


Agenda Item No:	8	
Committee:	CABINET	
Date:	12 May 2022	
Report Title:	24 High Street Wisbech Project Update	

1 Purpose / Summary

To provide Cabinet with an update on progress related to the 24 High Street Project.

2 Programme Summary

- 2.1 There has been continued positive progress with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Programme for Wisbech High Street. Through the months of December to April 2021/2022 the programme has seen continued progress regarding ongoing property projects, new property improvements starting on site and some larger projects completing.
- 2.2 Following regular contact with the NLHF regarding progress on the projects, the NLHF have confirmed in writing that they are willing to extend the project deadline into 2023 to ensure project completion.
- 2.3 Following an ongoing communications plan, the programme has also seen further property owners come forward to enquire regarding the final year of the grant being available for property improvements. Two further properties within Wisbech High Street have now come forward and are at early-stage development of their projects.
- 2.4 The project to redevelop 24 High Street continues, with important pre-contract work being undertaken whilst the Council is out to tender for a construction contractor.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the current position in relation to the 24 High Street project.

Wards Affected	Medworth Ward
Forward Plan Reference	KEY/21NOV21/01 KEY/03DEC21/02
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Ian Benney – Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth Cllr Chris Seaton – Portfolio Holder for Social Mobility and Heritage Cllr Chris Boden – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance

Report Originator	Matt Wright	High Streets Project Manager
Contact Officers	Paul Medd Phil Hughes Matt Wright	Chief Executive Acting Assistant Director High Streets Project manager
Background Papers	2020 Cabinet Reports 2021 Cabinet Reports Planning documents	

4 Capital Programme Project Update – 24 Wisbech Highstreet

- 4.1 Following the previous Cabinet update regarding the Wisbech Highstreet Programme, there has been positive progress relating to 24 Wisbech Highstreet.
- 4.2 Following the previous unsuccessful procurement, officers have utilised a framework of contractors to better ensure bids for the project. The Invite to Tender is currently out with a deadline of 24 May. Following this date, officers and the project team will rapidly review the tenders received with a view to having a preferred supplier selected by week commencing 30 May. A further report will then be submitted to Cabinet ahead of appointing the preferred contractor.
- 4.3 The required archaeological survey works are planned for mid-May, ahead of the tender review process to ensure that the site is prepared for work at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 4.4 Party wall investigations continue through our private sector partners. Currently we are not aware of any risk to the project programme as a result of this work.
- 4.5 Once a preferred supplier is selected and approved by Cabinet, officers will engage with the National Lottery Heritage Fund to align the funding agreement. This will allow the funds to be allocated from the external funding body in readiness for delivery of the project.

5 Legal Implications

N/A at present

6 Financial Implications

N/A at present