

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Director of Regeneration and Place

KEY DECISION NO

DIRECTORATE: Regeneration and Place

WARDS AFFECTED: Birkenhead and Tranmere

SUBJECT: Liverpool City Region Combined Authority - Provision of Grant Funding for Pre-Development Services in relation to Birkenhead 2040 Framework.

1.0 DECISION:

The Director of Regeneration and Place approves:

- (1) acceptance of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Grant Funding for Pre-Development Services totalling £120,000.
- (2) entering into a Pre-Development Grant Funding Agreement with LCRCA.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The Council is continuing to develop its strategy and business case for Birkenhead 2040 Programme. Work is now underway to support the development of proposals by way of legal and surveying services to identify strategy and costs associated with strategic land acquisition by private treaty negotiation and CPO. LCRCA have confirmed grant funding equivalent to 60% of the total anticipated costs of this exercise

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

- 3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 4.1

Signed:

Officer: Alan Evans

Title: Director of Regeneration and Place

Date:

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Cathy Palmer. Head of Regeneration Delivery

Date: 11/3/2022

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: (only applicable to Key Decisions)

Report Title:	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority - Provision of Grant Funding for Pre-Development Services in relation to Birkenhead 2040 Framework.
Report of:	Regeneration Delivery Lead

REPORT SUMMARY

In order to successfully deliver the vision set out in the Birkenhead 2040 Framework key interventions are required in order to improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the area.

The pre-development requirements to deliver ‘Phase 2’ of Birkenhead’s 2040 programme are numerous but the application to the LCRCA relates specifically to the assembly of land required to deliver the Birkenhead 2040 Framework’s ambition. It is anticipated that the assembly of land will require the Council to exercise its Compulsory Purchase powers. The pre-development funding being provided by this grant will assist in the costs associated with the appointment of legal and surveying services to support the council in the application of these powers. Specifically, the support will be required to progress through the eight stages of CPO as shown below, over a 18-24 month period.



The Council is currently in the formulation stage and the grant funding for this financial year will support this stage of a land assembly programme using CPO powers. This involves doing the preparatory work to feed the inputs into a document known as a ‘Statement of Reasons’. In order to develop a coherent Statement of Reasons, and to establish the foundation of a case for compulsory purchase, the Council is working with a legal and surveying professionals to articulate a clear set of objectives that underpin the need for land assembly.

The LCRCA Grant will fund £120,000 of costs and the Council will fund £80,000 of costs required to undertake initial analysis, land referencing and strategic advice.

RECOMMENDATIONS (DECISION)

The Director of Regeneration and Place is recommended to:

- (1) Agree to the acceptance of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Grant Funding for Pre-Development Services totalling £120,000.
- (2) Agree to the entering into a Pre-Development Grant Funding Agreement with LCRCA.

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The LCRCA grant funding will financially support the Council in phase 2 of the Birkenhead 2040 Framework.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Council could decide not to accept the grant funding. This is not considered to be appropriate the work is already in progress and the funding is to reduce the Councils financial exposure for this specific and important phase of work.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Birkenhead 2040 Framework

- 3.1 In response to the evident challenges facing the town, the Council has worked with partners to develop a framework for the transformational regeneration of Birkenhead, the Birkenhead 2040 Framework. The Framework is underpinned by 8 catalyst projects which collectively unlock the Birkenhead 2040 ambition and create the right conditions for investment and value growth throughout the area.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The agreed funds will be issued to the Council as grant payments under Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Markets Act 2020, for capital expenditure.
- 4.2 The grant funding will be paid in instalments based on an agreed activity schedule for work. Payments will be made within 30 days of receipt of evidence by LCRCA of evidence that eligible costs have been paid.
- 4.3 The grant may be reduced or withdrawn by the LCRCA under certain terms set out in the agreement
- 4.4 The Council has a requirement to fund £80,000 and this will be funded through the Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery fund which was sought in 2020 through a Capital Bid. The Director of Finance has confirmed that the funds are available.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council will be required to enter into a Pre-Development Grant Funding Agreement which has been drafted by the LCRCA. The draft will be reviewed and agreed by the Council's legal services team.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Council's Birkenhead 2040 phase 2 programme will be managed by existing staff from within the Council's Regeneration Service and external consultants supported by the Regeneration Programme Management Office.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council recognises that risk management is essential in good decision making and is a critical element of good governance. The Council continually develops its risk management processes to proactively and effectively manage risk.
- 7.2 The Council has recently established a Project Management Office (PMO) dedicated to the Regeneration and Place directorate. The PMO will have oversight of all projects and will ensure that they align with the Council's corporate policy to managing risk.
- 7.3 A programme Risk Register has been developed, informed by individual Risk Registers for each project. These will be updated throughout the programme lifecycle through the Council's Regeneration Programme Management Office, in order to assist the Council in identifying, controlling and managing risk.

8.1.1 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The proposals now being taken forward reflect the Birkenhead 2040 Framework which was subject to consultation in March 2021 for an 8 week period..
- 8.8 The Chair and Spokespersons of Policy and Resources Committee and Economy Regeneration and Development Committee have been consulted on the proposals within this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 The potential impact of the grant funding has been reviewed with regard to equality and links to the existing EIA conducted for Wirral's Economic Strategy and no material amendments have been made.
- 9.3. Whilst there are no equality implications arising from this report, the associated actions arising from the delivery may need to assess any equality issues and mitigate any negative impact that may emerge. Any associated EIA's will be done at the earliest possible stage.

- 9.4 The Council has an obligation under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality duty (Sect 149 2011) to show due regard to the duty and show due regard to mitigate any negative impacts that may affect people with protected characteristics under the Act. The Director of Regeneration and Place recognises that this decision may have an impact on those who would wish to access certain locations by motor vehicle and other modes of transport. Where applicable details of any restrictions and alternative routes would be published and an equality impact assessment would be undertaken.
- 9.5 A copy of the EIA for Wirral's Economic Strategy can be viewed at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2021-0#overlay-context=communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2021>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The content and recommendations contained within this report are expected to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. This will include, as appropriate, infrastructure improvements to reduce car dominance and create a safer environment for road users and pedestrians, and environmental and climate considerations within the Council's Social Value strategy to be used within the procurement of future contractors.
- 10.2 Gear Change Cycling Strategy produced by Government in Summer 2020 identifies that mode shift to active transport is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing transport emissions and that meeting the targets to double cycling and increasing walking would lead to savings of £567million annually from air quality alone and prevent 8.300 premature deaths each year in England and provide opportunity to improve green spaces and biodiversity.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Community Wealth Building reorganises local economies to be fairer and stops wealth flowing out of communities. Striving for a prosperous and inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations, the Council aims to create an economy that benefits all of our residents and one which keeps money within Wirral. The Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy is a key part of how this is achieved and makes a major contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes of the borough.
- 11.2 The projects within the Birkenhead 2040 Framework will revitalise the town ensuring that more wealth is invested and stays within our Borough. Future procurement exercises will build the wealth of our local communities where we will strive to maximise social value activity through creation of local employment/ training opportunities and local labour/spend to maximise the Wirral pound.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Birkenhead 2040 Programme

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	