

## Record of Officer Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>To approve an increased grant award of the Hereford Towns Fund to Friends of Castle Green for Castle Green Pavilion improvements</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	3 March 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for Economy and Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>On 26 November 2020 Cabinet approved recommendations</p> <p>That:</p> <p>(a) The £750,000 funding from government for the Towns Fund accelerated projects be accepted by the council;</p> <p>(b) The spending of the £750,000 funding from government on the Towns Fund accelerated projects as detailed within this report is approved</p> <p>(c) The Director of Economy and Place be authorised to take all operational decisions to implement recommendation (b) including, but not limited to, the procurement and commissioning of new projects, and, following consultation with the S151 officer, the movement of budgets between projects to ensure the full expenditure of funding.</p> <p>The projects identified by Cabinet as accelerated projects and approved for funding included:</p> <p>Project 5: Castle Green Pavilion improvements</p>
<b>Ward:</b>	The building is sited in Central Ward, but will serve the wider community.
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>This decision has been taken in consultation with the council's Section 151 officer and in light of the Cabinet decision to accept the £750,000 Towns Fund grant funding from government:</p> <p><a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mqIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mqIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50035605</a></p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>To approve an increased grant award of up to £109,914.60 to Friends of Castle Green to fund enhancements to the already agreed renewable heating system at the Pavilion, Castle Green, Hereford.</p> <p>The council have previously agreed a grant award of £50,000 so with the decision to award a further £59,914.60 the total grant award will be £109,914.60. The previous ROOD is noted below.</p> <p><a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7459">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7459</a></p> <p>This expenditure is included within the £750,000 funding from government for the Towns Fund accelerated projects as recommended in the Cabinet report of 26 November 2020.</p> <p>A variation to the grant agreement completed between the council and the Friends of Castle Green CIC will be entered into between the council and the Friends of Castle Green and will ensure that the grant funds are used for the approved purpose and that the works are procured in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	In July 2020 government announced that under the Towns Fund programme they were offering Hereford a grant of £750,000 to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year. This grant will be used to support capital spend within the intervention framework as set out in the Towns Fund Further Guidance.

	<p>The Castle Green Pavilion improvements project which is being led by the Friends of Castle Green CIC which will focus on the installation of a renewable heating system, was identified as capable of delivering in line with the requirements for accelerated projects. The business case identifying the budget requirements for the project has been developed and considered by the Director for Economy and Place in consultation with the council's Section 151 Officer.</p> <p>The identified lead officer will be responsible for delivery within the criteria set by government. A Towns Fund programme board has been set up to oversee project delivery.</p> <p>As the grant is an award to a third party, letting contracts as part of the project will be the responsibility of Friends of Castle Green in consultation with the lead officer for the project.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks /finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>A risk assessment is included in the business case.</p> <p>Equalities impact assessments will be carried out, when appropriate, as part of the delivery of the project.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>The council could decide not to approve additional grant to this accelerated project. The council would not be exposed to potential financial risk of the project but would miss out on securing the government investment to assist in economic regeneration, with associated reputational consequences. This option is not recommended because of the loss of grant income that will deliver a project within the city that help to deliver the council's county plan 2020 - 2024.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>

Signed: Richard Ball  
Director for Economy & Place

Date: 03 March 2021