

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform))	Special Cabinet	Thursday, 30 June 2022

Levelling Up Funding Bid

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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Purpose of the Report

1. To outline for the Cabinet the proposal to submit a Levelling up fund bid for up to £20m.

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. To approve the outline of the Levelling up bid and to delegate to the Leader and Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) the sign off for the business case.
3. To bring back to Cabinet further details for consideration should the bid be successful.

Reasons for recommendations

4. To meet the deadline for the submission of Levelling up fund bids on 6 July 2022.

Other options considered and rejected

5. The criteria for the submissions of any schemes is that significant preparation and planning of work has been completed to meet the delivery deadline of March 2025. In this respect the bid is made up of schemes where the council has already plans either emerging or in place.
6. The member of parliament requested that the council consider a bid to bring forward the reopening of Midge Hall railway station but given the time constraints and other priorities this is not being considered. Also suggested was at the LUF funding could provide some

form of gap funding for the Town Deal. However to ensure a fair distribution of resources this has been discounted and the investment focussed on the outside of Leyland.

7. There were a number of schemes considered in other areas of the borough, Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge etc. However individually these schemes would not meet the levelling up criteria. The Cabinet however are continuing to look into the merits of each of these individual schemes and alternative funding arrangements.

Executive summary

8. Set out in the attached are outline details of the proposal to submit the bid to the Levelling up fund. Whilst the council has been categorised as level 3 (lowest priority) previous funding rounds have resulted in some category 3 bids being approved albeit these are a very small number.
9. The constraints on both the timing of the submission and the delivery date of 2025 means we have utilised work we currently have in train to develop a scheme for submission. The priority identified is that of Penwortham to include works to the public realm previously funded from City Deal but no longer part of that programme at this stage and the delivery of the Vernon Carus masterplan as previously approved by Cabinet.
10. The purpose of the bid is to help regenerate the Penwortham area both in terms of its leisure and retail offer which match the criteria set out in the Levelling Up Fund prospectus.
11. Attached to this report at Appendix A is some further contextual information along with an outline of the proposed bid. Work is currently ongoing to complete the business case in time for the submission date.

Corporate priorities

12. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Climate change and air quality

13. The bid will take into account the council's aspirations to provide a greener and cleaner borough including dealing with the impact of climate change.

Equality and diversity

14. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Risk

15. There is a risk that given the nature of the bid sufficient outputs and outcomes may not be achievable as there will be strict criteria to meet. In respect of the outline bid the

inclusion of a number of outputs relating to Housing will assist the bid and the mitigation of that risk.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

16. At this stage there is funding contained within the Capital Programme for in particular the public realm enhancements in Penwortham. Should the bid be successful this will provide sufficient match funding at this stage. Subject to the bid being successful the match funding element will need to be reconsidered in detail.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

17. There are no legal implications at this stage but a successful bid will require Council to sign up to grant conditions and at that stage further advice will be given.

Background documents

Vernon Carus masterplan (Appendix B in the web link)

[Vernon Carus Masterplan](#)

Current consultation on Penwortham masterplan

Appendices

Appendix A – LUF Presentation

Appendix B – Penwortham Masterplan

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