responsible Director/Chief Officer</p> <p>Monitoring Officer</p> <p>S73</p> <p>Portfolio Holder</p> <p>Other</p>	<p><i>Name and Date approved (or indicate if not applicable)</i></p> <p>Kim Sawyer (22 June 2020)</p> <p>John T Hill (17 July 2020)</p> <p>Robert Parkin (17 July 2020)</p> <p>Jon Alsop (24 July 2020)</p>
<p>Declarations / Conflicts of Interests (only if the decision falls under the 'Express</p>	<p><i>List the names of any member who has been consulted on and declared an interest in relation to the decision.</i></p> <p>None</p>	



Authorisation' category)	
Supporting documentation	<i>List any supporting documentation available in relation to this decision (all of this information must be retained for public inspection for a period of at least 4 years – there is no provision for the release of exempt/confidential information).</i> Appendix 1 (Exempt) - HDC Market Towns Funding Application

Officer/Mayor signature		Date 28 th July 2020
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Once signed please file in the electronic file Documents/Governance/ office decision notice and enter details in the register.

If a public report, pass to Democratic Services and we will arrange publication.