

Lancaster City Council | Report Cover Sheet

Meeting	Individual Cabinet Member Decision	Date	4 March 2022		
Title	Expression of Interest: Great British Railways HQ				
Report of	Chief Executive				
Purpose of Report:					
To delegate the development and submission of an Expression of Interest for the Great British Railways headquarters to the Chief Executive.					
Key Decision (Y/N)	N	Date of Notice	N/A	Exempt (Y/N)	N

Report Summary

The government has initiated a competitive process to establish the location of the headquarters of Great British Railways. It is considered that Carnforth would provide an outstanding location for the headquarters, due to its rail heritage, connectivity and opportunities for levelling up.

Developing an Expression of Interest will require input from a range of professional disciplines as well as local partners such as Lancashire County Council. As such, it is recommended that the Chief Executive be delegated to arrange the development and submission of relevant documentation, with comment from the Leader prior to finalising.

Recommendations of Councillor Caroline Jackson

- 1) That the Chief Executive be delegated to develop and submit an Expression of Interest for the Great British Railways headquarters.

Relationship to Policy Framework

Hosting the headquarters of Great British Railways will deliver substantial economic and community benefits, in line with the council's priorities of An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy, and Healthy and Happy Communities.

A local emphasis towards rail travel will also contribute to the council's 2030 net zero carbon emissions goal, as part of its priority of A Sustainable District.

Conclusion of Impact Assessment(s) where applicable	
Climate	Wellbeing & Social Value
Digital	Health & Safety
Equality	Community Safety
<p>No direct impact arising from the submission of an Expression of Interest; further impact assessment will be undertaken in future project stages.</p>	
<p>Details of Consultation</p> <p>The Expression of Interest will be developed on the basis of strong local support for Carnforth's role in hosting the Great British Railways headquarters. The government's competitive process is based on a consultative approach.</p>	
<p>Legal Implications</p> <p>None arising directly from this report at this stage.</p> <p>GBRTT cannot guarantee that the proposed site will be the ultimate site for the national headquarters and further due diligence, appraisal and procurement will need to be conducted by them as part of appropriate project management processes. The purpose of this competition is to select a location not a site, but potential sites or site options can be used to allow the Council to develop a compelling submission.</p> <p>It is unclear, at this stage, whether or not Council owned premises are proposed to be used and whether this would involve a freehold transfer of land or lease arrangement. Should this be the case then legal services will assist in drafting any relevant legal documentation required and advise on any appropriate governance routes.</p>	
<p>Financial Implications</p> <p>The direct costs of participating in this stage of the competitive process, totalling around £9,000, will be met from existing budgets relating to the Office of the Chief Executive and/or Economic Development given the economic opportunities associated with this activity.</p>	
<p>Other Resource or Risk Implications</p> <p>None arising directly from this report.</p>	
<p>Section 151 Officer's Comments</p> <p>Although limited to the submission of an EOI at this stage Members may wish to consider the likelihood of success of any future bid given the potential competition and if this represents value for money.</p>	
<p>Monitoring Officer's Comments</p> <p>The Leader determines the arrangements for the discharge of executive functions, which include responsibility for promoting the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.</p>	

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Links to Background Papers	

1.0 Report

1.1 The information relating to this report is contained in the Report Summary.