

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 10 July 2023

Report Title

Wath Projects (Levelling Up Fund)

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

- Wath

Report Summary

At Spring Budget 2023 the Government allocated £19,990,111 to Rotherham Council in respect of the 'Principal Areas of Growth' Levelling Up bid. This funding will be directed toward major projects in Wath and Dinnington.

This report seeks approval to develop a programme of works delivering this investment in Wath.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet accept the Principal Areas of Growth allocation of £19,990,111 into the Capital Programme through the Grant Process.
2. That Cabinet allocate £8,940,564 to the Wath Project.
3. That Cabinet delegate the Commissioning of the design of the project based on the parameters in paragraph 2.3.1 to the Strategic Director for Regeneration and the Environment in Consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Economy and the Section 151 Officer.
4. That Cabinet agree to the development of 'Principal Areas of Growth' projects in Wath with further detail provided to Cabinet in February 2024.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1: Wath Site Boundary
Appendix 2: Initial Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 3: Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Wath Projects (Levelling Up Fund)

1. Background

1.1 Principal Areas of Growth

- 1.1.1 In response to the Government's Levelling Up agenda the Council submitted its Principal Areas of Growth bid for funding first in June 2021 and again in June 2022. Despite being unsuccessful in both rounds at Spring budget 2023 Rotherham's proposals were identified as one of 16 to receive £200m additional funding for left behind places and in recognition of the high quality bid submitted.
- 1.1.2 The package of projects aim to transform two prominent sites within Rotherham's principal settlements of growth; Wath-Upon-Dearne and Dinnington. Both schemes focus on high quality place making to restore the cultural heart of the town centres, increase footfall, boost the local economies and restore a sense of pride amongst communities.
- 1.1.3 This Report seeks Cabinet approval for the Wath Project. A further report will be brought for Dinnington.

2. Key Issues

2.1 At the time of writing A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is expected to be signed between the Council and DLUHC (under the delegated powers in relation to Grants) prior to the Cabinet meeting. This sets out the terms, principles and practices that will apply regarding administration and delivery of this funding.

- 2.2 The MOU sets out
- that the funding will cover activities up until the end of the financial year 2025-2026;
 - branding and communication;
 - monitoring and evaluation including spending, planned spending, updates, procurement, governance and case studies
 - Assurance; and
 - The change process.

2.3 Wath

- 2.3.1 The proposed Scheme will include
- the demolition of the existing library
 - the creation of a brand-new library to create a modern, inviting, and inclusive community facility, including some commercial space
 - design to open up connectivity between Biscay Way and the High Street and encourage visitors into the Town Centre; and
 - public realm improvements

2.4 Project Development & Implementation

2.4.1 This report to Cabinet seeks approval to develop the Wath proposals in greater detail, including design, survey and cost assessments. Development of proposals is due to take place over the next 6-12 months in partnership with Library Services.

2.4.2 A further report detailing how the project will be implemented will be presented to Cabinet in February 2024 providing the outcome of this design phase and seeking approval for the next stages, including the project outputs, costs, timescales and delivery methodology.

2.5 Governance

2.5.1 The project will be subject to the Council's own capital monitoring, assurance and in line with governance processes.

2.5.2 A condition of the MOU is the establishment of a Board to oversee delivery. Such a board already exists to monitor Town Deal and Levelling Up fund implementation, subject to agreement this Board will monitor the implementation of this grant.

2.5.3 In line with the Council's Constitution and Governance practices, project specific HM Treasury Green Book compliant Business Cases will be developed at the relevant project stages. Business Cases will set out project costs, route to market, delivery programmes, ongoing management requirements and implications.

2.6 Resourcing

2.6.1 Project development and delivery will be led by the RIDO team with support from the multi-disciplinary consultancy team led by AHR Architects and the Council's Asset Management Service. Support from services including Legal, Finance, Culture, Sport and Tourism and Procurement will be required.

2.7 Funding Implications

2.7.1 Capital funding is provided by the Levelling Up Capital Grant. The Grant totals £19,990,111 of this £8,940,564 is allocated to the Wath project. Cabinet is being asked to note the allocation of the Grant funding for these purposes.

2.7.2 Revenue implications will be explored through this project development phase, reported through Business Cases and to Cabinet prior to project implementation.

3 Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Project options were developed in consultation with Ward Members and the MP for Wentworth & Dearne in the run up to the bid submission in June 2022. The preferred option was supported by Government and the

outputs replicated in the MOU. Any variation from the option would require Government support.

4 Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Government supported scheme was developed in conjunction with Wath Ward Members, and the MP for Wentworth & Dearne. Public engagement will take place in partnership with Ward Members as the project develops.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Project development including design, surveys and public engagement will take place over the next 6-12 months followed by a report back to Cabinet.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no procurement implications associated with the acceptance of the funding allocation. Where external support is required to develop the scheme proposals, the multi-disciplinary consultancy team led through AHR Architects is an arrangement that has already been compliantly procured, so again no procurement implications. If external support is required outside of this arrangement, and once the project moves to identify a Contractor for delivery, these must be procured in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

6.2 In the spring Budget announcement March 2023, the Council was awarded £19,990,111 for its Levelling Up Funding bid 'Principal Areas of Growth'. The bid was for funding to support two major regeneration projects across Wath and Dinnington. This funding will be added to the Capital Programme once Government have provided the Council with a grant agreement to sign in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Should Cabinet approve the recommendations the Scheme will then be worked up for delivery within the funding available. From this fund £8,940,564 has been earmarked for the project at Wath. As the project is worked up consideration will need to be given as to how the revenue implications of the project proposal will be financed as a part taking any decision on implementation.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 In relation to the acceptance of the funding and compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, the funding will not be a subsidy in the hands of the Council as it is not acting as an economic actor in respect to the funded activities (public library services). In addition, the funding will not be a subsidy in the hands of the commercial tenants of the library as they will pay rent on commercial terms. Finally, consultants and contractors engaged to effect the construction works will be engaged on market terms.

7.2 The contracts for the relevant works will as stated above be procured in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and an appropriate contract concluded with the selected contractor.

7.3 Section 9D of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that all functions of a local authority are the responsibility of the executive unless otherwise specified in regulations. The discharge of functions in relation to the project set out in the report are not specified within regulations as to not be functions of the executive. Therefore, this is an executive power to be exercised by the Cabinet.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from the recommendations within this report. Project development and delivery will be led by the RIDO team with support from internal and external resources as outlined within section 2.3.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no direct implications for children, young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been carried out on this programme of work and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. Further detail and a full assessment will be carried out as the project is developed and reported back to Cabinet.

A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 3. Further detail and a full assessment will be carried out as the project is developed and reported back to Cabinet.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. The Council will continue to work in partnership with Ward Members to engage with local partners and deliver the project.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 General construction market risks in relation to saturation of the market, availability of contractors and materials and increasing costs are identified.

As projects develop individual, specific risk registers will be developed and reported to Regeneration Delivery Group.

14.**Accountable Officers**

Tim O'Connell, Head of RIDO

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning Regeneration & Transport

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	26/06/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/06/23
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	23/06/23

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