

**EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER
NOTICE OF DECISION**

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CONTACT OFFICER

TITLE OF DECISION:	
LANCASTER HIGH STREETS HERITAGE ACTION ZONE	
NAME OF DECISION TAKER:	CLLR ERICA LEWIS
POSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY HELD:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
CONTACT OFFICER:	KATE SMITH / JULIAN INMAN
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Details of Decision:	
That:	
(1) An offer of up to £1.15M from Historic England for a Lancaster High Streets Heritage Action Zone be accepted and authority be delegated to the Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration for the City Council to enter into a grant agreement and undertake the role of accountable body.	
(2) The four-year investment proposal included in the Capital Programme agreed by Council on 26 February 2020 be endorsed for a £1.15M City Council contribution to the Lancaster High Streets Heritage Action Zone, of which the £337,500 earmarked for the Grand Theatre Phase 2 works to the new foyer is contingent on Lancaster Footlights having made the required balance in order to make the project deliverable.	
(3) It is agreed to underwrite £546,125 of unsecured partner contributions from the Council's Reserves and that officers should continue to work with local partners and investigate opportunities for further public funding to secure the balance of funding required to meet the full programme costs.	
(4) In principle, a contribution to a maximum of £500,000 be endorsed, contingent on the Churches Conservation Trust having made the balance in order to make the project deliverable, as included in the Capital Programme agreed by Council to support the repair and beneficial re-use of St. John's Church, North Road and that authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration to enter into a formal offer subject to the approval of a robust business case, capital scheme and wider due diligence by Capital Strategy Group.	
(5) Authority be delegated to the Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration to work with partners to bid for, accept and act as the accountable body for complementary funding from Historic England in respect of the Cultural Programme.	

Reasons for the decision:

Following a non-binding expression of interest in July 2019, Lancaster was identified as one of 69 successful towns and cities across the country to be nominally awarded a High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), part of the Government's plan to help reshape and renew high streets. The area identified to the north-east of the city is particularly rich in heritage assets but suffers from a range of issues relating to condition, occupancy and footfall which negatively impacts on the city, including linkages with the Canal Quarter. The four-year programme led by Historic England seeks to change perceptions of heritage and the high street, support sustainable economic and cultural growth and restore and enhance local historic character. In December 2019 further information articulating a £4.603M project and a request for £1.15M funding was provided to Historic England as part of their required Programme Design stage. A final decision by Historic England on whether to offer the city a HSHAZ is anticipated in late March for commencement in April 2020. The decision has been taken in anticipation of a positive response by Historic England.

The decision to accept the prospective offer of grant funding from Historic England and commit City Council resources accordingly, including to support St John's Church and underwrite unsecured partner funds proposals is considered to be the most beneficial and holistic approach. Together the HSHAZ programme and St John's project should deliver at least £7.334M of investment in the area when taking into consideration levered private / public investment. Assuming for a maximum city contribution of £1.65M this means that for every £1 of city investment, a further £3.44 will be prospectively levered. If the underwritten element cannot be secured in its entirety, a maximum city contribution of just under £2.2M would still be anticipated to lever £2.34 for every £1 spent.

This decision was scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 17 March 2020 but given the advice from government to minimise social contact in view of the Corona pandemic, the formal meeting of Cabinet was replaced by an informal virtual discussion where Cabinet members were given the opportunity to discuss the issue and recommendations in some detail. The recommendations and the report have been revised to reflect those discussions. The decision was made by the Leader in consultation with Cabinet Members.

IS THE DECISION URGENT

No

PLEASE DELETE AS APPROPRIATE AND GIVE REASONS FOR URGENCY BELOW:

I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON THE ABOVE DECISION AND THAT IT IS URGENT AND REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES. (IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES)

SIGNATURE OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CHAIRMAN: NOT APPLICABLE

I confirm that I have taken account of the options proposed by officers, the various implications set out in the report and the comments of the Monitoring and Section 151 Officers and am authorising the decision as set out above.

SIGNATURE OF DECISION TAKER: Cllr Erica Lewis

DATE: 20.3.20

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

REF NO. ICMD3

DATE DECISION TAKEN: 20.3.20

DATE RECEIVED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES: 19.3.20

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED: 20.3.20

IMPLEMENTATION DATE (publication day + 5 working days): 30.3.20