

## MINUTE EXTRACT

### ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 22 NOVEMBER, 2021

#### 53 TOWN DEAL – ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT

The Assistant Director and Chief Regeneration Officer introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place. Members of the Committee were informed that on 15th July 2021, the Council received notification of the outcome of a submission it had made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now renamed Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - DLUHC) Town Deal Programme.

This announcement set out that the Council had been invited to enter into a Town Deal for Birkenhead, up to a value of £25,000,000. This 'in principle' award was offered subject to the successful completion and approval of businesses cases for the projects included in the bid submission. Both the Council and DLUHC had agreed the Heads of Terms.

The report set out the next steps with Members asked to give consideration to the tight time scales, as well as agreeing to delegate a number of decisions to the Director of Regeneration and Place in terms of accepting the grant and commencing activity to develop and deliver the Town Deal for Birkenhead.

Councillor Emily Gleaves queried if there was separate funding for Start Yard via Egerton House. The Assistant Director and Chief Regeneration Officer confirming any alternative funding would be complementary. This was followed by a question from Councillor Andrew Hodson on the current lease for Egerton House but were advised by the Director of Regeneration and Place that there was little information in relation to the report.

Councillor Burgess-Joyce also queried in terms of the 5% upfront payment asked if it was a non-refundable amount and whether it would be lost if not spent.

The Assistant Director and Chief Regeneration Officer commented to say that this was their understanding.

The Director of Regeneration and Place also confirmed that Town Deal Board decisions would be referred back to the Committee unless they were within the scope of a delegated officer decision.

Councillor Andrew Hodson moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Paul Martin

**Resolved - That Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the following recommendations:**

- (1) note the content of the report and the announcement from Government regarding the Town Deal funding award in relation to Birkenhead;**

- (2) note the re-profiling of the funding allocation for projects as set out in paragraph 3.8 of this report;**
- (3) authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to accept the offer and funding from DLUHC, via a grant made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003;**
- (4) authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to progress delivery of the Town Deal Programme, in line with the Section 31 Grant and the Town Investment Plan, and to implement a change control process (if required);**
- (5) authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to allocate the Town Deal pre-development funding of £1,250,000 (5% of the total award) on receipt;**
- (6) authorise the Director of Resources as S151 Officer to review and approve business cases, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, and submit the results to DLUHC in order to release the remaining funds; and**
- (7) authorise the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place and the Director of Resources to enter into any necessary agreements or other legal documentation to implement the above recommendations.**