

REPORT AUDIT TRAIL**CONSULTATION**

Name/Position	Portfolio/Ward/ Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in para:
Councillor Denise Lelliott	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	02/02/24	06/03/24	
<i>Paul Woodcock</i>	Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter a date.	
<i>Jayne Close,</i> Finance	Finance and Customer Services	02/02/24	12/02/24	6.2
<i>Bal Nahal,</i> Legal Services	Legal Services	02/02/24	29/02/24	7.1 & 7.2
<i>Amy Leech,</i> Human Resources	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	02/02/24	05/02/24	8.
<i>Karen Middlebrook,</i> Procurement	Finance and Customer Services	02/02/24	05/02/24	6.1
<i>Steve Eling,</i> Equalities	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	15/02/24	Click here to enter a date.	
<i>Jonathan Marriott,</i> Assets	Finance and Customer Services	02/02/24	Click here to enter a date.	

REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING

Equalities	Initial Screening completed and included with report	YES	Insert date agreed
	Full Assessment completed and included with report	NO	Insert date agreed
Carbon Impact Assessments	Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.	YES	16/02/24
Background information	June 2023 Finance Update		
Appendices			
Cabinet Member Approval	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
Report Authorised by Strategic Director	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Delegated Officer Decision

Report Title
Feasibility Fund Allocation: Phase 1

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report
Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration
Lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) have allocated £3m revenue to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as a 'Feasibility Fund'. A grant agreement has been signed to accept the funding and this report seeks to exercise delegation to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Assistant Director Financial Services to allocate £690,000 of this fund.

This report proposes that this allocation is used to fund a range of costs in developing and delivering the Council's programme of regeneration, including resourcing, communications, property holding costs, and project development funding – each of these areas are specified in more detail in Section 2 of this report.

Recommendations

1. Allocate £690,000 of the Feasibility Fund for activity as described in Section 2 of this report.

Background Papers
[June 2023 Finance Update](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.
Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Feasibility Fund Allocation: Phase 1

1. Background

- 1.1 The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) have allocated £3m of revenue funding to the Council as a 'Feasibility Fund'. The aim of this grant is to facilitate the development and delivery of Rotherham's Place Based Investment Strategy (PBIS) by reducing capacity and capability constraints and contributing to the development and delivery of both capital and revenue projects. The PBIS was presented to Cabinet in February 2023.
- 1.2 In December 2022 the grant was accepted by the Council and the funding agreement signed. Further, in June 2023 Cabinet approved the allocation of the Feasibility Fund via officer delegation to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Assistant Director Financial Services.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 A proposal is now made to allocate £690,000 as follows:

	23/24	24/25
Regeneration Resourcing	£100,000	£200,000
Consultation, Communication & Marketing	£25,000	£100,000
Holding Costs	£125,000	£125,000
Town Centre Development Funding	£15,000	
Total	£265,000	£425,000

2.2 Regeneration Resourcing

It is proposed that £300,000 will contribute to resourcing the Regeneration Team in the delivery of the current capital Regeneration Programme and the development of a pipeline of strategic projects in line with Rotherham's PBIS. The Regeneration Team is largely funded through grant. The Feasibility Fund will add to this and facilitate the appointment of four additional key project management and strategy development roles that are included in the new structure subject to funding. These posts are permanent additions to the

establishment. Should future years grant funding reduce the staffing establishment will need to be reviewed so the cost is within the funding available at that time. Additionally, as a temporary measure, the fund will contribute to the appointment of consultancy support to enable delivery of the capital programme. This £300,000 is in addition to the £200,000 contribution from the feasibility fund which was agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget process towards funding regeneration costs in 2023/24 and £150,000 used in 2022/23 towards regeneration costs as part of the temporary savings agreed in year.

2.3 Consultation, Communication & Marketing

It is proposed that £125,000 is allocated over the period to March 2025 to ensure meaningful community engagement, information sharing and promotion of planned and future schemes. Key outputs will include marketing of opportunities and engagement with the private sector in line with the Council's Corporate Peer Challenge targets and consultation related to the creation of an updated Place Based Investment Strategy. Members will be kept informed prior to the development and publication of materials and content through the usual approval processes.

2.4 Holding Costs

It is proposed that £250,000 will be used to fund the management and maintenance of strategic land and property which is being brought into public ownership to support the regeneration of the Borough. Over the last 2 years the Council has used its own capital and Government grant to progress the regeneration programme by acquiring long term, under used or derelict private sector property, for example, 3-7 Corporation Street, Alma Tavern, former Boots building on Effingham St and former Mecca Bingo building on Corporation Street. Whilst awaiting redevelopment or demolition these properties require maintenance and security, the £250,000 allocated here will ensure properties are adequately secured and maintained. £25,161 of this allocation was used for this purpose in 2022/23.

2.5 Town Centre Development Funding

An allocation of £15,000 is proposed to support pipeline project development costs and disposal strategies for strategic town centre projects. Specifically, i) the appointment of a health care planner would explore benefits and plan options for new health care provision in the town centre; and ii) consultancy work to produce an application to the Brownfield Land Release Fund to further remediation works at the Riverside Residential Quarter along Sheffield Rd. Should capital funding be allocated to these projects, the Feasibility Fund could be reimbursed.

2.6 In total with the commitments in this report and previous commitments confirmed in section 2.2 ad 2.4 the total approved use of the Feasibility Fund is £1,065,161.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Funding could be sought from alternative sources through capitalisation or Council revenue. The fund is specifically designed for the purposes proposed

here and has been approved by the MCA and is therefore considered the best source for this requirement.

- 3.2 Alternatively, these items could not be taken forward and the Regeneration Programme reduced accordingly. This would leave the Council with a liability for maintenance of acquired properties up to disposal and reduction of the Regeneration Team accordingly. This option is not recommended in line with the Council's ambitions for Borough-wide regeneration.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Allocation of the funds will facilitate the delivery of the Regeneration Programme, the implementation of which has been the subject of extensive consultation.
- 4.2 Cabinet Member for Jobs & the Local Economy and Leader of the Council are supportive of this first tranche of allocation. Assistant Director Financial Services has also been consulted and is supportive.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The first tranche of Feasibility Fund will span the current and next financial year. Implementation of the Regeneration Programme is well underway and the funding will continue to support its delivery.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 Where the Council is using the funds to engage third party suppliers/contractors these must be procured in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 (whichever is the relevant legislation at the time) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 The allocations outlined in the report will form part of the funding within Regeneration and Environment e and will be included in the associated revenue budgets. If grant funding reduces in future years there is a risk this will create a budget pressure and costs will need to be reviewed at that time in line with the funding levels available.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 The grant funding Agreement with SYMCA was signed in December 2022.

The allocation of part of that grant funding as set out in paragraph 2 above in the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, must comply with the grant terms and conditions. The SYMCA have approved the use of the funding.

7.2 The Service must ensure that the claim, reporting and monitoring arrangements under the Grant Agreement are followed in accordance with Rule 14.10 to 14.14 of the Council’s Financial, Procurement Procedure Rules.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 RMBC recruitment and evaluation processes should be followed for the appointment of the additional officer roles.

8.2 Consideration should be given to the length of these roles as employment rights will apply at 2 years.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This report refers solely to the allocation of funding and is therefore not considered to have any implications. Where the funding is used for communications activities, project work or resourcing these specific allocations will require their own assessment.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 This report refers solely to the allocation of funding and is therefore not considered to have any implications.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. The Feasibility Fund is provided by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and its use will contribute to the MCA’s economic growth targets and the jointly owned Place Based Investment Strategy by delivering key outputs through the regeneration programme.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Expenditure in line with forecast is a risk in relation to timebound funding pots. However, the Feasibility Fund has a flexible timeline and the MCA will consider justifiable slippage against initial forecasts.

14. Accountable Officers

Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration

Simon Moss, Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration & Transport

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

Named Officer	Date
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Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration
Lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).