

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	Future High Street Fund - City Centre Public Realm Victoria Street and Civic Halls projects - Award of main works contract	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change	
Wards affected	St Peters	
Accountable Director	Ross Cook, Director of City Housing and Environment	
Originating service	Transportation	
Accountable employee	Author name	Ruth Taylor, Professional Lead - Placemaking
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Report to be/has been considered by	City Housing and Environment Leadership Team	8 November 2021

Summary

At the Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 29 July 2020 delegated authority was granted to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director for City Environment, to approve the award of the main works contract for the City Centre Public Realm Victoria Street and Civic Halls phases of the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) programme at a total estimated contract value within expected funding limits.

Recommendation for decision:

That the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment approve the award of the main works contract to Eurovia Construction for the City Centre Public Realm Victoria Street and Civic Halls project phases of the FHSF programme.

This report is PRIVATE – exempt from publication under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Part 1, Paragraph 3
[PROTECT]

Signature
Councillor Steve Evans
Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change

Date:

Signature
Ross Cook
Director of City Housing and Environment

Date:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 26 December 2020 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s (MHCLG) announced the outcome of the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) bidding process which resulted in the Council being awarded an in principle funding offer of £15.8 million for the City Centre West Programme.
- 1.2 The grant award will allow the Council to implement and fully fund the programme of large-scale transformation and improvements to the public realm that will positively impact the City Centre West area. Delivery of the Victoria Street and Civic Halls Public Realm Zones will enhance activity, footfall, land values, and bring about significant wider economic, social and environmental benefits through improved resident, visitor and worker experience. In addition, this will enable the Council to deliver the Box Park scheme and a new public car park at Cleveland Street. The scheme will provide an anchor destination and car parking infrastructure support at the southern end of the public realm improvements, aiding Victoria Street’s transition to more of a mixed -use, evening economy and an events destination.
- 1.3 Table 1: Project Funding: The table below details the funding split for the proposed projects between the FHSF and the Councils co-funding which was approved by Cabinet on 17 February 2021.

	FHSF £000	Council £000	Total £000
Victoria Street Public Realm	10,850	487	11,337
Civic Halls Public Realm	4,063	137	4,200
Bell Street Phase 1	97	1,977	2,074
Bell Street Phase 2	750	2,999	3,749
Total	15,760	5,600	21,360

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 City Centre Public Realm - Victoria Street and Civic Halls phases
- 2.2 In July 2020 a Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel granted delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment to approve the award of main works contract for these phases subject to grant funding being secured.
- 2.3 On 26 December 2020 the Council received notification that it had been successful in securing £15.8m for its City Centre West projects and formal notification of the grant agreement was received on 2 June 2021

- 2.4 Final design work has now been completed and this IEDN requests the formal agreement of costs and contracts within the grant approval levels. It is anticipated that works can begin on site in November 2021.
- 2.5 Supplementary Capital Budgets have already been set up following approval of an IEDN for their creation and to be in a position to begin works on site as soon as possible.
- 2.6 Both phases of the City Centre Public Realm works are under significant pressure to deliver within a tight and defined timeline particularly in respect of the Civic Halls which requires the works in North Street to be completed prior to the official opening date of the Halls in 2022.
- 2.7 The Box Park and Cleveland Street car park project is not the subject of this IEDN and will be reported separately in due course.

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 3.1 The option to ‘do nothing’ is not recommended because if the grant is not spent or spent as per the agreed drawdown schedule then all or part of the £15.76 million offer will be withdrawn, and the opportunity to deliver key priority projects and create conditions to stimulate further investment will be lost or deferred indefinitely.

4.0 Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The projects listed above directly support the Relighting Our City Strategy as part of the Council plan. In particular, they will “Stimulate vibrant high streets and communities” by re-purposing the City Centre through widening the offer and supporting the evening economy. It will also “grow our vital local businesses” by supporting existing city centre businesses and delivering new space for entrepreneurial growth. Finally, “Creating more opportunities for young people” by delivering accessible new job opportunities in the leisure and cultural sectors.
- 4.2 These projects can be fully funded from FHSF and Council sources therefore any dependencies have been either removed or materially reduced, which should provide the FHSF the confidence that the Council is able to deliver the FHSF programme by 31 March 2024.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The award of the works contract to Eurovia Construction will be a Contract Target Cost of £11.9 million with a CWC Risk of £1.9 million giving an Order value of £13.8 million. When this contract is combined with other relevant project costs, such as utility diversions and staff supervision costs, the total estimated project expenditure for Victoria Street and Civic Halls Public realm is £15.8 million.
- 5.2 The approved capital programme budget available for this work is £15.5 million (including £14.9m grant from FHSF) leaving a balance of £0.3 million. This cost can be covered

through contributions from 2021-22 Transport Capital programme budgets available for Ring Road Footways £98,000 and Lighting Up The City £28,000. The remainder would be required from 2022-23 capital programme budgets with this scheme a priority allocation against the Council Integrated Transport Budget and any slippage from 2021-22. 2022-23 Transport Integrated Transport Budget and Structural Maintenance budgets will be allocated from the West Midlands City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements £1.1 billion announced as part of the Government Spending Review.

- 5.3 Future maintenance of the public realm improvement will be met by existing highway maintenance budgets, though it is anticipated that this capital improvement project will reduce the need for any major maintenance for up to 20 years. [ES/10112021/M]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Council must ensure it meets the conditions of funding for the grant from FHSF. The Council procured Eurovia through the Midlands Highways Alliance Scheme Framework. The procurement was compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

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7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 As part of the detailed business cases for individual FHSF, an equality analysis has been undertaken to identify the likely impacts on certain protected groups and the actions that will be taken to address or mitigate against any negative impact identified in the assessment. In respect of the public realm projects this is being continuously informed by ongoing consultation with individual interest groups to ensure that the design and implementation proposals provide appropriate measures to ensure accessibility for all.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The City Centre Public Realm projects more so than ever, offer a clear and targeted response to the challenges the high street will face by creating the environment for change brought about by changes in consumer and visitor behaviour to enjoy activities around events rather than high street shopping and more particularly walking and cycling over car borne travel as we have become to appreciate the benefits for the environment, health and climate change.

9.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 9.1 The Connected Places Strategy, which identified the FHSF City Centre Public Realm Projects as early projects for delivery, plays an important role in the delivery of the Council's Health and wellbeing agenda.

10.0 Covid 19 Implications

10.1 The delivery of certain temporary elements of the public realm projects have already had significant positive implications to the City's emergency transport response to the Covid 19 measures introduced by Central Government. Going forward the delivery of the full permanent scheme for Victoria Street and Civic Halls public realm will further strengthen these positive outcomes of increased walking, cycling and public safety.

11.0 Human Resources Implications

11.1 There are no human resources implications

12.0 Corporate Landlord Implications

12.1 There are no corporate landlord implications

13.0 Schedule of background papers

Cabinet 11 November 2020 - Future High Streets Fund, City Centre West – Bid Update and Funding Strategy

Cabinet 10 April 2019 – Westside Link Public Realm Proposals – Outcome of Consultation for phases 1 and 2 and potential delivery programme for phase 1

Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel – 29 July 2020 – City Centre Public Realm phases 1 and 3 progress and approvals for project delivery

Cabinet 17 February 2021 – Future High Street Fund – Funding award update

IEDN – Future High Street Fund City Centre Public Realm Victoria Street and Civic Halls projects – Supplementary Capital Budgets