



## **URGENT DELEGATED DECISION**

Date: 30 March 2021

**Request to the Head of Paid Service to exercise delegated authority as per Responsibility of Functions in Part IV, page 28 of the Constitution.**

**“to determine any matter within the referred or delegated powers and duties of a committee / sub committee / board / working group which is so urgent that a decision must be made before the next meeting of that committee / sub-committee / board / working group is due to be held.”**

Limits on delegation: -

- Before making a decision using this delegated power, the Head of Paid Service shall consult with and take cognisance of the views of the Chairman (or in his absence the VC) of the relevant Committee / Sub-Committee etc.; and
- Any decision taken by the Head of Paid Service under this delegated power shall be reported to Members within five working days of the decision taken.
- During the COVID-19 Pandemic we have also committed to consult with the Leader of the Opposition on such decisions.

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**Usual Decision Maker and Reason for Urgency: -**

This decision would have been taken by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

This decision needs to be made before the body is next due to meet as the closing date for bids is 18 June and in order to ensure the Council has a quality submission external resources will need to be procured as a matter of urgency in advance.

The decision relates to the procurement of external support to assist the Council in making a submission.

Call-in does not apply.

A full proposal was provided to the meeting but due to the commercial sensitivity of an unsigned contract of works, this is not attached to the public decision notice but is available to Members of Council on request.

## **Background and Detail relevant to the decision**

The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) was originally announced in the spending review of 2020 with a full prospectus being published as part of the budget speech on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. It was announced alongside the Community Renewal Fund.

The LUF was introduced as follows: 'Infrastructure improves everyday life. A new bridge or a bus lane makes the journeys of local people easier; town centre improvements help local businesses and cement pride in a place; and upgrades in local heritage sites strengthen the local economy and build civic identity. These are things that people rely on every day in communities up and down the country – the infrastructure of everyday life.'

It is also a precursor to the Prosperity Fund (although the allocation methodology may not remain the same) which has been discussed for some time as a replacement for the European Funding regimes following our exit from the European Union.

This paper considered at the consultation meeting set out a proposal for how West Lindsey District Council could develop a bid to the Levelling Up Fund of up to £20m for submission by the 18<sup>th</sup> June.

The paper also outlined external assistance which would be required, the reasons for this, together with the preferred consultant and associated costs.

Members were also provided with a draft timeline, from appointment of consultant to submission of the final bid, which would include both a member workshop and a formal committee to agree the final bid.

The risks to success were shared with Members, although it was stressed that any work undertaken would provide a set of evidence and ready-made projects which would be ready for any future funding opportunities, in the event that this bid was not successful.

Members noted the areas deemed priority status 1 by the Government and shared the Chief Executive's concerns that from the metric data it was unclear why West Lindsey was not a priority 1.

Members were in agreement that a bid should be made give the potential "rewards" to be gained.

## **Decision**

- The proposal within the report be supported and expenditure of up to £125k to facilitate the development of a bid for the Levelling Up fund be authorised.

## **Financial Detail and Implications**

### **FIN/167/21/TJB**

£125k will be used from the Investment for Growth Reserve to support this bid, leaving an uncommitted balance of £4.7m

An additional £18,000 is requested to cover potential legal and other costs that may be incurred during the process.



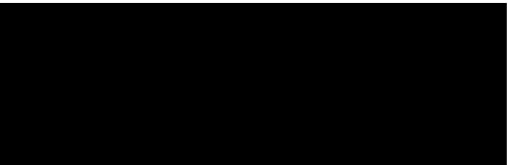
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Ian Knowles  
Head of Paid Service

As the Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee I have been fully consulted on this matter



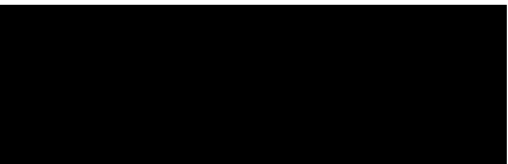
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Anne Welburn  
Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

As the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee I have been fully consulted on this matter



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Owen Bierley  
Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee

As the Leader of the Opposition I have been fully consulted on this matter.



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Trevor Young  
Leader of the Opposition.

Date notified to all Members: - 12 April 2021