


ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL: EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

Please use this form to record any Executive Decision taken by a Cabinet Member or Chief Officer.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DECISION TAKER:	
1.	Title / Subject Matter: Towns Fund: Grant Agreement with Portland College
2.	Is this a Key Decision: YES
3.	Decision Taken: For the Council to enter into a Grant Agreement with Portland College, for the delivery of the Towns Fund Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) and North Kirkby Gateway projects.
4.	Reasons for the Decision: The Council needs to enter into a Grant Agreement with Portland College for the delivery of the Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) and North Kirkby Gateway projects which form part of the Towns Fund programme.
5.	Copy of the Report or Briefing Note setting out the information which was used as the basis for the Decision: Copy of the report attached.
6.	Was the Decision classed as exempt? If so, what were the reasons for this: No
7.	Alternative Options Considered / Rejected: Not Enter into the Grant Agreement (not recommended) By entering into the Grant Agreement the Council can ensure that Portland College's performance is monitored. The agreement gives the Council recourse to taking measures and seeking repayment of the grant if required. Not deliver the Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) Project (not recommended) The Council could decide not to deliver the project as part of the Towns Fund programme. This is not recommended as the Business Case has already been approved by DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and the project will deliver significant benefits for the area.

<p>8. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – if applicable: N/A</p>
<p>9. Name / Title of the relevant Executive Lead Member(s) consulted (if appropriate): Executive Lead Member for Regeneration and Corporate Transformation</p>
<p>10. Name / Title of the decision taker:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Cabinet Member: Cllr Matthew Relf</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Executive Lead Member for Regeneration and Corporate Transformation</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>
Date: 21 March 2023
TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
<p>1. Date that the decision was notified to members:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">24 March 2023</p>
<p>2. Date and time when the Call-In period for this decision ends:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">5pm – Friday, 31 March 2023</p>
<p>3. Date when the decision can be implemented (five working days following publication):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1 April 2023</p>
<p>4. Decision Reference Number:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">N/A</p>

The completed form should be emailed to the Democratic Services Team:

democratic.services@ashfield.gov.uk

They will arrange for it to be published on the Council's web site.

EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION:

Use this section to share any confidential information. **This will not be published or placed on the Council's web site.** It will only be shared within the Authority, as appropriate.

For further support or guidance please contact Ruth Dennis, Director of Legal and Governance (and Monitoring Officer) ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk or any member of the Democratic Services Team.

Report To:	Cllr Matthew Relf
Date:	21 MARCH 2023
Heading:	TOWNS FUND – GRANT AGREEMENT WITH PORTLAND COLLEGE
Executive Lead Member:	CLLR MATTHEW RELF – EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE TRANSFORMATION
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	Yes
Subject to Call-In:	Yes

Purpose of Report

To facilitate the delivery of the Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) and North Kirkby Gateway projects, the Council as the Accountable Body will receive the Towns Fund monies for these projects and will transfer the agreed monies in a structured way to Portland College.

The Council has developed a suitable Grant Agreement and this report seeks approval for the Council to enter into the Grant Agreement with Portland College.

Recommendations

- 1. To enter into a Grant Agreement with Portland College for the delivery of part of the Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) and North Kirkby Gateway projects from the Towns Fund programme.**
- 2. To grant delegated authority to the Director of Legal & Governance to make any minor amendments to the agreement as and when required.**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Council needs to enter into a Grant Agreement with Portland College for the delivery of part of the Ashfield Construction Centre (Satellite centre) and North Kirkby Gateway (Portland Pathways) projects from the Towns Fund programme.

Alternative Options Considered

To Not Enter into the Grant Agreement (not recommended)

By entering into the Grant Agreement the Council can ensure that Portland College's performance is monitored effectively. The agreement gives the Council recourse to taking measures and seeking repayment of the grant if required.

To not deliver part of the Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) and North Kirkby Gateway projects (not recommended)

The Council could decide not to deliver these parts of the projects – this is not recommended as the Business Cases for both projects have passed through the Local Assurance process; North Kirkby Gateway project has been submitted to DLUHC for approval and the Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) project was submitted in December. Both projects will deliver significant benefits for the area.

Detailed Information

As the Accountable Body for the Towns Fund, the Council receives the funding from DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and is responsible for monitoring and overall programme delivery.

Portland College is one of the delivery partners for the Ashfield Construction Centre (and satellite centre) and North Kirkby Gateway projects.

To enable the college to deliver their parts of the projects, the Council needs to enter into a suitable Grant Agreement to enable the transfer of funds of up to £425,000 capital and £180,000 revenue and to ensure suitable monitoring of the project.

A suitable standard Grant Agreement has been developed for partner projects (based on the D2N2 LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership standard agreement). The Grant Agreement will ensure that the recipient (Portland College) will utilise the funding for the agreed purposes. The Grant Agreement places responsibility on the recipient to complete timely reporting to support the Council as the Accountable Body to DLUHC.

Portland College supported development of the Business Cases for the projects which have both now passed through the Local Assurance process with the Project Summary submitted to DLUHC for North Kirkby Gateway and the Project Summary for the construction centre project submitted in December.

Ashfield Construction Centre – Satellite Centre

The satellite centre project at Portland College at Harlow Wood, Ashfield will develop the College's existing site. This is to provide increased opportunities for students with disabilities, both learning and physical, into the construction industry. The inclusion of physically and learning-disabled young people and adults, supported by the provision offered by Portland College, brings an exciting dimension to the Ashfield Construction Centre programme. The new satellite centre based at Portland College's campus will provide disabled learners with the opportunity to access learning pathways into a variety of construction skills. There will be a practical focus of modern methods of construction and sustainable / low carbon technology which will:

- Provide a new teaching space at Portland College to deliver a curriculum pathway focused on developing basic practical skills to work in construction and trades for disabled learners with an Education, Health and Care plan.

- Provide a bespoke learning environment to manage behaviours and ensure full accessibility.
- The Satellite Centre will provide intensive work on education, independence and employability skills to provide two clear progression routes to positive destinations:
 - Further study - into an accredited training course delivered by partner organisations, prepared with the skills to engage and thrive in a mainstream Further Education setting
 - Towards employment - into work experience, supported internships or employment

The satellite centre at Portland College complements the main construction centre on Julius Way, Lowmoor Road, Kirkby in Ashfield. The Towns Fund Programme is supporting the development of the satellite construction centre at Portland with a capital grant of £425,000 towards a total cost of £662,000.

North Kirkby Gateway – Portland Pathways

The Portland Pathways project is delivered by Portland College and focuses on skills and employment, working with employers to support people with learning difficulties and disabilities to assist them in accessing employment.

The Portland Pathways project is planned to take place in the North Kirkby Gateway hub. As the timescales for the project and the availability of the hub building do not align, the college will initially seek alternative accommodation within the vicinity which will enable them to develop a presence in the area.

The Towns Fund Programme is supporting the Portland Pathways project as part of the North Kirkby Gateway project with a revenue grant of £180,000.

Implications

Corporate Plan: The Towns Fund programme is identified in the Economic Growth and Place priority within the Corporate Plan under the District Wide Physical Regeneration programme.

Legal:

The grant funding awarded must be spent on delivering the project in accordance with the Heads of Terms agreed by the (former) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Ashfield District Council (ADC) on 30 July 2021, failure to do so could result in a requirement to repay the grant. The use of the grant must comply with subsidy control rules, both in terms of direct receipt of funds and intended use/expenditure of those funds.

Legal Services will provide advice and assistance to ensure the transactions are formalised by way of the correct legal documentation. [LE 17.01.23]

Finance: [PH 25/01/2023].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The maximum funding available from DLUHC for the Portland Pathways project (part of the Towns Fund North Kirkby Gateway project) is £180,000. This will be released by DLUHC to ADC over the next four financial years (2022/23 – 2025/26), and then paid to Portland College - subject to satisfactory progress and reporting.
General Fund – Capital Programme	The maximum funding available from DLUHC for the Satellite Construction Centre (part of the Towns Fund Ashfield Construction Centre project) at Portland College is £425,000. This will be released by DLUHC to ADC in the financial year 2023/24, and then paid to Portland College - subject to satisfactory progress and reporting.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
That Portland College do not deliver the project	The Council has developed a robust reporting and monitoring function. Portland College report to the Council on a monthly basis
That the Grant Agreement isn't acceptable to Portland College	Draft base versions of the Grant Agreement have been shared with partner agencies in advance of detailed discussions

Human Resources: no HR issues identified.

Environmental/Sustainability

There are no Environmental or Sustainability implications.

Equalities:

There are no Equalities considerations other than Portland College has its own policy, procedures and processes.

Other Implications:

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Not applicable.

Report Author and Contact Officer

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