

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning
Date	22 March 2019
Present	Councillor Aspden (Executive Member)

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Executive Member was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

24. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the last Decision Session held on 5 February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Executive Member.

25. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

26. ECONOMIC HEALTH OF YORK CITY CENTRE SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

The Executive Member considered the Final Report of the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee's scrutiny review into the Economic Health of York City Centre. Cllr Pavlovic (Chair of Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee) explained the background of the review, thanking the Head of Economic Growth and his team for their input into the review. Cllr Pavlovic then outlined the conclusions and recommendations arising from the review. In response to a question from the Executive Member, the Head of Economic Growth provided clarification on the grant to Indie York.

Following consideration of the recommendations, the Executive Member:

Resolved: That the Council;

- i. Agrees a grant of £10,000 to the business sector, delegated to the Head of Economic Growth to decide and administer the grant;
- ii. Considers making a bid to the £675 million Future High Streets Fund to secure funding to help York respond and adapt to changes facing city centres.
- iii. Prepares a long-term strategy to make its high streets and the city centre fit for the future, taking into account relevant aspects of the Grimsey report and the view of all key stakeholders.
- iv. Develops an easy but comprehensive and consistent guide to help businesses access relevant information around Council policies effecting businesses, such as planning and licensing issues and alike.
- v. Examines ways of extending the city's traditional festivals venue in Parliament Street to open up other areas to visitors, particularly across the river into Micklegate, and reduce pedestrian congestion in parts of the city centre at peak hours.
- vi. Works with Indie York and traders to develop a city-wide loyalty scheme to make it easier for businesses to reward customers with an attractive discount offer for shopping locally while encouraging business growth and customer retention across a city-wide customer engagement platform.
- vii. Incentivises ways to further encourage more people to use Park and Ride and work with bus operators to extend the operating hours of Park and Ride to help reduce vehicle congestion in the city.

- viii. Notes the suggestion of an option to seek to make provision in the 2020/21 revenue budget for a grant fund to support independent traders groups, such as Indie York and others.

Reason: To promote the economic health of the city centre.

27. ECONOMIC UPDATE

The Executive Member considered a report on the progress that has been made in delivering the York Economic Strategy 2016-20. It also provides an update on the preparation of a draft York Economic Strategy 2020-24. The Head of Economic Growth presented the update. It was:

Resolved: That;

- i. the progress that has been made in delivering the York Economic Strategy 2016-20 be noted.
- ii. the Head of Economic Growth be instructed to bring forward proposals for a revised York Economic Strategy 2020-2024 as an early priority for the next Administration.

Reason: To support economic growth in York.

28. FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND – SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Executive Member considered an update on the submission of an Expression of Interest to the Future High Street Fund, a central government funding opportunity to tackle the challenges facing town and city centres. The Expression of Interest did not commit the council to proceeding with a full bid or to any funding as successful applicants would be invited to submit a full business case at a later date. The Head of Economic Growth outlined the update and clarified the different rounds of bidding for the fund. It was:

Resolved : That the Expression of Interest submission to the Future High Streets Fund be noted.

Reason: In order to be updated on the progress of the submission to the Future High Streets Fund.

Cllr A Waller, Executive Member
[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.39 pm].