

## CABINET

6.00 P.M.

30TH APRIL 2020

A remote public meeting of the Lancaster City Council Cabinet was held via Teams Live Events at 6pm on Thursday 30 April 2020, when the following Members were present:-

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Erica Lewis (Chair), Kevin Frea (Vice-Chair), Dave Brookes, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Janice Hanson, Caroline Jackson, Jean Parr, John Reynolds, Alistair Sinclair and Anne Whitehead

Officers in attendance:

Kieran Keane	Chief Executive
Daniel Bates	Director of Corporate Services
Mark Davies	Director for Communities and the Environment
Jason Syers	Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration
Luke Gorst	Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Anne Marie Harrison	Economic Development Manager
Debbie Chambers	Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jenny Kay	Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services

### 73 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 were approved as a correct record.

### 74 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chair advised that there were two items of urgent business. The first was an item regarding Coronavirus Business Support (Minute 77 refers) and the second was a report regarding Funding for Vulnerable People (Minute 78 refers).

### 75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Reynolds declared an interest in the Coronavirus Business Support report in view of his wife operating a small business within the district (Minute 77 refers).

### 76 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

### 77 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS SUPPORT

**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)**

Cabinet received a report from the Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration which proposed a package of business support measures to help local businesses

recover from the impact of the coronavirus crisis and initiate rebuilding of the local economy.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

<b>Option 1: Approve the proposed business support measures</b>
Advantages: This will allow business support services to be provided quickly and flexibly in line with business needs Short, medium and long term positive impact on the local economy. Opportunities to deliver CWB, green and social value outcomes
Disadvantages: The council's resources would be under less pressure. Other than that, no obvious disadvantages as the overall approach is designed to adapt to needs
Risks: No obvious risks
<b>Option 2: Do not approve the proposed business support measures</b>
Advantages: The council will save on the costs of providing business measures
Disadvantages: Loss of opportunity to protect the local economy. Council resources will be less under pressure
Risks: Risks to businesses in the district will not be reduced

The Officer preferred option is Option 1 on the basis that the business support programme can be in place very quickly and is flexible enough to adapt to business needs going forwards.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed, seconded by Councillor Frea:-

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

***Resolved unanimously:***

- (1) That the broad framework for the Council's support measures is approved in order to help local businesses survive the coronavirus crisis and assist as many as possible to go on to recovery and increased resilience.
- (2) That the initial financial allocations are approved but that a review of these is undertaken later in 2020 to take account of emerging business needs.
- (3) That, to enable progress and ensure help is available to businesses quickly, delegations for distribution of the funds are approved as follows:

- Up to £50k – Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration to decide after consulting with relevant portfolio holder or most suitable Cabinet member
- £50 - £150k – Individual Cabinet Member
- Over £150k – Cabinet.

**Officer responsible for effecting the decision:**

Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration

**Reasons for making the decision:**

The approach is focused on helping business to survive now but also to adapt and develop in order to recover from the crisis and remain resilient in the future. Some grant funding is included for those businesses that have been unable to access other funding support at all and linked to business recovery and resilience, research and development and to projects that benefit a number of local businesses, such as digital and workspace. The intention is that it will be clear what the Council's funds will achieve.

The decision is consistent with the Council Plan:

**Ambitions**

- **A Thriving and Prosperous Economy**

Create strong conditions for growth so that businesses thrive and jobs are created  
 With our partners, deliver major regeneration and infrastructure projects  
 Support development of new skills and improved prospects for our residents  
 Ensure that growth is good for all, and increased wealth benefits our local communities

- **Clean, Green and Safe Neighbourhoods**

Use innovation, technology and partnership with others to help improve the efficiency of services, improve customer satisfaction and reduce our impact on the environment

**Corporate priorities**

**Climate Action**

Taking action to reduce the effects of climate change on our district Community **Wealth-Building**

Building a sustainable and just local economy that benefits people and organisations

**Community Engagement**

Drawing on the wealth of skills and knowledge in the community and working in partnership

**78 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Lewis)**

Cabinet received a report from the Director of Communities and Environment which sought agreement of the principles for allocating funding to support vulnerable people agreed by Council on 18 March 2020 as part of the Council's Covid-19 pandemic response.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

<b>Option 1: Agree the principles and outline proposals for allocation set out in the report</b>
Advantages: Based on the most up to date knowledge, government guidance and developed following extensive consultation.
Disadvantages: None specifically at this time
Risks: No specific risks at this time.
<b>Option 2: Recommend different principles and outline proposals for allocation</b>
Advantages: None identified
Disadvantages: Deviation from current strategy, government guidance and consultation
Risks: Officer time allocated to dealing with the emergency is used developing further proposals.

The officer-preferred option is Option 1.

Councillor Lewis proposed, seconded by Councillor Jackson:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

By way of an amendment, which was accepted as a friendly amendment by the proposer, Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed and Councillor Reynolds seconded:

“That the recommendation be revised to include the same delegation framework as that agreed in the Coronavirus Business Support recommendation but with the Director of Communities and the Environment replacing the Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration.”

Councillors then voted on the amended proposals:-

***Resolved unanimously:***

- (1) That the principles for allocation of the funding as set out in the report are agreed.
- (2) That to enable progress and ensure help is available quickly, delegations for distribution of the funds are approved as follows:
  - Up to £50k – Director of Communities and the Environment to decide

after consulting with relevant portfolio holder or most suitable Cabinet member

- £50 - £150k – Individual Cabinet Member
- Over £150k – Cabinet.

**Officer responsible for effecting the decision:**

Director of Communities and the Environment

**Reasons for making the decision:**

As the pandemic has developed it is clear that without significant and sustained intervention the impacts on the most vulnerable will be severe, and result in a widening of inequality. The decision is consistent with the Council’s Ambitions:

**An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy**

- Using our finance to benefit local communities

**Health and Happy Communities**

- Supporting wellbeing and ensuring local communities are engaged, involved and connected
- Addressing health and income inequality, food and fuel poverty, mental health needs, and loneliness
- Focused on early-intervention approaches and involving our communities in service design and delivery

**79 MORECAMBE FUTURE HIGH STREETS**

**Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox )**

Cabinet received a report from the Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration which sought approval to make a bid to the MHCLG for access to the Future High Street Fund.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

<b>Option 1: Submission of the FHSF for Morecambe Bid to MHCLG</b>
Advantages: In submitting the bid Lancaster City Council can compete for Government funding of up to £25m to support the transformation of Morecambe over a number of years.
Promotes a positive approach to Morecambe’s development and viability over the next few years, with the potential to help rebuild the economy following the coronavirus crisis.
Disadvantages: None specifically at this time as all proposals will be subject to further

detailed development and assessment.
Risks: No specific risks at this time. Consideration of all risks will be required as part of decision making on detailed proposals.
<b>Option 2: Not to submit</b>
Advantages: Resources to develop and deliver the programme will not be required.
Disadvantages: Lost opportunity to secure major infrastructure funding from Government for beneficial regeneration and change.
Potential for the government to request repayment of the £150k funding provided for development of the FHS proposals
Risks: Significant risk to deliverability of regeneration opportunities, ability to better integrate the town, to create economic, social and environmental impact and reap the full benefits of investment by Eden North.

The officer-preferred option is Option 1 on the basis that the Council can bid for £25m of external funding to act as a catalyst for further investment and development in Morecambe.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed, seconded by Councillor Reynolds:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

***During consideration of this item Councillor Jackson experienced connectivity issues which precluded her from voting.***

***Resolved unanimously:***

- (1) That in accordance with Rule 6.15 of the Financial Procedure Rules Cabinet approval be given for the Director for Economic Growth & Regeneration to make a bid to the MHCLG for access to the Future High Street Fund.
- (2) The fund provides an opportunity for the Council to access for external Government funding of up to £25m for Morecambe and should the bid be successful a report will be brought back to Cabinet to seek acceptance of the offer of funding.
- (3) That should any successful bid for access to the FHS funding be accepted, the Council takes the role of Accountable Body for the FHS funding and spending programme.

- (4) That any future projects wishing to access the funding will be subject to the Council's executive governance procedures

**Officer responsible for effecting the decision:**

Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration

**Reasons for making the decision:**

The Future High Streets Funding is about delivering structural change fitting to the Morecambe Area Action Plan to make central Morecambe better as a place for people to enjoy and as a place for business and trade. It is about making places, driving footfall and transforming the conditions for investment. The decision is consistent with the Lancaster District Local Plan, the Morecambe Area Action Plan, the Council Ambitions and Corporate priorities:

**Council Ambitions**

- **A Thriving and Prosperous Economy**

Create strong conditions for growth so that businesses thrive and jobs are created

With our partners, deliver major regeneration and infrastructure projects Support development of new skills and improved prospects for our residents Ensure that growth is good for all, and increased wealth benefits our local communities

- **Clean, Green and Safe Neighbourhoods**

Deliver, work in partnership and influence to make our district's neighbourhoods, parks, beaches and open space clean, well-maintained and safe

Work towards key parks and public spaces becoming financially self-sustaining

Use innovation, technology and partnership with others to help improve the efficiency of services, improve customer satisfaction and reduce our impact on the environment

- **Healthy and Happy Communities**

Work with others to address health inequality, food and fuel poverty, mental health, loneliness

Enhance community cohesion Improve access to arts and leisure, meaningful work, public open space, quality housing

Protect and improve health focussing on early intervention and involving our communities in service design and delivery

**Corporate priorities**

**Climate Action**

Taking action to reduce the effects of climate change on our district

**Community Wealth-Building**

Building a sustainable and just local economy that benefits people and organisations

**Community Engagement**

Drawing on the wealth of skills and knowledge in the community and working in partnership.

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Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582047 or email  
ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

**MINUTES PUBLISHED ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2020.**

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:  
THURSDAY 14 MAY 2020.**