

Agenda Item No:	<b>8</b>	
Committee:	<b>Cabinet</b>	
Date:	<b>12 May 2020</b>	
Report Title:	<b>March Future High Street Fund - Bid Submission</b>	

**CONFIDENTIAL - This item includes EXEMPT INFORMATION which is not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended). The confidential information is included as confidential appendices.**

## **1 Purpose / Summary**

- The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the Future High Street Fund final bid documentation for the town of March.

## **2 Key issues**

- The government is committed to helping local high streets evolve and adapt to the changing high street experience. They have created a Future High Street Fund with over £1 billion of funding now available.
- March was successful in its Expression of Interest (EoI) for the Future High Streets Fund, being one of 50 town centres nationally to be initially shortlisted. Councils were only permitted to submit one application per district/county and March was considered to have the best chance of success in this particular process.
- External expertise was required to produce the full business case required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Using £150k received from central government as part of the Future High Street Fund process, a consortium of consultants was appointed, led by Hatch Regeneris.
- The attached final submission is the culmination of a considerable amount of work from several consultants working together with the Council. Two versions of the report are attached. Appendix A is a version of the report that excludes confidential information. Appendix B (confidential appendix) is the full version of the report which includes confidential information.
- Please note that this is final submission stage for funding only. Any drawings or images within the submission are draft and not finalised. Designs will be subject to change once funding is secured and the project moves into the delivery phase.
- During the development of the submission, FDC Members, March Town Council Members, CPCA and CCC have been involved and consulted. Additionally, this work has run in parallel with the emerging March Area Transport Study, with the bid and the study complimenting and strengthening each other's work.
- Although community consultation was undertaken for the Growing Fenland Report, upon which this bid's focus is based, further community consultation has been undertaken following development of the final bid packages.
- Following bid submission in May 2020, it is anticipated that the Council will receive feedback from MHCLG in late summer. It should be noted that this may alter due to the ongoing Covid19 crisis.

- The attached bid document is at a stage requiring final adjustments to the Acre Road proposals. The Council requires that this aspect of the proposal has several options for delivery, given the early stage that we are at in this process. The final adjustments will be added by our consultants prior to submission. Additional information regarding the impact of Covid 19 is also to be added prior to submission.

### 3 Recommendations

- Cabinet members are requested to note the attached bid document.
- Cabinet is requested to authorise the Chief Executive to submit the bid to MHCLG, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Social Mobility and Heritage, once the final aspects of the bid has been included.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All Fenland Wards
<b>Forward Plan Reference</b>	
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Cllr Chris Boden - Leader of the Council Cllr Chris Seaton - Portfolio Holder for Social Mobility and Heritage Cllr Jan French - Deputy Leader of the Council
<b>Report Originator(s)</b>	Paul Medd - Chief Executive Simon Machen - Interim Corporate Director Phil Hughes - Head of Leisure Services Natasha Stokes - Corporate Support Officer Jo Blackmore - Executive Officer
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Paul Medd - Chief Executive Simon Machen - Interim Corporate Director Phil Hughes - Head of Leisure Services Natasha Stokes - Corporate Support Officer Jo Blackmore - Executive Officer
<b>Background Paper</b>	Appendix A - March Future High Street Fund final bid submission produced by Hatch Regeneris and We Made That (excluding confidential information)  Appendix B (confidential) - March Future High Street Fund final bid submission produced by Hatch Regeneris and We Made That (including confidential information)