

**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director – Place**

Report to:	<b>Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Councillor R G Davies, Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport, and IT</b>
Date:	<b>11 - 15 March 2024</b>
Subject:	<b>Grantham Future High Street Fund – Market Place and Station Approach (Scheme)</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I030841</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

This decision is due to be considered by the Executive Councillors for Resources, Communications and Commissioning and Highways, Transport, and IT respectively between 11 March and 15 March 2024.

**Recommendation(s):**

(1) That the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor Resources, Communications and Commissioning) approves the Scheme for the Grantham Future High Street Fund – Market Place and Station Approach projects (Scheme).

(2) That the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport, and IT:

- Approves the undertaking of an appropriate procurement process in relation to the delivery and construction of the Scheme; and
- Delegates to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT, authority to take all decisions necessary to progress the Scheme including the detailed terms, award and entering of any contract or other documentation necessary to ensure the delivery and construction of the Scheme.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. A feasibility report was drafted for both projects that investigated into various forms that the improvements could take.
  - a. There were limited alternative options for the Station Approach project as the aims and outcomes of the bid were defined and the options were simply derivatives of the one presented. The one presented represented the most economical form while still meeting the aims of the District Council's bid.
  - b. There were more options prepared for the Market Place, however all other forms either impaired the use of the existing road travelling arrangements or failed to meet the requirements of the District Council's bid requirements.
2. Not to proceed with the project will result in the benefits of the projects not being realised and the benefits of the overall Future High Street funding not being realised.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

The delivery of the Grantham Future High Street Fund – Market Place and Station Approach projects will see public realm improvements in the Market Place and at Station Approach as part of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) funding.

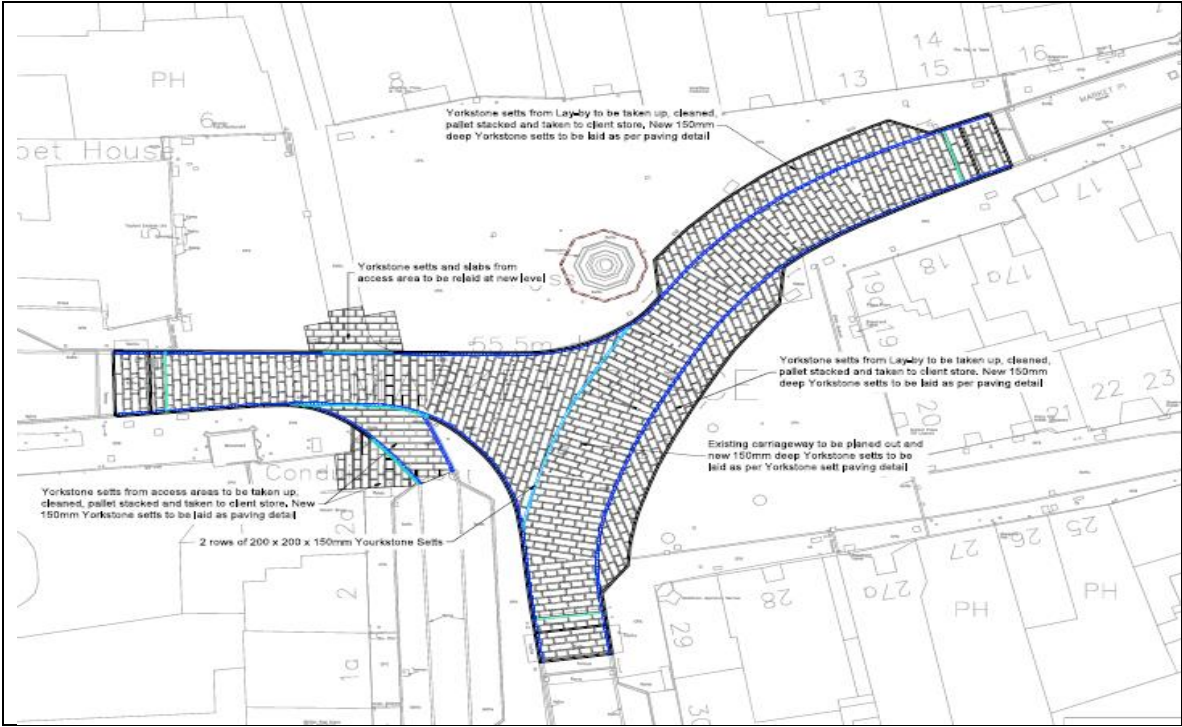
**1. Background**

- 1.1 The £830 million Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) is part of the Government's overall £3.6 billion Towns Fund and aims to renew and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that drives growth, improves experience, and ensures future sustainability. South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) submitted a bid for £8,041,845 to deliver infrastructure improvements projects in Grantham.
- 1.2 This report will provide an overview of Grantham Future High Street Fund – Market Place and Station Approach projects that constitute the Scheme and form part of the wider Future High Street Fund programme for SKDC. SKDC, had identified within their masterplan for Grantham town centre, a number of public realm improvement schemes, two of these were Market Place and Station Approach.
- 1.3 A Feasibility report was completed and below is a description of the defined projects, those being Market Place and Station Approach.

**2.0 Market Place**

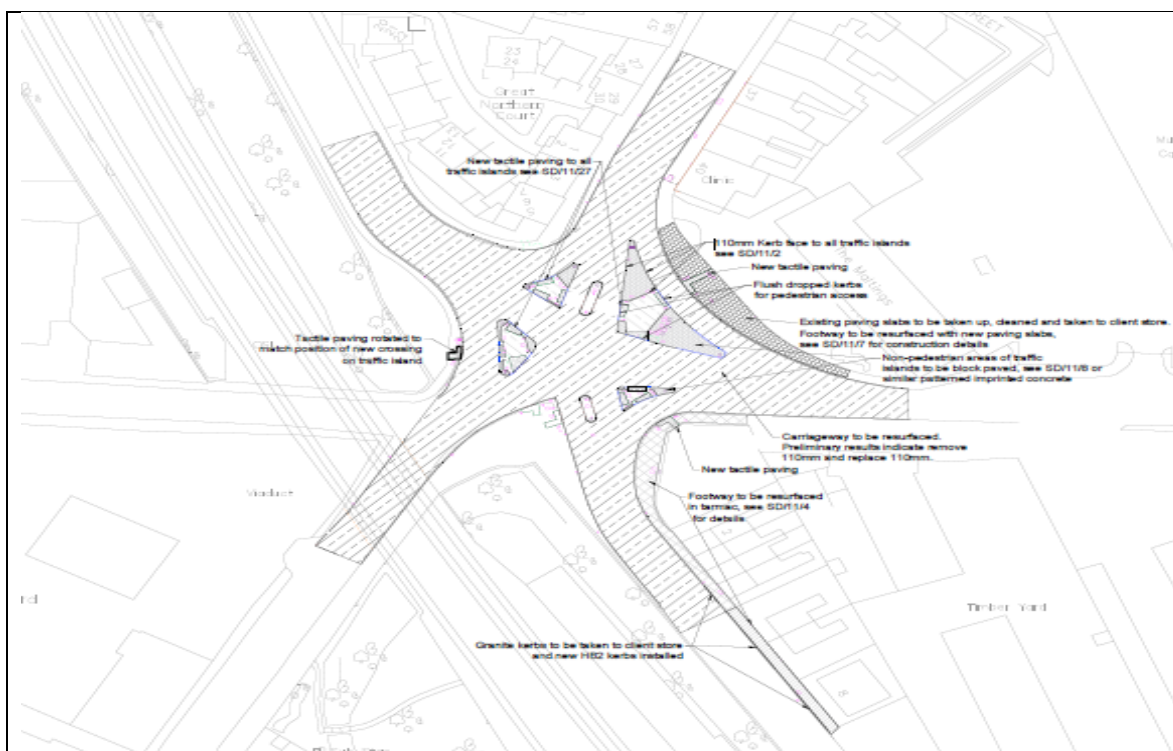
- 2.1 The Market Place project is located in the Market Place adjacent to Conduit Lane and Westgate in Grantham town centre. The aim is to create an open event space as a focal point for the town. The existing Market Place area was subject to a major reconstruction in circa 2011. These works included removal of parking areas, and installation of large areas of natural stone paving. This project will raise the current

road height of the Market Place to deliver a single level structured, cohesive space, capable of delivering a regular programme of town centre events. When not in use, the Market Place will function as a central urban open space for the town, resuming its historic function as a market place. This improvement will re-establish the Market Place as the heart of the town and a gathering point for residents and visitors.



**3.0 Station Approach**

3.1 The Station Approach project includes the 5-arm junction leading from Station Road to Westgate, to improve the remaining footways by replacing the existing surfacing and widening the footpath along Station Road (West), removal of pedestrian guard rail from the traffic signal junction, and replacement of the existing traffic islands with 'at grade' crossing routes.



#### 4.0 Procurement and Construction Programme

4.1 The procurement of these projects are proposed through the Midlands Highways Alliance Framework, Medium Scheme Framework 4, Competitive Tender.

4.2 The intention is to construct the works for Market Place between April 2024 and August 2024 and for Station Approach to follow on afterwards in Autumn 2024. Exact dates will be confirmed nearer the time of construction once agreed. There is a potential that the Station Approach project can be brought forward so that is being constructed at the same time as Market Place. This will generate time and costs efficiency, however this is difficult to confirm until the contractor has been appointed

4.3 Below is an overview of the procurement programme for the projects

Item	Date
Tender Period	February 2024 - March 2024
Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	4 March 2024
Executive Key Decision	11 March to 15 March 2024
Award Contract	15 March 2024
Contractor mobilisation (Market Place)	15 March 2024 for 4 weeks
Construction (Market Place)	15 April 2024
Contractor mobilisation (Station Approach)	1 October 2024
Construction (Station Approach)	1 November 2024

#### 5 Cost Estimates

5.1 Below is the detailed cost forecast for the project for the Market Place project

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost summary</b>
Works costs	£1,604,299.00
Statutory Undertaker Costs	£7,413.00
Professional Fees	£153,465.00
Other Expenditure	£17,100.20
Risk & Contingency	£223,903.00
<b>Total Forecast</b>	<b>£2,006,180.20</b>

5.2 Below is the detailed cost forecast for the project for the Station Approach project

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost summary</b>
Works costs	£1,833,119.00
Statutory Undertaker Costs	£3,827.00
Professional Fees	£139,202.00
Other Expenditure	£177,105.00
Risk & Contingency	£181,388.00
<b>Total Forecast</b>	<b>£2,334,641.00</b>

5.3 For the projects the construction cost estimates used are from the ECI Contractor, Galliford Try.

## **6 Funding**

6.1 The projects are being funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) via SKDC.

## **7 Traffic Management**

7.1 There will be a mixture of road closures with signed suitable diversion routes and temporary traffic lights while the works progress, the specific dates will be confirmed once a contractor has been appointed and their programme is fully understood. Various traffic management options are currently being modelled to better understand the impact the works will have on the network user with a view to mitigating the potential impacts.

7.2 LCC will be actively engaging with all local businesses located on and immediately adjacent to the Market Place and Station Approach to understand both the delivery requirements to and from the businesses and will advise them on the restrictions.

## **8. Legal Issues:**

### **Equality Act 2010**

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

· Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

· Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

· Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

· Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.

· Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken. This work is considered neutral in its impact on protected characteristics groups.
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#### Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

There are no impacts on JSNA.

### Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

There are no impacts on Crime and Disorder.

## **9. Conclusion**

9.1 This report seeks approval from the Executive Councillors for Resources, Communications and Commissioning and Highways, Transport, and IT respectively to approve the Scheme and the carrying out of a procurement process as detailed in this report and to delegate to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport, and IT, authority to award and enter into relevant contracts for delivery of the Scheme.

### **10. Legal Comments:**

The Scheme is within the Council's powers and in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework within the remit of the Executive Councillors to determine.

### **11. Resource Comments:**

The works described in this report will be funded via government grant so should have no direct impact on the approved budget of the council. These schemes will be added to the capital programme in line with the council's budget framework.

## **12. Consultation**

### **a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

Yes

### **b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Yes

### **c) Scrutiny Comments**

This report will be considered by the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 March 2024. The comments of the committee will be passed to the Executive Councillor.

### **d) Risks and Impact Analysis**

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken. This work is considered neutral in its impact on protected characteristics groups.

## **13. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Sam Edwards, Head of Highways Infrastructure and Laboratory Services who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or [sam.edwards@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:sam.edwards@lincolnshire.gov.uk)