

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Delegated Officer Decision

Report Title
Feasibility Fund Allocation: Regeneration Resources

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
Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
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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 £144,000 of this fund to increase the capacity of the Regeneration team on a temporary basis.

Recommendations

1. Allocate £144,000 of the Feasibility Fund for activity as described in Section 2 of this report.

Background Papers
[June 2023 Finance Update](#) - Min No. 8 Cabinet 19th June 2023

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

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.
- 1.3 In March 2024 an allocation of £690,000 was agreed to contribute toward resourcing, property management costs, consultation, marketing and communications and development of town centre projects. This allocation was 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. This gives a total allocation to date of £1,040,000

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 A proposal is now made to allocate an additional £144,000 toward the resourcing of 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.
- 2.2 A restructure of the Regeneration Team has been undertaken and implemented on the 1st April 2024. The restructure recognises the need for additional resources toward the delivery of the Regeneration Programme. Recruitment is underway to fill any remaining permanent posts, however additional temporary resource is required. The funding allocation would allow recruitment to 3 temporary appointments for project managers (Grade J in the new structure) anticipated to last around 16 weeks, unless the project's requirements dictate a longer period of support but keeping within the agreed funding allocation. It is intended to recruit through Matrix to allow for quick appointments. Agency workers will be appointed on a day rate which is usually higher than the corresponding equivalent permanent roles.
- 2.3 In total with the commitments in this report and previous commitments the total approved use of the Feasibility Fund would be £1,184,000.

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, further capitalisation of staff costs against project budgets could be sought and where possible this is always the preferred approach. However, due to the temporary and specific nature of the project requirements Feasibility Fund is considered the more appropriate route.

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 allocation. Assistant Director Financial Services has also been consulted and is supportive.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Capacity constraints are now a pressing matter and the process to recruit to the temporary posts has begun using the Council's chosen provider. No appointments will be made until full approvals are in place. Appointments are expected to be made from 15th May onwards.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The allocation outlined in the report will form part of the funding within Regeneration and Environment and will be included in the associated revenue budgets. The allocations approved to date total £1,040,000, the addition of the allocation in this report will mean that £1,184,000 is committed leaving £1,816,000 available for future use.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Funding has been provided to the Council under a grant agreement with SYMCA. The application of grant monies for a given expenditure must be made in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement.
- 7.2 The grant agreement contains the following at clause 3.1:

"The Recipient shall use the Grant only for the purpose of the Project and in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement."
- 7.3 The Project, being the detailed description of the Council's use of the grant monies governs how the funds may be spent.

7.4 The Project is described in general terms as “Development and management of the Rotherham Place-based Investment Plan”. The specific detail of the Project includes a determination of the need to acquire additional resources to support Council services. And sets out the following: “To this end £700,000 will be set aside to support Council services such as procurement, project management and building services.”

7.5 It is suggested that the use of the amount of funding included in this report in order to hire people to work within the regeneration team is consistent with the terms of the grant agreement and that the specific wording referred to in the preceding paragraph regarding support to procurement, project management and building services is consistent with this application of funds such that the expenditure will fall within the terms of the agreement.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Should any Human Resources matters arise from this report the Council will follow due processes.

8.2

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.

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
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.

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