

CAPITAL PROGRAMME SCHEME - RAMSGATE FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

Meeting	14th October 2021
Report Author	Louise Askew, Director of Regeneration
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Reece Pugh, deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Status	For Recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	Yes
Reasons for Key	Addition of a new scheme within the Council's Capital Programme from Grant funding
Ward:	Central Harbour Ward

Executive Summary:

This paper sets out the requirement to approve an additional scheme within the Capital Programme for an externally funded capital grant received to deliver the Ramsgate Future High Street Fund. Thanet District Council has already received part of this funding (2021/22 allocation) to deliver specific pre-agreed projects. It is a Constitutional requirement that these funds are added into the Capital Programme in order to be able to spend the funds.

Council is asked to approve the additional scheme within the Capital Programme, so that the grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) can be added, and allow project delivery to start.

Recommendation(s):

- Approve the addition of a new scheme into the Capital Programme, funded from the MHCLG Future High Street Funds. The value of the scheme will be no more than the total £2,704,213; this being the maximum award from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, for the delivery of pre-agreed projects within the Ramsgate Future High Street Funding programme.
- That the Director of Regeneration and Director of Legal are authorised to agree appropriate contracts for works and grant payments, based on approval from the Director of Property Asset Management and Director of Finance.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

The agreed programme has been developed in accordance with MHCLG guidance. Both projects have been created with a clear business case that tests its ability to deliver the government's requirements for Future High Street Funding, and deliver value for money for the public funds. The bid clearly outlines specific details in relation to delivery, cost and outcomes.

We have already received part of this funding, however we are required to allocate it to the Capital Programme to commence delivery.

The Section 151 Officer is required to scrutinise and approve regular monitoring returns to MHCLG. These returns will cover actual and forecast spend, alongside output metrics.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Corporate

The Ramsgate Future High Street Fund programme supports the Council's corporate priority for Growth, by encouraging the regeneration of Ramsgate Town Centre. It will also enhance the environment through traffic management proposals with the aim of reducing vehicle dominance and reducing speed.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Growth*
- *Environment*
- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Thanet District Council was successfully awarded £2.7m from Future High Street Funds in May 2021.
- 1.2 The funds were approved for the delivery of two projects in Ramsgate:
- **Creative Workspace:** working with an experienced operator, a long term vacant site in Harbour Street will be transferred into workspace for creative and cultural industries use. Our aim is that this will stimulate further regeneration in an area currently characterised by high numbers of vacant premises and absentee landlords. **Awarded £1,063,199**
 - **Highway Improvement:** this scheme seeks to provide improved public realm and connectivity between the popular harbourside area and the town centre. The scheme will facilitate and encourage increased visitor footfall with the town centre by providing improved crossing facilities on key desire lines and creating an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists. The proposed scheme will provide more legible and direct connection between the High Street shops and services and other key destinations for visitors to Ramsgate such as the harbour, pier, beach, Royal Victoria Pavilion and public car parking. This will provide clear benefits to the regeneration of the town through economic growth that accords with the strategic objectives of the fund. **Awarded £1,641,014**
- 1.3 All the investments and costs associated with the Ramsgate Future High Street Fund Programme are fully funded from external grants and contributions. Clear governance arrangements, monitoring and evaluation activities have been put in place. This will ensure all expenditure relating to the two projects is managed appropriately and within the total package of funding provided, aiming to mitigate any financial risk to the Council.
- 1.4 As both projects are capital funded, the Council constitution financial requirements are that the capital funding is required to be in the Capital Programme.

2.0 Capital Development Funding

- 2.1 The funding proposal when originally submitted was due to be completed by March 2022. However, due to delays as a result of COVID, and MHCLG awarding the grant, we have now been able to negotiate that the Highways improvements project will be completed within 2022/23. Our aim is to complete the Creative Workshop project within this financial year. Due to these tight timescales we request approval for the Director of Regeneration and Director of Legal to be authorised to agree appropriate contracts for works and grant payments, based on agreement from the Director of Property Asset Management and Director of Finance.

Contact Officer: Louise Askew (Director of Regeneration)

Reporting to: Madeline Homer (Chief Executive)

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Clive Bowen, Finance Manager

Legal: Estelle Culligan, Director of Law and Democracy