

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

**THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET**

Cabinet Member

Cllr Reece Pugh

Relevant Portfolio:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Date of Decision:

17 June 2021

Subject:

Levelling up Fund - Margate Digital

Key Decision

No

In Forward Plan

No

Brief summary of matter:

Thanet has the opportunity to bid into the Government's Levelling Up Fund as it is a Priority One area and with two parliamentary constituencies is able to submit two bids.

This submission of a bid to the Levelling Up Fund for Margate is strongly aligned to the Margate Town Deal, and builds on the proposal for education, skills and employment pathway opportunities in the Margate Town Investment Plan.

This funding will support the delivery of a state of the art digital skills and training provision in the town centre which will undoubtedly support the whole district's economic recovery and levelling up of its communities, both in terms of training opportunities and pathways, as well as increasing footfall in the high street.

Decision made:

Cabinet agreed the following:

1. To approve submission of a Levelling Up Bid to the 18 June, 2021 deadline;
2. To delegate authority to Chief Executive and the Leader, for final sign-off of the Levelling up Bid;
3. That the Council will not make a financial contribution in any form within the 10% financial contribution encouraged in the prospectus, and this will be contributed by EKC Group.

Reasons for decision:

To enable the submission of a Levelling Up Bid for Margate.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

- There are very few funding programs that allow for capital investment for regeneration. If submitted to this round it will enable delivery alongside the Margate Town Deal, Intervention 1: Scaling Margate's Creative Production and

Skills. This project could take a long time to bring to fruition without the ability to bid for this funding;

- More than one bid can be submitted as it is covered by two MP constituency areas. The Cabinet has approved a bid to be submitted for Ramsgate, and this project is delivered in partnership with EKC Group and has the full backing of the local Member of Parliament.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Louise Askew, Director of Regeneration

Background papers

Margate Digital LUF Cabinet Report 170621 - Google Docs

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

This decision is exempt from call-in. The Council Chairman has agreed that this decision be made exempt from call-in by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel due to the tight deadlines that the Council has to meet in order to submit documents for the bid.

Last date for call in:

None