

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Approval to forward fund the London Riverside Business Improvement District (LRBID) £213,597.81 to undertake public realm improvements.
Decision Maker:	Paul Walker, Interim Director of Housing & Property
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Graham Williamson
SLT Lead:	Neil Stubbings, Strategic Director of Place
Report Author and contact details:	Howard Swift, Head of Inclusive Growth E: howard.swift@havering.gov.uk T: 01782 432 654
Policy context:	Havering Corporate Plan: Place A Great Place to Live
Financial summary:	<p>The report is seeking approval to forward fund the London Riverside Business Improvement District (LRBID) £213,597.81. The funding will be spent undertaking public realm improvements in the BID area.</p> <p>The Council secured funding through the GLA's good growth fund for the public realm improvements in the LRBID area. The forward funding will be claimed back from the GLA through the Good Growth Fund.</p>
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	Places OSSC

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Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision
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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents

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

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

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Interim Director of Housing & Property is recommended to:

1. Forward fund the London Riverside Business Improvement District £213,597.81.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.3 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team

Financial responsibilities

(c) In consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to apply for, accept and manage external funding up to a limit of £500,000 per grant in support of any function within their Directorate provided that any financial contributions by the Council are made from within existing budgets

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council submitted a successful bid to the GLA's Good Growth Fund for £1.63 million in conjunction with Havering College (renamed New City College), SEGRO and the London Riverside Business Improvement District (LRBID) to establish an innovation hub (London Innovation Gateway) and undertake public realm improvements in the Rainham area of the borough. The developments to the public realm aim to improve the area for employees and make the place a more attractive working environment. It will incorporate improvements to roundabouts and develop two projects called a 'museum of garden escapes' and a 'belvedere'. Both developments will provide better outdoor facilities and address a priority of the LRBID, which is to improve the seating area for workers. The developments are scheduled to be built in this financial year.

The Riverside BID is a small organisation and requires forward funding in order to deliver the public realm improvements, as they do not have the finances to pay it and claim back retrospective funding. This decision is requesting approval for £213,597.81 in this financial year (2023/24) and claim it back from the GLA in each quarter once the evidence of spend has been received from the LRBID. The funding will be allocated from cost code: A26795.

The Riverside BID have already received £0.250 million forward funding from the Council for the public realm improvements. The Council have claimed £70 000 of this funding back from the GLA through the submission of claims to them. At the beginning of the project, the public realm improvements were calculated to cost £0.250 million, as New City College left the programme funding that had initially been allocated for the development of the College site was re-allocated to the LRBID. The reallocation of the funding was agreed with the GLA on the proviso that it was used for further public realm improvements in the BID area. All outstanding funding that was forwarded to the LRBID from the Council will be claimed back from the GLA in this financial year.

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The option not to forward fund the LRBID to undertake the public realm improvements was rejected. If the Council does not forward fund the LRBID it would mean the redevelopment would not take place and contravene the grant agreement that the Council has with the GLA.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION


The London Riverside Business Improvement District have been consulted and briefed on the decision to forward fund them to undertake the public realm improvements. The project is overseen by a steering group, which meets regularly to discuss issues relating to the programme.

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

Name: Howard Swift

Designation: Head of Inclusive Growth

Signature: ~~Howard J Swift~~



Date: 11 January 2024

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council is a recipient of funding from the Greater London Assembly Good Growth Fund (GLA Good Growth Fund). Funding from the GLA Good Growth Fund can be used to support Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). The Council is making a decision to use funding from the GLA Good Growth Fund to provide forward funding for that purpose.

The Council has the power to make a grant agreement to support a BID through 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 or through its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual can do. There are limitations on the general power of competence, but the limitations do not apply to this decision.

The forward funding agreement will state the project objectives and contain requirements for LRBID to use the funding only to meet the project objectives as defined in the grant agreement. The agreement will contain provisions allowing the Council at its discretion to reduce, suspend or withhold funding or require LRBID to repay all or part of the grant money it will have received, if LRBID spends the grant money on anything other than the project objectives or breaches the grant agreement in certain other ways.

Therefore, the Council can make the forward funding agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

£213,597.81 will be advanced to the London Riverside BID and will be reclaimed from the GLA upon LRBID's defrayal of the funds advanced. The Council will endeavour to fully recover this advance and any sums previously forward funded.

The financial risk includes the loss of the Good Growth Fund funding from the GLA if funding from the Council is not forwarded to the London Riverside BID and financial exposure if financial resources are advanced to the LRBID because of the possibility that some or all of the money advanced to LRBID will not be recovered from the GLA.

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

There are no HR implications.

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;

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- (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, sexual 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no environmental and climate change risk supplemental to those already considered.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Good Growth Fund – Rainham Innovation Hub and Public Realm improvements Grant Agreement Cabinet Report

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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

~~Proposal NOT agreed because~~

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: **Paul Walker**

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title: Interim Director – Housing & Property Place Directorate

Date: 11.01.24

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 _____