

# **CAPITAL PROGRAMME SCHEMES - Levelling Up Fund Projects for Ramsgate and Margate**

<b>Council</b>	12 January 2022
<b>Report Author</b>	Louise Askew, Director of Regeneration
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr Reece Pugh, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development
<b>Status</b>	For Recommendation
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reasons for Key</b>	Addition of two new schemes within the Council's Capital Programme from Grant funding
<b>Ward:</b>	Central Harbour Ward; Eastcliff; Newington; Margate Central

## **Executive Summary:**

This paper requests approval of two additional schemes within the Capital Programme for externally funded capital grants that will be received to deliver the Margate and Ramsgate Levelling Up Fund Programmes. Thanet District Council will receive the funding to be allocated against pre-agreed projects, in order for them to be delivered. It is a Constitutional requirement that these funds are added into the Capital Programme in order to be able to spend the monies.

Council is asked to approve the additional schemes within the Capital Programme, so that the grants from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities can be added, and allow project delivery to start. The Levelling Up Fund is required to start delivery in 2021-22, and the funding needs to be in the Capital Programme to do that.

## **Recommendation(s):**

- Approve the addition of two new schemes into the Capital Programme, funded from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Levelling Up Fund. The value of each fund (identified below) is the maximum award from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, for the delivery of pre-agreed projects within the Margate and Ramsgate Levelling Up Fund programme.
  - MargateDigital Levelling Up Fund: £6,306,078
  - Ramsgate Future Levelling Up Fund: £19,840,000
- That the Director of Regeneration and Director of Law and Democracy are authorised to agree appropriate contracts for works and grant payments, based on approval from the

Director of Finance as Section 151 Officer, and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development.

## **Corporate Implications**

### **Financial and Value for Money**

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

All projects will have clear project management processes established, this will include a process for monitoring and evaluation, and project reporting. Each of the Ramsgate schemes will have a Council project lead, who will report into a senior Programme Management Team, led by the Chief Executive. The Programme Management Team will report to the Levelling Up Programme Scrutiny Panel (LUPSP) which has been created. The Ramsgate LUPSP includes the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive of the Council, the MP for Thanet South and a representative from Ramsgate Town Council has been invited. The Margate LUPSP will comprise the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive of the Council, the MP for Thanet North and a representative from EKC Group. Both LUPSPs will meet monthly to oversee the management of the Levelling Up Funds, with reporting on financial management, risk register, project delivery, monitoring and evaluation requirements.

The report is currently seeking approval for the inclusion of the entire budget in the Capital Programme, it will however be profiled over several financial years once a final profile is agreed with DLUHC.

### **Legal**

Incorporating these funds within the Capital programme is a technical issue and therefore, under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in part 4 of the Constitution, full Council needs to make the decision to amend the budget.

All Directors have delegated authority to negotiate contracts under section 3 of the Constitution. As with all contracts, they must follow the rules set out in the Council's Contract Standing Orders when awarding contracts for delivery of the capital projects. Decisions of the Cabinet will be required to enter into any individual contract with a total value of £750,000 or above, as this would be a Key Decision under the Constitution, which is not delegated to officers and can only be made by Cabinet.

External legal advice is being sought to draft a robust grant agreement for all grants relating to external funding, this will include any requirements, including monitoring and evaluation of the funding, as allocated by the funder - Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

### **Corporate**

These Levelling Up Fund projects support all the Council's corporate priorities for Growth, Environment and Communities. The projects in both Ramsgate and Margate aim to encourage business growth and regeneration. A number of the Ramsgate projects aim to

enhance the environment through the creation of the Green Business Hub, and improvements to the public realm. Communities will be supported through new training opportunities which will be directly linked to the new employment opportunities being created through the projects.

## **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 £26,146,078 from Levelling Up Funds in October 2021.

1.2 The funds were approved for:

- **MargateDigital:** a specialist industry-focused centre positioned in Margate High Street. The Council, in partnership with the EKC Group aims to create 2,000 sqm of cutting-edge, industry-relevant training space which will focus on digital technology. The shared space will link with local businesses, and increased footfall will enhance the town centre, making it more attractive to residents, visitors and businesses. It will deliver a range of technical qualifications, including specialised T Levels, and will offer seamless progression to Level 4 and 5 provision by introducing new Higher Technical Qualifications, supported by a government-backed brand and quality mark to meet the higher-level skills of industry. **Awarded £ 6,306,078**
- **Ramsgate Future:** A package of three elements:
  - **The Port.** Investment in Port Infrastructure creating a Green Port which will provide a hub for innovation and training, allied to a modern hybrid Port, supporting renewable energy and zero carbon maritime logistics. Working with the private sector to create a Green Campus including a Centre of Excellence for offshore operations and maintenance, space for innovation in low carbon

logistics and a hub for green business. This investment will unlock the opportunity to provide real economic growth, job creation and training places in the heart of Ramsgate.

- **The Royal Harbour.** Investment to link buildings within the harbour area to develop new and distinctive visitor assets providing important new training and employment pathways for residents. A new boutique hotel and a high end restaurant and a brasserie will provide apprenticeships and in work training in hospitality. These will be accompanied by vital investment in quayside fishing facilities to enable the local fleet to store and sell their catch, as well as providing new fishing and maritime jobs and training to support the growth and resilience of the town's fishing community. New public realm adjacent to a refurbished clocktower will create a new town square, as well as connecting projects and reducing congestion within the centre.
- **Assets to Connect to Opportunity.** This will involve investing in two community access points one at Newington and one in central Ramsgate. These spaces allow people to access information and first stage activity as part of wider career development. This will include training kitchens, community teaching space, opportunities for intermediate labour markets and information exchange, as well as space for existing local charities to operate from. **Total Amount Awarded for all three Elements: £19,840,000**

1.3 All the investments and costs associated with the Levelling Up Fund Programme are fully funded from external grants and contributions. Clear governance arrangements, monitoring and evaluation activities have been put in place as per the wording contained in the original bid document.

1.4 As both projects are capital funded, the grant funding must be transferred into the Capital Programme.

## 2.0 Capital Development Funding

2.1 The Council is presently awaiting any further approval details or requirements for the schemes and confirmation of when the funds will be drawn down. However, it is necessary at this stage to establish approval for these capital grant schemes to ensure progress can be made when the funds become available. All activities have to be completed by April 2024, in accordance with the original Prospectus.

Contact Officer: Louise Askew (Director of Regeneration)

Reporting to: Madeline Homer (Chief Executive)

### Background Papers

None

### Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell, Director of Finance

Legal: Estelle Culligan, Director of Law and Democracy