

COUNCIL – 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – RULE 46 (WAIVING CALL-IN) PROVISIONS

I wish to report that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) gave his consent, under Rule 46 (Waiving Call-In) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution. The report was in relation to Marine Lake Events Centre – Pre-Development and Capital Funding Bid Submissions and not subject to "call in" on the basis that it cannot be reasonably deferred because of the opportunity for early release of pre-development funding.

CABINET MEETING - 29 JULY 2021

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Place in relation to the submission of a pre-development funding bid of up to £2.5m to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA), along with a capital funding bid submission to Arts Council England (ACE) of up to £5m.

The report also detailed the proposal to procure a range of required consultancy services for the proposed new Southport Marine Lake Events Centre, in order to progress the design, business case and operating model, to enable the required Town Deal submission by March 2022 to draw down the necessary funds.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills, Councillor Atkinson referred to the hard work of officers and key partners in seeking and securing funds to assist with the delivery of the Marine Lake Events Centre. Councillor Atkinson thanked officers, members of the Southport Town Deal Board and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for their continued support and hard work.

Councillor Atkinson also referred to the fantastic opening of Southport Market that had taken place on Thursday 22 July 2021 and congratulated the Tourism team and partners for all their hard work and commitment.

Decisions Made: That:

- (1) the submission of a pre development funding bid of up to £2.5m to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, be approved;
- (2) the submission of a Cultural Development Fund bid to Arts Council England of up to £5m, be approved;
- (3) subject to the funding bid, the tender processes to procure a range of consultancy services, using several different compliant procurement methods as detailed in the report, be approved;
- (4) the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Regeneration be granted delegated authority to award the necessary contracts, be approved;

- (5) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because of the opportunity for early release of pre-development funding; and
- (6) it be noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) had given his consent under Rule 46 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for this decision to be treated as urgent and not subject to "call in" on the basis that it cannot be reasonably deferred because of the opportunity for early release of pre-development funding.

Reasons for the Decisions:

Cabinet have previously approved to progress with a new Events Centre in Southport as part of the successful Southport Town Deal. To enable progression of the project at pace, there is now opportunity to secure up to £2.5m from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority as a contribution to the pre-development works. Moreover, Arts Council England has recently announced a Capital funding scheme, with the proposed Marine Lake Events Centre being eligible.

Furthermore, in order to complete the final business case, several procurements are required such as the delivery team and full design services. This will allow the project to progress on the necessary timetable to drawdown Town Deal funding in March 2022, and to submit the final business case to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority as part of the capital contribution of up to £20m.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Two procurement timetable options have been considered and rejected;

1. Finalise the delivery strategy and present the procurement options to September Cabinet therefore given time to be on the forward plan. This option has been rejected due to the notification of pre development funding being available from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
2. Given the programme pressure and requirement to submit a planning application by February / March 2022, an approach to procure the core design team via the direct award route has been considered. This would allow the commencement of design development as early as possible, and therefore maximise the period for design development and cost certainty at the point of submitting the planning application.

However, the direct award route is deemed to be unsuitable due to the value of the works. The next preferred option is to procure the core design team via a mini-competition, resulting in a circa 2-month programme delay.