

Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting – 10th March 2021

The Chairman welcomed the Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Sustainable Economic Prosperity and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Recovery & Resilience to the meeting.

The Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration provided the Committee with an overview of the recent Future High Street bid for Morecambe.

Members were advised of the application process and the reasons the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government gave for the bid being unsuccessful. The bid was one of many Lancashire bids that were not successful with only one in the county securing funding.

It was suggested that an Informal Task Group be established to consider the bid and report back to the next meeting of the Committee and that the 2 Cabinet Members be invited to the April meeting to consider the Task Group's findings.

Resolved :-

- (1) That the Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration and the Cabinet Members be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.
- (2) That an Informal Task Group be established to consider the bid and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (3) That the 2 Cabinet Members be invited to the April meeting to consider the Task Group's findings.

Task Group Meeting – 30th March 2021

The Informal Task Group had a general discussion about the Future High Street Morecambe bid.

As it was such a lengthy document, it was agreed that the consideration of the document would be split between two groups and reported back to the next meeting of the Group.

Task Group Meeting – 15th April 2021

The Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration gave the Group a detailed overview of the process that was undertaken in submitting the bid for the Future High Streets funding. Members of the Group were guided through the criteria and the complexities of putting the bid together and how resource intensive this was.

The Group went on to discuss the issue of land value in Morecambe and the benefit cost ratio the Government applied to such projects which put Morecambe at a huge disadvantage.

Members of the Group asked a number of questions relating to the bid and how Morecambe's chances could be improved for future bids.

The Chair thanked the Director of Economic Development and Regeneration and the Head of Economic Development for their attendance and valuable input into the meeting.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting – 28th April 2021

The Chairman presented the recommendations of the Morecambe Future High Street Bid Informal Task Group. It was reported that the informal group had studied the failed bid and had a number of positive suggestions to assist with future bids for funding for the district that the City Council made.

The Committee considered each recommendation individually and made comments.

The Report of the task group was submitted to Cabinet to consider on 8th June 2021.