

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	To accept funding through the MHCLG administered digital connectivity fund for the investment in the fibre project.
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Damian White
SLT Lead:	Neil Stubbings Regeneration Programme Director
Report Author and contact details:	Daniel Moore E: daniel.moore@havering.gov.uk T: 01708 432761
Policy context:	Havering Corporate Plan 2019/2020 Opportunities: Helping our businesses grow
Financial summary:	<p>The Local London Partnership secured £7.7m through the strategic investment pot administered by the Corporation of London. Havering was allocated £0.800m to introduce digital infrastructure into Rainham and the wider borough.</p> <p>This decision is requesting approval to accept a further £0.222m through the digital connectivity fund to enhance the scheme. A stipulation of the funding means it has to be spent in financial year 2021/2022.</p>
Relevant OSC:	OSC
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

Non-key Executive Decision

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

Place an X in the [] as appropriate

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Section 151 Officer is requested to agree to:

1. To accept additional funding of £0.222m through the MHCLG administered digital connectivity fund which will be added to the original SIP funding allocation of £0.800m for the invest in fibre project.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 of the Constitution; Section 3.10.3

S151 Officer Functions

(m) To accept grants and the terms and conditions thereof for and on behalf of the Council.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Havering is a member of the Local London Partnership which was awarded £7.7m of SIP funding to improve digital connectivity throughout the sub region. Each local authority that comprises the partnership was allocated £0.8m which will be used by Havering to upgrade public sector sites in Rainham and the wider borough. The upgrading of these sites will allow for the hosting of technologies including dark fibre which would enable existing and new internet service providers to offer high speed services. It will include the introduction of fibre through existing ducting in the borough which will allow businesses the opportunity to access fibre and improve their connectivity.

The purpose of the digital connectivity fund is to enhance the SIP digital grant in the borough. The additional funding will allow for a more comprehensive digital proposal which will mean the network can now incorporate other areas within Havering including Collier Row town centre. As the funding is additional to the SIP funding it will be managed through the same framework agreement established by the LB Bexley. These funds are managed and administered directly by the Local Management Unit of which the accountable body is the LB Redbridge. This fund does have a time limit on the expenditure of the fund and all works (relating to the expenditure of £0.222m) must be completed or orders in respect of the project must be in place by 31 March 2022.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Non-key Executive Decision

The option to bid and accept funding through the digital connectivity fund was considered to be advisable as it will benefit and enhance the original project. The option to not accept the funding would limit the scope of the project.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The decision to accept further funding for this project was a result of consultations and meetings through the Local London Partnership and a submission to the digital connectivity fund. The additional funding will enhance and increase connectivity throughout the borough.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Daniel Moore

Designation: Special Projects Officer

Signature: Daniel Moore

Date: 18th November 2021

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This report seeks approval to accept additional grant funding of £0.222M from the digital connectivity fund.

Part 1 Chapter 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council the same power to act as that of an individual, subject to other statutory provisions limiting or restricting its use. The recommendation in this report is compatible with the above statutory powers.

In order to accept the funding officer will need to vary the existing grant agreement from the London Borough of Bexley.

The Council must ensure that it complies with all of its obligations under the grant agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The funding through the MHCLG digital connectivity fund will be added to the funding already secured through the Corporations of London's strategic investment pot. As the additional funding for the project has been secured from an external body then the Council will not be at risk of financial loss. The additional funding will allow for greater digital connectivity and enhance and improve the project.

As stated in the reasons for the decision a stipulation of the funding is that it is spent or orders must be placed in this financial year (2021/2022). This should be low risk as the funding is for the continuation of an existing project with the same personnel.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The acceptance of further grant funding will not have any HR implications or risks as the additional funding will be used and managed by existing personnel already coordinating the project.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The project aims to improve connectivity for businesses and improve the digital infrastructure of public sector sites within the Rainham area of Havering. This will have a positive impact by improving productivity and leading to greater commercial benefits for businesses. Improved connectivity will lead to greater investment as the Rainham strategic industrial location (SIL) becomes more attractive to businesses requiring high speed broadband services. The additional funding will enhance the project and allow for a more comprehensive digital network.

As existing businesses improve their productivity and new businesses locate to the Rainham SIL it will increase employment opportunities for Havering residents, which will have a positive impact on health and well being. As a stipulation of the funding requires an upgrade of public sector sites to incorporate new digital infrastructure it will improve how public services are delivered to residents.

The project will be delivered in conjunction with the London Riverside Business Improvement District (LRBID) and installation will be planned to minimise disruption to the public. Any

Non-key Executive Decision

disruption following the introduction of new infrastructure will be conveyed and coordinated to the businesses through the LRBID.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Key ED - Grant agreement for receipt of SIP funding and call off from a multi supplier framework to deliver the SIP funded invest in fibre project

Confirmation letter from Local London detailing the level of funding and stipulations of the funding.

Non-key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

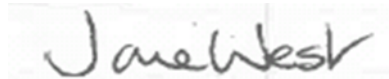
Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Jane West

Cabinet Portfolio held:
CMT Member title: Chief Operating Officer
Head of Service title
Other manager title:

Date: 06.01.22

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Democratic Services Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____