



**Corporate Policy &
Resources Committee**

**Thursday 16 December
2021**

Subject: Levelling Up Fund Resources

Report by:	Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration
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Purpose / Summary:	This report sets out the capital budget and staffing resources required to deliver 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024' WLDCs Levelling Up Fund programme.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Members approve a revised Capital Budget for the Cinema of £5.730m
2. That Members approve additional Capital Budgets of £6.736m in line with the Levelling Up Fund Programme to be included in the Capital Programme 2021/22 and MTFP 2022/23 onwards.
3. That Members approve the resources and expenditure to enable commencement of delivery during 2021/22 of £389k.
4. That the Committee receive a further paper once the Memorandum of Understanding is agreed with Department of Levelling Up Homes and Communities to approve spend of the remainder of the Levelling Up Fund grant funding.

5. That the Committee receive further reports to approve the expenditure of specific projects within the Programme.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: Lincolnshire Legal Services will support the council to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/146/22/TJB

The Levelling Up bid totalled some £17.575m made up of;

- projects which are approved and currently in delivery totalling £4.549m
- WLDC Land as match funding £0.435m
- Private sector investment £3.485m

The Cinema Scheme currently has a budget of £3m which will increase by £2.730m to £5.730m

Leaving a balance of £6.376m which requires budget approval to deliver this programme of which £6.368m will be funded from LUF Grant and £8k from the Investment for Growth Reserve.

These budgets will be profiled as detailed at 2.7

To enable the Programme to commence resources and other costs will need to be incurred in 2021/22 in advance of the business cases being brought forward. A request to spend £389k in the current year is detailed at 2.8 within the report.

Staffing : This paper sets out the staff resources that we estimate will be required in order to deliver the Levelling Up programme for Gainsborough.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : All recruitment will be undertaken in accordance with equality and diversity policies and guidelines.

NB: Please explain how you have considered the policy's impact on different groups (for example: young people, elderly, ethnic minorities, LGBT community, rural residents, disabled, others).

Data Protection Implications :None arising from this paper.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

The following indicators are required to be included within the programme for monitoring and evaluation.

Number of alternative fuel charging/re-fuelling points - 5

Number of existing non-domestic buildings with green retrofits completed – 50

Number of new trees planted – 35

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

The following indicators are required to be included within the programme for monitoring and evaluation.

Number of dilapidated buildings improved: 50

Amount of public realm improved: 2350 m²

Average IMD rank for all SOA in Gainsborough

Sense of place - resident satisfaction with pride in Gainsborough- to be determined through resident survey.

Fear of crime decline (in evenings in town centre) – to be determined through resident survey

Health Implications:

The following indicators are required to be included within the programme for monitoring and evaluation and will support the wider determinants of improvements in health and well-being.

Amount of public realm improved: 2350 m2

Amount of new green or blue space created: 1200 m2

Amount of existing green or blue space improved: 2908 m2

Number of new trees planted: 35

Amount of new retail space created: 185.8 m2

Amount of new hospitality space created: 464.5 m2

Amount of new cultural space created 975.48 m2

Number of visitors to cultural venues: to be measured post completion.

Number of cultural events: to be measured post completion

Sense of place - resident satisfaction with pride in Gainsborough – to be determined through resident survey

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment :

The delivery of adequate programme resource is a key mitigating action within the programme risk assessment.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Following a competitive bid process West Lindsey District Council have been awarded £10.275m from the government's flagship Levelling Up Programme.
- 1.2 Members will recall that in May 2021 a concurrent meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee and the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approved the bid to the Levelling Up Fund. The bid set out proposals for investment in 6 key interventions in Gainsborough Town Centre, to be delivery under the project to be known as 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024'.
- 1.3 The 6 key interventions contained within the bid are:
 1. Cinema
 2. own centre public realm
 3. Expansion of Townscape Heritage project
 4. Redevelopment of Whittons Gardens and creation of new pocket park at Baltic Mill
 5. Bus Station Refurbishment
 6. Living over the shops programme expansion

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 Officers are now engaged with government officials to agree the details a memorandum of understanding which will set out the terms and conditions of the funding and what is expected from the Council.
- 2.2 The timeframes for delivery are challenging, with some spend expected this financial year. In order to achieve this we are working quickly to establish the project team and to gear up the first elements of delivery.
- 2.3 The bid made provisions for project resources to be employed by the council. This will include the following roles:
 - Programme Manager
 - Project Officer
 - Project Support Officer
 - Townscape Heritage Project Officer
 - Procurement Officer
 - Contract Manager
 - Project / Grant Accountant
- 2.4 The job descriptions and person specifications are currently being used to agree the appropriate banding for the roles through the job evaluation process.
- 2.5 Subject to job evaluation and the approvals sought within this paper we aim to have recruited fully to the LUF team by March 2022.

2.6 In addition to the resources required to support the project team, the other elements of the programme where spend of LUF grant is anticipated this financial year are as follows:

- Cinema
- Wayfinding including new signage
- Bus station refurbishment LED lighting and CCTV
- Public realm design stage inception
- Monitoring and evaluation – creation of required framework

2.7 The Cinema Budget will increase by £2.730m (funded by the LUF Grant) to £5.730m. Additional Capital Budgets requiring approval for the programme totals £6.376m and will be profiled within the 2021/22 revised budget and Capital Programme 2022/23 onwards in accordance with the Grant Bid profiles.

SCHEME	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
CURRENT PROGRAMME				
Thriving Gainsborough - LUF (Cinema)	718,916	2,219,200	2,792,250	5,730,366
Total New Bids	417,410	3,086,932	2,871,502	6,375,844
Total Investment	1,136,326	5,306,132	5,663,752	12,106,210

2.8 The Capital Budget includes for the project team resource and expert support. The current estimate for this expenditure funded from the LUF grant this financial year is £0.389m as detailed below. Approval to spend is requested to allow the recruitment and procurement to commence.

Category	Financial Quarter 2021/22				TOTAL
	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	
Project Management				£67,520.00	£67,520.00
Design Fees				£7,500.00	£7,500.00
Legal Fees					£0.00
Site Acquisition Cost					£0.00
Property Acquisition Cost					£0.00
Enabling works – Pre-Contract - Demolition / Site Preparation or Remediation etc				£2,058.00	£2,058.00
Temporary works					£0.00
Construction Phase – Cost of new build				£29,663.00	£29,663.00
Construction Phase – Cost of refurbishment / conversion				£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Materials/Equipment				£180,941.00	£180,941.00
Project insurance					£0.00
Other Fees/Costs				£99,146.66	£99,146.66
TOTALS	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£388,828.66	£388,828.66

2.9 Once the memorandum of understanding is agreed with government we will be in a position to seek approval to spend against the full detailed programme. In the interim, this paper seeks approval to spend to meet the identified resourcing needs and the costs of the programme in this financial year.

2.10 Given the level of investment to be made by WLDC into the Cinema project, a detailed paper will be brought before this committee early in 2022.