

13/03/2019

## **Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor**

**Decision title: Firepool –Site Enabling Works**

**Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Mark Edwards**

**Author Contact Details: James Barra 01823 358699**

**Date of Decision: 13 March 2019**

### **Details of decision:**

#### **Firepool Site Enabling Works**

**To approve allocation of £825K from New Homes Bonus for site enabling activities in order for site action planning and business case development to progress and to adequately secure the site and enhance physical environment.**

### **Reasons for proposed decision:**

**Following the successful conclusion of the outline planning process for the site, the Council is progressing action planning for delivering the Firepool master plan, a full report on this issue will be presented to Council in due course. In order to progress matters and keep up momentum a number of tasks need to be completed on the site and it is proposed to re-profile funding from New Homes Bonus to fund this activity.**

#### **Proposed works include:-**

- Funding NIDR access as Section 106 requirement to be completed by SCC in coming months.**
- Site clearance and site investigations.**
- Site set up works including boundary fence renewal.**
- Demolitions of minor structures and slabs and making good.**

**Works will be completed on site to start to reinforce the prominence of the boulevard in the development, explore the provision of pedestrian access to canal road and pay and display car park from the station and enhance site appearance and security. These actions will facilitate progression of site delivery action planning for the site, viability assessments and prepare for discussions with investors and stakeholders.**

### **Alternative options considered and rejected:**

**Not progressing early site enabling and preparatory works will cause delay in progressing site action planning and business case development and expose the Council to further risk and associated abortive costs and lost opportunity.**

<b>The below has been completed:</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	Contact being made with Ward Cllrs to discuss.	13/03/19
<b>The following are If appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be set out or attached to this decision notice.</b>		
Finance implications	Please see comments below at appendix A.	
Legal implications	Yes- Appropriate due Legal process will be adhered to re demolitions and land holdings.	
Links to corporate aims	Yes –Progressing Taunton Town Centre Regeneration aspirations.	
Community Safety implications	Yes – Community safety implications have been considered in design of fencing and site clearance works.	
Environmental implications	Yes –Works will enhance physical environment and more specifically appropriate consultations will be undertaken with Environment Agency re implications of any works.	
Equalities Impact	No	
Safeguarding Implications		
Risk management	Yes –appropriate RA's and method statements will be undertaken ahead of works.	
Partnership implications	Yes will enhance prospects for positive dialogue with potential future partners.	

**Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.**

**N/a**

## Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:



Name: Councillor Mark Edwards

Date: 13/03/2019

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication in The Weekly Bulletin and the period for any call-in has expired.

*Note: A copy should also be sent to the Democratic Services Unit.*

## Appendix A: Finance Implications - Re-profiling of NHB approval dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

The principles governing the spend of the £16.6m New Homes Bonus approval dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 provide that:-

- NHB funding in the above categories can be used to fund specialist expertise and project related costs that will be required to deliver key schemes, as well as costs associated with 'hard infrastructure'.
- The NHB funding allocation and indicative profile will be refreshed annually, to ensure that spending plans remain aligned with an evolving picture of external funding secured, opportunities for new funding and new growth priorities.
- The profile of spending shown is indicative. With approval of the Director and relevant Portfolio Holder, spend may fall outside of the indicative years shown, within the overall sum allocated for the category and subject to sufficient NHB balance being available.

The recommendation is that:

- a) £500k is re-profiled from Major transport schemes with a particular focus on Pedestrian and Cycle links into Town Centre regeneration as this will be funded from CIL.
- b) £325k is re-profiled within the Employment Site Enabling growth category for Firepool as a key employment site. This will leave £3.375m allocated to other Employment Site Enabling projects.

