

NOTICE OF KEY DECISION

Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Decision made at the meeting of cabinet – 20 Jan 2021.

Decision Maker: Director of Place in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders (in this case Cllr Waters and Cllr Kendrick)

Decision status: Is Key decision?: Yes

Is subject to call in?: Yes

Decision details: At its meeting on 20 Jan 2021, cabinet resolved to delegate authority to sign-off individual project business cases for Towns Fund projects to the Director of Place in consultation with relevant portfolio holders authority.

The Towns fund consists of a series of eight projects totalling £25m of funding to support skills and enterprise infrastructure and urban regeneration initiatives. Heads of term of the overall programme have been agreed with government. Under these heads of terms sign off of individual business case is delegated to lead authorities. This requires the prior sign off of the Towns Deal Board. Following sign off of the business case a summary is submitted to government for consideration of whether to release the funding requested.

Two of the eight projects in the programme are promoted as accelerated projects with expenditure to be drawn down in the current financial year.

This digitech factory is an accelerated project. The proposal is to draw down £1.5m of towns deal funding to assist with delivery of digitech factory at City College. The project is being managed by City College and has a total project cost of £11,405,622.

The digitech factory is currently under construction and all the funding seeks to do is plug a funding gap that has arisen as costs have escalated. The business case reads very well and the risks of submitting the business case are considered low. The role of the City Council will be to administer the grant funding and ensure adequate monitoring is done. Governance arrangements still need to be put in place as does the detail of the contract with the City College to release the funding.

Publication date: 5 March 2021

Date of decision: 7 February 2021

Call-in deadline date: 8 March 2021 (5pm)

Date comes into force if not called in: 9 March 2021