


Agenda Item No:	11	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	17 July 2023	
Report Title:	Wisbech High Street Project – progress update	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update regarding ongoing work related to FDC's properties at 24 High Street and 11-12 High Street, Wisbech.

2 Key Issues

Progress to develop 24 High Street

- 2.1 The project to redevelop 24 High Street continues to move forwards.
- 2.2 Etec, FDC's contractor has started on site, following the set-up of their compound on the parks area adjacent to the Queen Mary Centre.
- 2.3 Work for the next 6 months will focus on groundwork, piling and underpinning and party wall work. The original hoarding has been removed and a new hoarding is in place to allow access and works. The original hoarding was painted by local volunteers. Unfortunately the original plan to relocate this to 11-12 High Street, opposite 24 High Street, has not been possible as it was beyond its useful life and rotten.
- 2.4 A traffic and pedestrian management scheme is in place, allowing the High Street to safely remain open. There will be occasions, for a short period of time, where the High Street is closed for lorries to deliver materials. Road closures on the High Street will be kept to a minimum.
- 2.5 Following the start in June, progress remains on track with completion due 77 weeks from start on site – November 2024.
- 2.6 As the project is now on site, FDC has applied for 50% of the £210,000 grant funding that CPCA has offered for the project.
- 2.7 Prior to start on site, FDC also applied for £240,000 of NLHF funding. Whilst an application has been submitted, this funding is subject to extending the project as highlighted below.
- 2.8 With this project underway and a large, experienced contractor managing the project, the Portfolio holder will update Cabinet by exception regarding this project in the future.

11-12 High Street

- 2.9 Several options have been developed for the gap site in 11-12 High Street. These have been developed by working with partners, speaking to experienced developers and quantity surveyors.

- 2.10 National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHC) has insisted that in order for the original project to be extended and the funding streams to remain in place, FDC should commission a third-party heritage specialist to develop an options appraisal for the 11-12 site.
- 2.11 FDC is seeking to reappoint the original consultant who worked with the Council to develop the original NLHF project to carry out this work over the summer. The expectation is that the Options report would come to Cabinet in September for Members to take a view. This will then inform a discussion with NLHF and consideration as to whether the Lottery Heritage Fund will extend the High Street project and the funding linked to it.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the current position in relation to the two key Wisbech High Street sites and ongoing work to extend the NLHF High Street project to November 2024 and beyond.

Wards Affected	Medworth Ward	
Forward Plan Reference	KEY21APR22/01	
Portfolio Holders	Cllr Chris Seaton Cllr Ian Benney Cllr Chris Boden	Portfolio Holder for Social Mobility and Heritage Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance
Report Originator	Phil Hughes	Head of Service
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