



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Thursday, 21st October 2021 by the:-

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 21st October 2021

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 1st November 2021. This decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones - Cabinet Member for Housing and Business

Neil Armstrong, Senior Programme and Projects Manager

Apologies: None

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

Town Deals Early Funding and Grant Offer

2. REASONS FOR URGENCY

This decision is being taken in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rule 15, (General Exception), as it has not been practical to provide the 28 days' notice normally required for a key decision, or to wait for a call-in period before implementation, due to the timescales between project confirmation submission to DLUHC, receipt of Grant Offer letter and issuing of the Towns Fund pre-payment funds. To date, DLUHC have not confirmed satisfaction of the Doncaster Town Deal project prioritisation documentation, yet have indicated that the pre-payment funds are released once DLUHC 'are satisfied'. Therefore, release of the Grant Offer Letter and pre-payment funds for Doncaster are expected to be released imminently. If the urgency provisions for decision making were not applied, there is a risk that the funding to support early projects developments could not be applied in a timely manner, potentially compromising the timescales for business case summaries completion and submission to DLUHC. This potential delay could further impact the release of further Towns Deal funding for Doncaster and Stainforth.



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The Stainforth Town Deal is still at the project confirmation stage, with project confirmation documentation for Stainforth due to be submitted to DLHUC on the 5th October 2021. To that end, the release of the Stainforth Grant Offer Letter and pre-payment fund is not as imminent as the Doncaster equivalent. However, it would be prudent to seek approval to receive the pre-payment funds and Grant Offer Letter for both Towns Deal areas at the same time. If the urgency provisions for decision making were not applied, there is a risk that the schemes could not be delivered in the timescales.

3. DECISION TAKEN

- To delegate to the Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the portfolio holder for Housing and Business and Chair of the appropriate Towns Board to accept the 5% early payments for the Doncaster Towns Deal and Stainforth Towns Deal and to agree and sign the respective Grant Offer Letters
- To add £1,240,000 for Doncaster Towns Deal and £1,080,000 for Stainforth Towns Deal to the Councils Capital Programme – Economy and Environment.
- To delegate authority to the Director of Economy & Environment in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the portfolio holder for Housing and Business to undertake any necessary development works for the Doncaster Towns Fund and the Stainforth Towns Fund using their respective 5% early payment, to include, but not limited to appointment of relevant external appointments to progress feasibility work and to develop the full business cases

4. REASONS FOR DECISION

DLUHC are releasing the early-funding grant in recognition that Towns Deal places would have otherwise had to fund early project development 'at-risk'. There is the risk that places could incur costs that would not be recouped if the project business cases were rejected by DLUHC. Accepting the early-funding grant mitigates this risk. Accepting the Grant Offer Letter is a stipulated step in the Towns Deals process. Not accepting this grant would effectively end the Towns Deal process for Doncaster and Stainforth.

Development costs would include internal costs from charging services



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such as legal and highways design, appointment of external parties for identified needs of compulsory purchase order advice and commercial viability analysis and advice, in addition to costs related to feasibility surveys and design work and costs related to progressing compulsory purchase and potential acquisition payments.

5. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do not accept the Towns Deal early-funding Section 31 Grant or the Grant Offer Letter from DLUHC. Selecting this option would effectively entail rejecting the offer of funding from DLUHC. If this option was selected, Doncaster and Stainforth would not be able to reap the economic regeneration benefits that delivery of the projects identified within the Doncaster and Stainforth TIPs would deliver.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

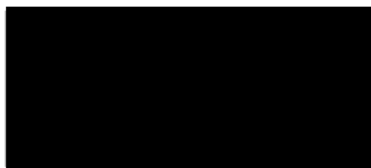
7. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not applicable

8. RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dan Swaine - Director of Economy and Environment

Signed



Chair/Decision Maker