

## Notice of KEY Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	<b>Tithe Barn National Highways Company Funding Application</b>
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>Cllr Ray Morgon, Leader</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Cllr Barry Mugglestone, Lead Member for Environment</b>
<b>SLT Lead:</b>	<b>Neil Stubbings, Strategic Director of Place</b>
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	<b>James Rose</b> <b>james.rose@havering.gov.uk</b>
<b>Policy context:</b>	<p><b><i>The Havering Vision</i></b></p> <p><i>Place Outcome – Havering is a Green Borough</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Investing in our parks</i></li> <li>• <i>Number of parks with Green Flags</i></li> </ul>
<b>Financial summary:</b>	<b>The Council will benefit from £650,000 of external funding to improve the Tithe Barn. No match funding or additional budget is required to manage this.</b>
<b>Reason decision is Key</b>	<b>Grant application exceeding £500,000</b>
<b>Date notice given of intended decision:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023</b>

**Key Executive Decision**

<b>Relevant Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee:</b>	Places OSSC
<b>Is it an urgent decision?</b>	<b>Yes. Permission has been given by the Chair of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee to waive call in as delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's and the public interests</b>
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	Yes

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

People - Things that matter for residents

**X** Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

***Place an X as appropriate***

## Key Executive Decision

### Part A – Report seeking decision

#### **DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION**

For the reasons stated in this report, the Leader:

1. Apply for £650,000 funding from the National Highways Company funding to carry out essential renovation and improvement works at the Tithe Barn.

#### **AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE**

##### **Part 3 of the Council's Constitution**

Under the Council's Constitution, this should be a decision for Cabinet as per section 2.1 of the Constitution, under Part 3.

Other matters

(q) To approve applications for the submission of bids for grants and other financial assistance which require the provision of additional finance or match funding or are likely to lead to residual costs or implications for the Council or where the amount of the grant application exceeds £500,000 and to accept such funding when granted

However, the governance timeline will not allow for the matter to be agreed in time. The Leader can exercise any Executive functions personally (hence, Cabinet powers), upon the provision of substantial prior notice, as per Part 3, Section 2 paragraph 2,3,4,5.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

1. Designated funds from the National Highways Company, ring-fenced from the Department for Transport's Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2), are available for improvement projects in the borough. Improvement locations must be within 5km of the M25, and must fit within the three improvement subjects; Heritage, Biodiversity and Access. The funding period runs until 2025. The Council is not required to match fund.
2. Project proposals are submitted to the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) Benefits Lead officer and agreed by the National Highways Company Board.
3. Following discussions between the Council's Parks team, Historic England and LTC Heritage Advisor regarding the condition of the Tithe Barn, the following improvements have been proposed:
  - Repairs to structural timbers, sole plates and brickwork
  - Replacement of Norfolk Reed thatch roof.
  - Replace/repairs external weatherboard clad walls, ground level drainage works to restore the french drain, works to steps and ground levels to ensure water doesn't pool against the building.
  - Installation of a WC
4. Once the improvements are completed, the space will be better utilised for exhibitions, activities and events where feasible to allow wider community use.

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**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The option of not applying for the funding and investigate other sources of external funding were considered and rejected as there is no certainty that any other applications will be successful, especially to this value.

If the application is not successful the project will not progress.

**PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

The Lead Member for Environment has been briefed on this proposal and is supportive.

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

Name: James Rose

Designation: Park Development Manager

Signature:



Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

## Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, which allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

Additionally, the Council has power to apply for the funding under the general power of competence contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, as it allows the Council to do anything that an individual may do subject, to any statutory constraints on the Council's powers. None of the constraints on the Council's Section 1 power are engaged by this decision.

This decision sets out the information relating to the funding application only. Any acceptance of funding, procurement and the entering into of a contract will be subject to a further report setting out related information and implications.

For the reasons set out above the Council may proceed applying for the funding.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no financial implications or risks to the Council at this stage of the application process as no matched funding contributions are required. The management of the project by council staff will be contained within council resources.

If the application is successful, the Council will secure £0.650m from National Highways Funding for improvements at the Tithe Barn, at which time any grant terms and conditions will be considered and the necessary governance followed to accept and manage the grant.

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

None

### EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual

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orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

Carrying out the improvements being made possible through this funding will allow better access to the barn and the artefacts within for the community. School groups will be especially encouraged to visit the barn when it has better facilities and is safe to do so.

Improving the barn will also lead to better utilisation such as for exhibitions, activities and events and that those activities encourage community and social activities which help to reduce isolation and thereby improve psychological health and well-being of residents.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

None

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

### **APPENDICES**

**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*

Proposal NOT agreed because

**Details of decision maker**

Signed

Name:

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date:

**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

**For use by Committee Administration**

This notice was lodged with me on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_