

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Mark Gaynor - Corporate Director Housing & Planning

Service Area: Strategic Planning & Regeneration

Title of Decision: To sign a funding agreement for the ERDF Returning to the High Streets Safely fund to access project funding

Decision made and reasons:

Decision: Approval to sign a funding agreement for RHSS (Returning to the High Street Safely) funding of £137,473

Reason: The Council need to sign the funding agreement to enable access to the RHSS funding and to therefore deliver the project.

Reports considered:

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Chris Taylor GM Strategic Planning and Regeneration

Farida Husain GM Legal

Fiona Jump GM Finance

AD Planning & Regeneration Corporate Director for Housing and Regeneration

Financial Comments:

The RHSS project is quite prescriptive in its scope and its classifications of valid project expenditure. All spend will be required to prove 'additionality' – that is costs over and above what we may have otherwise have incurred. This hazy concept could be problematic in some cases which could delay or indeed invalidate reimbursement. All claims regardless of significance require documentary evidence as well as adhere to ERDF procurement guidelines.

CLG have agreed the first claim can be raised as soon as the agreement is in place, backdated to June/July. This will likely consist solely of staff costs. There will be further claims for expenditure in arrears in Mar & Apr 21. This does involve the risk of DBC incurring expenditure that is later rejected for reimbursement due to the projects stringent eligibility requirements.

Darren Flanagan, accountant 02 Dec 20

Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments:

The funding agreement has been reviewed by Legal Services. Completion of this agreement is necessary as it sets out the obligations regarding the grant funding.

Deputy S151 Officers Comments:

The RHSS grant is paid in arrears with a retrospective validation process, as such the service will need to ensure that all additional works carried out in this project adhere to the strict grant guidelines to prevent the risk of rejected claims.

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Implications:

The Council will be able to access funding up to £137,473

To deliver interventions to encourage activity on the High Streets and Town Centre post the lockdowns and to aid recovery post the impacts of the pandemic

Value for Money:

The funding is available and allocated to the Council and all delivery will bring additionality to current work in this area

Financial:**Risk:**

The ERDF projects are onerous and complex in the funding requirements, the project is narrow in focus and the ERDF requirements for procurement and claiming are set out in guidance and must be adhered to in order to access to the funding. All money is paid first by the Council and then claimed back through the claims

procedure. This is a relatively small project which must be delivered by March 31 2021.

Officer Signature:

Date: