



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# Officer Delegated Decision

24th July 2024

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and  
s.151 Officer



## Agreement of Lincolnshire County Council as the delivery partner for the Future High Street Fund Public Realm Works

This report provides details of the applications allocated funding from the South Kesteven Prosperity Fund.

<b>Decision made by:</b>	Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer
<b>Decision:</b>	To agree Lincolnshire County Council as the delivery partner to implement the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) Public Realm Works and to approve up to £4,100,000 of FHSF funding to support this activity.
<b>Date:</b>	24/07/24
<b>Public or Exempt:</b>	This report is not exempt from publication
<b>Reasons for exemption:</b>	N/A
<b>Conflicts of interest:</b>	No
<b>Policy compliant:</b>	Yes
<b>Details of delegation:</b>	Full Council approved a delegation to the Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer, Director of Growth and Culture and the Cabinet member for Economic Development and Growth to take all actions necessary to deliver specific projects in accordance with the grant conditions of the UKSPF and with the agreement of the Board.

### Contact

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## **1 The Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To agree Lincolnshire County Council as the delivery partner to implement the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) Public Realm Works programme and to approve up to £4,100,000 of funding to support this activity.
- 1.2 In June 2021 SKDC was awarded £5,556,000 of Future High Street Funding to implement a number of changes to Grantham Town Centre. This included £4,100,000 of funding to support the delivery of two public realm projects: Grantham Market Place and Grantham Station Approach.
- 1.3 Both public realm projects are on 'Highway Land' and as such require the support of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) for their delivery. In March 2024, LCC, through an Executive Decision, formally approved their support for the project and committed to the programme of works, which have a budget of up to £4,100,000.
- 1.4 In April 2024, following a detailed design process, LCC entered into a contract with Taylor Woodrow for the delivery of the Market Place works. Taylor Woodrow was procured through the Midlands Highway Alliance Medium Scheme Framework. The forecast cost of these works, including historic design, fees and staff costs is £1,283,867. This includes risk and contingency of £136,500. This contract is expected to complete on August 19<sup>th</sup> 2024.
- 1.5 LCC now wish to amend the existing contract with Taylor Woodrow to include delivery of the Station Approach works and have agreed a design and cost with Taylor Woodrow. The forecast cost of these works, including historic design, fees and staff costs is £2,120,635. This includes risk and contingency of £202,994. This contract is expected to complete before Christmas 2024.
- 1.6 The combine costs of the schemes are £3,774,518, within the agreed £4,100,000 budget. This includes risks and contingencies which are managed by LCC, who have accepted responsibility for any overspend of the budget.
- 1.7 Officers from SKDC meet regularly with LCC's Highways Team and share information on project performance and are satisfied that they have sufficient project management arrangements in place, that they are prudently managing risk and contingencies and have obtained best value through the Midlands Highway Alliance Medium Scheme Framework.
- 1.8 Funding will be only transferred to LCC in arrears i.e. paid on receipt of invoices so that we can verify the spend.

## **2 Available Options Considered**

- 2.1 An option for SKDC to carryout direct delivery, under license arrangements, was discounted as LCC are the Highway Authority and have the most appropriate skills, capacity and experiences to work on the highway network.

### **3 Preferred Option**

- 3.1 To agree Lincolnshire County Council as the delivery partner to implement the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) Public Realm Works and to approve up to £4,100,000 of FHSF funding to support this activity.

### **4 Reasons for the Decision**

- 4.1 This allows SKDC to meet funding commitments made to MHCLG that all projects will be in contract by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 and financial completion will be achieved by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.

### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 MHCLG has paid £1,732,945 of the capital funding allocation for the Future High Street Fund to date. A further payment estimated to be £3,823,097 is scheduled to be paid in September 2024, dependent upon programme progress.

- 5.2 Engagement will continue with MHCLG to ensure they are aware of prospective spend and are in a position to forward payments in a timely fashion. Payments will only be made to Lincolnshire County Council upon evidence of expenditure including copies of invoices and other auditable documentation.

- 5.3 The capital programme runs until 31 March 2025, by which time all projects need to be completed and spend defrayed. To be eligible for funding, all projects must be committed and under contract by September 2024.

- 5.4 To support this process Lincolnshire County Council have appointed Taylor Woodrow through the Midlands Highway Alliance Medium Scheme Framework for the Grantham Market Scheme and will amend their contract to deliver the Station Approach works.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Paul Sutton, Interim Head of Finance**

### **6 Legal and Governance Implications**

- 6.1 Details of the delegated powers granted by Full Council are detailed above. The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer has the delegated authority to take this decision, as long as those post holders and relevant Cabinet have been consulted and consent to the decision.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer**

### **7 Equality and Safeguarding implications**

- 7.1 There are no equality or safeguarding implications associated with this report.

### **8 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?**

- 8.1 An improved public realm should lead to greater pedestrian movements that will make contributions to the move towards Net Zero.

## **9 Background Papers**

- 9.1 Grantham Future High Streets Fund November 2023 Update – Report to Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, published 15 January 2024, available online at ([Draft FHSF FEOSC report 15.1.24 FINAL.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#))

**Signed by: Richard Wyles**

**Date: 24.7.24**