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*Our reference:* GN/TS/UB73  
*Your reference:*

**HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Councillor Gilbert,  
Chairman of the Overview  
and Scrutiny Committee.

Town Hall  
Dalton Square  
Lancaster  
LA1 1PJ

DX 63531

15<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Dear Councillor,

**URGENT BUSINESS – Morecambe Townscape Heritage Initiative 2: A View for Eric**

Members are requested to consider the attached report, advising that the Heritage Lottery Fund have offered the Council a contract for a second Townscape Heritage Initiative in Morecambe and seeking the authority to proceed

A Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) grant giving programme to help communities regenerate conservation areas displaying particular social and economic need throughout the United Kingdom. The Council delivered a highly successful first THI for Morecambe in the period 2003 to 2008. Through this the Council grant aided the restoration of some seventy properties within the Morecambe Conservation Area, drove up repair standards and most notably helped achieve the restoration of the grade II\* listed Midland Hotel.

The HLF has now offered the Council a contract for a second in Morecambe – "A View for Eric", one of only a small number to be offered a second award for the same area since THIs were launched in 1998 and one of only two in England to be awarded a grant during this year's application round. This contract award comes as the conclusion to a two-stage funding application progressed by officers in Planning Services over the last two years. The second stage of the project received development funding from the HLF (£25,000) and also the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) (£20,000).

The HLF contract offer is for £923,000 in funding over five years from contract commencement. The offer is conditional, including that the Council must evidence 50% match funding before the HLF will authorise a start.

The reason for urgency is that The HLF requires that the Contract be signed by 17 July 2009. This means that a decision on whether the Council should contract must be made before the scheduled cabinet meeting in July and hence the need to use the Urgent Business Procedure.

The recommendations are:-

- (1) That the Corporate Director (Regeneration) is authorised to contract with the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Townscape Heritage Initiative.**
- (2) Subsequent to this that subject to the required amount of match funding being secured the Head of Planning Services is authorised to apply to the HLF for Permission to Start.**
- (3) That the Head of Financial services make the necessary revisions to the Council's Capital and General Revenue Fund to accommodate for THI delivery..**
- (4) That the Overview & Scrutiny Chairman be consulted with a view to waiving call in, in accordance with Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17, to enable immediate implementation.**

The approval of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member has been sought to this action.

Subject to this approval, I would be grateful if you could consider the immediate implementation of this course of action and agree to waive the right of call-in, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 17(a). Please complete the attached slip signifying your decision and return it to the Town Hall as soon as possible. In the meantime, could you please telephone Tom Silvani on 582132, or e-mail [tsilvani@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:tsilvani@lancaster.gov.uk) with your decision.

Yours sincerely,

**HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**Enc.**

**URGENT BUSINESS – Morecambe Townscape Heritage Initiative 2: A View for Eric**

\*I agree/~~do not agree~~ (**\*please delete as appropriate**)

To this matter being treated as a matter of urgency in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 17(a) and therefore not being subject to call-in.

Signed: *J. Gilbert* .....

Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 .....

Chief Executive Decision

\*I agree/~~do not agree~~ (**\*please delete as appropriate**) to this matter being treated as a matter of urgency in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 17(a) and therefore not being subject to call-in.

Signed: Mark Cullinan-----  
Chief Executive

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009-----

Please return to: Tom Silvani  
Democratic Services,  
Town Hall,  
Dalton Square,  
LANCASTER. LA1 1PJ  
Ref: UB73