

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	5 JULY 2021	12
FULLY FUNDED CAPITAL BUDGET INCREASE AND AWARD OF GRANT - KIRKHAM FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report seeks Council’s approval for the award of the Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), under the Future High Street Fund and approval of a fully funded Capital budget increase.

The Planning Committee at its meeting on 23 June 2021 received an updated report on the award of £6.290m grant (formally announced on 19th May) from the MHCLG for the development of the Town Centre Strategy for Kirkham (known as Kirkham Futures). This is in effect an award of 100% grant to assist in the delivery of specific projects contained in the detailed bid. This scheme is complementary to the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HS HAZ) award of £1.791m – total scheme value of £3.271m, which is currently in the approved Capital Programme.

The Planning Committee recommended Council approve a fully funded budget increase for inclusion into the Council’s Capital Programme. It should be noted that the first-year allocation of £3,489,071 has been transferred to the Council recently so that the scheme can commence forthwith. The details were given in more depth in the body of the report to the Planning Committee.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the funding now received and integrate this into the Capital Programme as well as agreeing to the Year 1 spend.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is recommended:

1. To approve the award of the Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), under the Future High Street Fund, of £6.290m in respect of the full funding award for the financial years 2021 – 2024.
2. To approve a fully funded capital budget increase of £6.290m to the Future High Street Fund: Kirkham allocated over the financial years as follows: (2021/22 - £3.489m), (2022/23 - £2.118m) and (2023/24 - £0.683m)

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

A series of reports and presentations have been made to the Planning Committee as the HAZ and FHSF bids have emerged.

Planning Committee – 23 June 2021

1. That Council be requested to approve the award of the Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), under the Future High Street Fund, of £6.290m in respect of the full funding award for the financial years 2021 – 2024.
2. To recommend that Council approve a fully funded capital budget increase of £6.290m to the Future High Street Fund: Kirkham allocated over the financial years as follows: (2021/22 - £3.489m), (2022/23 - £2.118m) and (2023/24 - £0.683m)
3. That Committee agree to the principles of developing and implementing the projects and initiatives as outlined in the Scheme Programme including the development of building acquisition, appropriate procedures in respect of the repurposing of the buildings , public realm development proposals and building refurbishment schemes.
4. That full details of the schemes as they develop including building acquisitions and associated matters be reported to Committee (and other appropriate committees) in due course but in a timely manner to ensure that the Implementation Programme as agreed is achieved with MHCLG.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

REPORT

1. The Planning Committee its meeting on 23 June 2021 received an updated report on the Kirkham Future High Street Fund which included details of the background to the initiative; the Council’s application; the scope of the scheme and the approved scheme projects/ programme. [r/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1265/Committee/20/Default.aspx](https://www.kirkham.gov.uk/r/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1265/Committee/20/Default.aspx) [Link to Planning Committee 23 June documents.](#)
2. On the 19th May of this year, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that £576m had been awarded to 57 areas under the Future High Street Fund. The Kirkham bid had been successful as the sole representative in Lancashire. In total, the grant aid amounts to £6.290m. In summary, the Future High Street Fund will operate alongside the previously approved HS HAZ scheme and can now be treated as a total town centre regeneration initiative for practical purposes, although the specific funding allocations and the schemes within the programmes are run separately.
3. In essence, these schemes are aimed at revitalising Kirkham town centre where market failure is already being experienced or can be envisaged as being such in the future. The grant aid is aimed at incentivising development that otherwise is unlikely to happen with consequent further economic decline of the town centre.
4. The projects are required to be phased over the 3 years. It should be noted that the first-year allocation of £3,489,071 has been transferred by MHCLG to the Council recently so that the scheme can commence forthwith.
5. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the funding now received and integrate this into the Capital Programme as well as agreeing to the Year 1 spend.
6. The Planning Committee recommended that Council approve the award of the Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), under the Future High Street Fund, of £6.290m in respect of the full funding award for the financial years 2021 – 2024 and to approve a fully funded capital budget increase of £6.290m to the Future High Street Fund: Kirkham allocated over the financial years as follows: (2021/22 - £3.489m), (2022/23 - £2.118m) and (2023/24 - £0.683m)

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report recommends approval of the award of the Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), under the Future High Street Fund, of £6.290m in respect of the full funding award for the financial years 2021 – 2024 and to approve a fully funded capital budget increase of £6.290m to the Future High Street Fund: Kirkham allocated over the financial years as follows: (2021/22 - £3.489m), (2022/23 - £2.118m) and (2023/24 - £0.683m)
Legal	The funding is to be used specifically for the development of the FHSF scheme. The Council has agreed to the processes of monitoring and managing the fund including its correct appropriation. Monitoring and reporting will be required and normal auditing as well as legal mechanisms to ensure the correct procedures are followed commensurate with Central and Local government procurement, policy and financial regulations
Community Safety	Dealt with at detailed stages of the development of individual schemes within the Programme.
Human Rights and Equalities	No specific issues. The scheme is aimed at benefitting all sections of the community.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	Scheme aimed at sustaining and enhancing the role of Kirkham as an important service centre and market town.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	Dealt with at subsequent stages of the Programme development

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul Walker	mailto:paul.walker@fylde.gov.uk paul.walker@fylde.gov.uk 01253 658431	11 June 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
The Future High Street Funding Bid: Report to Planning Committee	14.11. 19	Town Hall, St. Annes
Fully Funded Budget Increase: Report to Planning Committee contains detailed background information	25.11.19	Town Hall, St. Annes