

DECISION NOTICE - MAYORAL

To grant a permission or a licence, affect the rights of individuals, to award a contract or incur expenditure over £250k, to amend budgets, or apply a Key Decision over £500k.

DECISION INFORMATION		
1. DECISION TITLE	Community Renewal Fund & Levelling Up Fund – Bid Selection	
2. DECISION No.	MDN35-2021	
3. DECISION DATE	11 June 2021	
4. FORM AUTHOR	Steve Clarke Steve.clarke@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk	
5. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION	Approve the process that has been used to select the final candidate bids for Community Renewal Funds & the Levelling Up Fund	
6. AUTHORITY FOR DECISION	Chapter 3 Paragraph 1.5 – General Power of Competence by the Mayor	
7. DECISION TYPE	Mayoral	
8. DECISION OWNER	Mayor	
9. KEY DECISION INFORMATION	FORWARD PLAN DATE	N/A
	FORWARD PLAN NUMBER	N/A
	DATE OF DECISION	N/A
	DATE REPORT PUBLISHED	N/A
	APPROVAL HYPERLINK	N/A
	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	The decision is to agree and endorse that implementation has already been undertaken.
	EXEMPT INFO/ ANNEX	N/A
DECISION OVERVIEW		
10. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS	<p>Mayor to approve:</p> <p>(i) The process used by the CPCA officers for selecting the candidate bids to be submitted to the Government for the CRF, based on the Combined Authority’s mandate to do so as Lead Authority for bids to the Community Renewal Fund;</p> <p>(ii) The process for selecting the candidate regeneration bids to be submitted to the Government for the LUF, on the basis of the voluntary arrangement agreed between the Combined Authority, Peterborough City Council;</p>	

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	<p>(iii) The process for selecting the candidate bids to be submitted to the Government for the LUF, on the basis of the voluntary arrangements agreed with the Combined Authority and Fenland District Council.</p> <p>The Mayor is being asked to approve these recommendations on the process after it has been run and this decision is retrospective to confirm the process to the point before final approval is given on the shortlisted candidate applications, which will be a separate decision.</p>
<p>11. PROJECT BACKGROUND</p>	<p>The Business Board paper 2.2 Future Funding Strategy from meeting on 19th May 2021 covered the following Spending Review announcements:</p> <p>The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. The £4.8 billion fund will support town centre regeneration to support economic and social levelling-up, with an emphasis on culture, heritage, as well as local transport projects. Funding available for regeneration projects is up to £20m with the stipulation that spend must start in the 2021/22 financial year and be completed by 2025. Transport projects have up to £50m available to them again spending has to start in the 2021/22 financial year and must be completed by 2025. The Lead Authority for the LUF regeneration projects is the Priority Area in the case of the CPCA this is Peterborough City Council & Fenland District Council. In the case of Transport bids the Lead Authority is the Combined Authority and the Transport Team at the CPCA will be working on bids to the LUF with partner LAs.</p> <p>The UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF), which will provide local areas across the UK with access to £220 million of additional funding in preparation for the £4.3 billion UK Shared Prosperity Fund is due to be launched in 2022. The maximum amount of funding that each LA can bid for is £3m, with priority being given to those areas identified as Priority Areas. The Lead Authority for the CRF is the Combined Authority who are responsible for co-ordinating bids from all districts and submitting the final submissions for each district to central government. There are 2 priority areas in the CPCA region again these are Peterborough & Fenland.</p> <p>Both funds provide a multi-faceted approach to tackling the economic differences and driving prosperity, in towns and cities that have been left behind, which will be prioritised for support.</p> <p>Levelling Up Fund The responsibility for managing the process and delivery of the local Regeneration LUF applications sits with the Lead Authorities – in this case the priority places being either Peterborough CC or Fenland DC. The CPCA offered administrative support and advice to both Local Authorities. Peterborough City Council have taken up this offer and we are working closely with them on the administration of the fund from the call for bids, evaluation and final submission. Following assessment of bids, officers at Peterborough City Council will submit the regeneration bids which most strongly meet the UK Levelling Up Fund and local priorities to the UK Government for consideration. The Combined Authority is Lead Authority for Transport and will submit any Transport Bids that have been evaluated and deemed to be potentially successful bids. Fenland have decided to work on submission into round 2 in Autumn 2021.</p>

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The UK Government will announce the outcome of the LUF assessment process from late Autumn 2021.

Community Renewal Fund

CRF bids covering Peterborough and Fenland are priority places for CRF. As bids are assessed in competition, evaluation will be weighted in favour of bids that deliver 50% or more in these places. Only exceptional bids are likely to be approved that cover non-priority areas in CPCA.

A bid of up to £3 million may be put forward to the CRF in 2021, from all LAs but Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council will be focus respectively as the priority places for mainly revenue projects to be delivered over a 6-month period to 31 March 2022, to support short term economic recovery. The UK Government will announce the outcome of the assessment process on CRF from July 2021.

For CRF the Combined Authority used the expertise it had developed whilst delivering a number of successful grant funding schemes to devise a robust and transparent process for managing the final submission to central government. The CPCA used its online system to hold an open call for bids that fit the criteria for funding through the CRF. The open call ran between 31 March 2021 and 7th May 2021 on HubSpot, using a 2-stage application process with the final application being evaluated with a scoring matrix that reflected the CRF requirements as follows:

- Internal officer Assessment
- External independent Assessment
- Business Board Member Assessment.

Final scores were combined to create a list of projects ranked by their ability to meet the CRF objectives and deliverability. The decision on which projects are finally submitted to central government by 18 June 2021 sits with the CPCA, currently this function sits with the local Authority Leaders.

Due to the requirement in the Community Renewal Fund Guidance that stated that a local open call for applications had to be live by 31 March, plus the local election and post-election change of CA board membership meant there was no practical way to obtain full approval before the commencement of the CRF call and process to select. A proposed CA Board of 2nd June 2021 was not available as it was reserved for constitutional, and governance matters and the next CA Board on 30th June is too late for approving a process that has to conclude and submit bids by 18 June 2021. Therefore, Officers had to start and run the process in order to meet deadlines or risk losing opportunity for up to £6m of funding for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough communities. The request is now retrospectively seeking the approval of the process prior to final approval of applications shortlist selection ready to be submitted.

A Mayoral decision is required to confirm that the process by which CRF bids have been chosen was compliant and appropriate. The process for selection was to enable shortlist of applications to prepare for submission by the 18 June deadline and it had to commence without formal Board approval due to no Board meetings being available during the period and local elections and change of Mayor and Members. The immediacy of launch from MHCLG announced in the budget with requirements for an open call by 31 March 2021, followed by the local elections and the protocols for working during the election meant that the announcement for the bids from MHCLG for

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	<p>the CRF fell during this purdah period. There was not an option to delay a call for bids until the election period ended as this would have seriously curtailed the remaining time for bidders to write decent applications and then assessment and evaluation of all received bids would have been rushed, this would have then hampered the CPCA ability to submit a strong shortlist of applications as its £6m collection of bids for CRF to government on the 18th June.</p> <p>Organisations needed time to prepare and develop ideas and the CPCA needed the opportunity to be able to assess and evaluate the bids and create a shortlist of preferred bids to be submitted to government. The CPCA took the guidance provided by BEIS and applied the same rigour it applied to the Local Growth Fund and other grant funding schemes it has been responsible for delivering successfully during the last 2 years and developed the process outlined above for creating the shortlist of bids.</p> <p>The Mayoral Decision will allow the CPCA to submit to this round of funding by the 18 June 2021, rather than waiting for the Shared Prosperity Fund, it allows us to develop new partnerships and trial new ways of working and delivering services to the residents of the CPCA. and in advance of the Combined Authority Board meeting on the 30 June 2021, therefore a Mayoral Decision Notice to be sought.</p>	
12. FINANCE INFORMATION	VALUE OF DECISION	£0
	BUDGET CODE(S)	N/A
	BUDGET DESCRIPTION(S)	N/A
	FUNDING TYPE	N/A
	FUNDING APPROVAL	N/A
	FUNDS AVAILABLE	N/A
	OTHER COMMENTS	No additional financial commitments at this stage – this is a decision to approve a process to select bids to Gov
13. PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS	DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION	N/A
	REGULATION RISKS	N/A
	VFM JUSTIFICATION	N/A
14. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	LEGAL RISKS	None
	CONTRACT/ GRANT INFORMATION	Cities and Local Growth Unit published the list of appointed Lead Authorities plus guidance for Lead Authorities for both Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund on Government site: Community Renewal Fund Priority Places Lead Authorities

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15. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST/ MITIGATION	N/A	
16. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	Business Board paper dated 12 May 2021 - Agenda Item No: 2.2 Future Funding Strategy	
17. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION	N/A	
DECISION APPROVAL/ CONSULTATION		
PROCUREMENT	NAME	Heidi Parker
	DATE	01/06/21
	COMMENT	There are no procurement issues associated with this decision.
FINANCE	NAME	Robert Emery
	DATE	28/05/21
	COMMENT	No financial implications
LEGAL	NAME	Rochelle Tapping
	DATE	9 th June 2021
	COMMENT	The processes that approval is sought for have already commenced. The Mayoral decisions are therefore retrospective. Business and Skills Officers account retrospective approval to the deadlines applicable to the external funding.
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER	NAME	Robert Parkin
	DATE	10.06.21
	COMMENT	Approved
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER	NAME	Jon Alsop
	DATE	9/06/2021
	COMMENT	Approved

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OVERALL APPROVAL		
DECISION MAKER	NAME	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson [signature redacted]
	DATE	11 th June 2021
	COMMENT	

TO BE COMPLETED BY LEGAL/ PROCUREMENT POST APPROVAL

ACTION	DATE	COMPLETED BY
Reported to board		
Published on Website		
Contract award notice published on contracts finder		
Contract award notice published FTS		
Notification to Framework Owner		
Decision added to Decision Register		
Contract signed		
Contract added to Contract Register		

Officer or Mayoral Decision Notice

Where an officer or the Mayor makes a decision, including under specific delegation from a meeting of a decision-making body, the effect of which is

- (a) to grant a permission or licence,
- (b) to affect the rights of an individual; or
- (c) to award a contract or incur expenditure, the decision-making officer must produce a written record of the decision as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been made.

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Key Decisions

1. A “key decision” means a decision, which in the view of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is likely to:
 - (a) result in the Combined Authority spending or saving a significant amount, compared with the budget for the service or function the decision relates to;
 - or (b) have a significant effect on communities living or working in an area made up of two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area.
2. When assessing whether or not a decision is a key decision, Members must consider all the circumstances of the case. However, a decision which results in a significant amount spent or saved will not generally be considered to be a key decision if that amount is less than £500,000.
3. A key decision which is considered to have a ‘significant’ effect on communities should usually be of a strategic rather than operational nature and have an outcome which will have an effect upon a significant number of people living or working in the area and impact upon: (a) the amenity of the community or; (b) quality of service provided by the Authority
4. Subject as below, a key decision may not be taken by the decision maker unless: (a) it is in the Forward Plan on the Combined Authority’s website; (b) at least 28 clear days’ notice has been given, or if this is impracticable, the decision has complied with the provisions set out in paragraph 12 or 13 below as they may apply; and (c) notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with these rules.