

Select report type
Name of Committee

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 18 September 2024

Report Title

Feasibility Fund Allocation: Additional 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

Strategic 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 £100,000 of this fund to increase the capacity of the Regeneration team on a temporary basis and ensure adequate training and development is given to Council services engaged in the development and delivery of capital projects related to the Gainshare Programme and Place Based Investment Strategy.

Recommendations

1. Allocate £100,000 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.

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Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Insert report title here Feasibility Fund Allocation: Additional Regeneration Resources

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 To date £1.92m has been allocated to contribute toward resourcing, property management costs, consultation, marketing and communications and development of town centre projects and the development of a feasibility study for a new Business Centre.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 A proposal is now made to allocate £100,000 as follows:

	24/25
Regeneration Resourcing	£50,000
Regeneration Team Training	£50,000
Total	£100,000

2.2 Regeneration Resourcing

It is proposed that this allocation of £50,000 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 has been used previously to add to this in the

form of 3 temporary Project Manager appointments whilst permanent recruitment is undertaken.

- 2.3 This £50,000 allocation will allow recruitment of 1 temporary appointment to enable further development of a strategic project in Rotherham's PBIS, specifically the integrated mainline and tram train station. Whilst some work has been undertaken to prepare for the project Full Business Case, it is clear that the nature and complexity of this work requires the appointment of a specialist and rail industry experienced contractor. We are using the feasibility fund to scope the Full Business Case - should the Full Business Case funding be secured, this cost will be recovered from the capital funding thereby enabling the feasibility fund to be recycled.
- 2.4 This early preparation work (scoping of multiple workstreams) for the Full Business Case (FBC) is necessary to maintain project momentum post Outline Business Case submission, anticipated October 2024, and ensure the team are ready to progress the FBC upon confirmation of investment decisions from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Department for Transport, anticipated in the New Year.
- 2.5 It is anticipated that this allocation will provide the additional capacity and specialist expertise for approximately 20 weeks unless the project's requirements dictate a longer period (whilst keeping within the agreed funding allocation). It is intended to recruit through Matrix to allow for quick appointment of a suitably skilled and experienced individual. Suitably experienced agency workers will be appointed on a day rate which is usually higher than the corresponding equivalent permanent roles.
- 2.6 **Regeneration Team Training & Development**
Whilst the Regeneration team capacity has increased recently, it is vital that the team and colleagues supporting the delivery of the programme have the necessary capability to deliver the PBIS.
- 2.7 The team are being encouraged to access training made available from partner organisations, but a wider, more comprehensive, training programme is proposed comprising of the following:
- CDM Client
 - Better Business Cases Foundation & Practitioner
 - Project Management
 - Contract Management

This training will benefit Project and Contract Managers across the Authority and will therefore be offered to the wider Council team. This list is indicative of the potential training requirements, but not exhaustive, and the training programme will be devised taking into account the team, wider Council, and individual officers' needs for training provision 2024-26.

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, this additional resource could not be taken forward and the Mainline Station delivery programme impacted accordingly. This could jeopardise the Council's ability to maximise use of Town Deal investment in land acquisition for the station and impact on the Council's ability to secure additional investment into the project. This option is not recommended in line with the Council's ambitions for Borough-wide regeneration.

3.3 Alternatively, training for the team could not be provided and the Council's ability to effectively manage and deliver the ambitious Regeneration programme would be hindered, potentially impacting negatively on outcome delivery, and damage to the Council's reputation with the local community, project partners, funders and Government. 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 fifth allocation of the Feasibility Fund. Assistant Director Financial Services has also been consulted and is supportive.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 It is anticipated that this tranche of Feasibility Funding will largely be spent within this financial year (2024/25) in terms of the mainline station resource. However the funding to deliver the training programme will be made available into 2025/26.

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 The feasibility fund has already been subject to previously agreed allocations.

Year	Agreed Use	Value £	Feasibility Fund Uncommitted £
2022/23	In year savings contribution towards regen costs	150,000	2,850,000
2023/24	In year savings contribution towards regen costs	200,000	2,650,000

2023/24	Resourcing, property management, consultation and marketing – Officer Decision March 2024	690,000	1,960,000
2024/25	Regen staffing costs – Officer Decision May 2024	144,000	1,816,000
2024/25	Business Centre Feasibility – Officer Decision May 2024	100,000	1,716,000
2024/25	Strategic Site Development – Officer Decision Aug 2024	600,000	1,116,000
2024/25	Rotherham Markets Vision – Officer Decision Aug 2024	38,000	1,078,000

The allocations of the feasibility fund approved to date total £1,922,000, the addition of the allocation in this report will mean that £2,022,000 is committed leaving £978,000 available for future use.

- 6.2 There are no procurement implications associated with the additional resources given this is intended to be fulfilled through a Council corporate arrangement that has already been compliantly procured.
- 6.3 Where the Council sources external suppliers for the delivery of training this must be procured in compliance with relevant legislation at the time (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

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

- 7.1 The expenditure set out within this report is consistent with the Feasibility Fund Grant conditions and as such the expenditure is considered reasonable and appropriate. Appropriate contracts will need to be established with any chosen suppliers to ensure the outcomes referred to in the report are delivered.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 If agency is to be used to appoint into an additional post then the RMBC agency process should be followed through matrix. A Business Case will need to be submitted to DLT for final approval outlining the core duties that

this post would undertake and setting out clearly how long the role is required for. A Job profile will need to be drafted so that an evaluation can be undertaken on the level of role required.

- 8.2 The additional training and skills for the current employees should be identified through a skills gap analysis to identify the requirements of each individual or could be captured through their 'My year ahead plan'.

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 An initial Equalities screening has been completed (Appendix 1) and logged by the Equalities team. There are no direct Equalities implications arising from this decision.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 2) which acknowledges the negligible impact of this decision, noting that emissions from staff attending training can be monitored.

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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