

NOTE THE APPROVAL BY THE COMBINED AUTHORITY OF £800K CAPITAL GRANT TO PCC TO DEVELOP A “CAFE CULTURE” IN THE CITY

CLLR MARCO CERESTE - CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE, STREET SCENE AND ENVIRONMENT

DECEMBER 2020

Deadline date: N/A

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Cereste - Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment Peter Carpenter - Acting Corporate Director Resources
Is this a Key Decision?	YES Key Decision Reference Number: KEY/09NOV20/02
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Approve the allocation of expenditure to support the Build Back Better: Cafe Culture project with £983k capital funding.
2. Authorise the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Acting Corporate Director Resources, to enter into such legal agreements as may be required to give effect to the recommendation above and the development and operation of the cafe culture project in the city centre including a grant agreement with CPCA and any property agreements

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report is for Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (c)

2. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 In May 2020 Cabinet members approved for PCC officers to work with the Combined Authority to enable essential city centre businesses to continue trade during the first lockdown. As widely reported footfall into the city dropped significantly, during this period, threatening jobs and livelihoods of local people.
- 3.2 In June 2020 PCC worked with the local business community to submit a Local Growth Fund application to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) for £800,000. PCC officers, members and business made a joint presentation outlining the vision for a cafe culture in August 2020 and the funds were approved in October 2020. The Capital Review Group agreed to match fund the CPCA grant by £183,000 22nd September 2020.
- 3.3 Together the two funding sources (CPCA and PCC) are combined into a single Build Back Better: Cafe Culture project fund. The combined fund value of £983k will be spent on the five overlapping work streams below.
- 3.4 Centre For Cities data shows Peterborough has already bounced back to 97 per cent of its footfall (end of August 2020) since Covid-19 – well above the national average. The development of a cafe culture in the city would ensure this continued to be the case in the coming months/years.
- 3.5 COVID19 has highlighted the value people put on the environment and quality of life. Building back better - including using wherever possible innovative green technologies is central to the Build Back Better (Cafe Culture) project (“the project”). A core output is that the infrastructure created will be net carbon neutral.
- 3.6 The project will provide COVID19 secure infrastructure (heating, seating, lighting and protective covering) to enable people to return safely and confidently to the city.
- 3.7 The project has five overlapping workstreams
1. Lighting
 2. Sustainable heating and seating
 3. Infrastructure/protective coverings
 4. IT signage incl. public wifi
 5. Security incl. counter terrorism

3.8 Examples of work under the different workstreams include:

Lighting

The lighting will highlight existing cultural assets such as the Guildhall. In addition the lighting will provide a clear route to a car park and so help the development of an evening economy.

Sustainable heating and seating

Work with local suppliers where possible to source innovative products that will be trialled before wider rollout. Promote local green technology solutions that can be tested and deployed on trial basis

Infrastructure/protective coverings

Work with local designers to create solutions that can be used night and day and in the majority of likely weather conditions.

IT signage incl. public wifi

The project will take forward the Connected Cambridgeshire Public Wifi programme across the city centre. This will help disadvantaged people engage with the digital services for example routine online GP appointments.

Security incl counter terrorism

Measures to ensure the cafe culture does not become a target for terrorism.

Marketing and communications

Capture and document project outcomes and outputs.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultations with businesses were carried out prior to submission of the CPCA application and consultation with the business community continues on a regular basis in collaboration with Peterborough Positive Limited. Peterborough Positive, the brand name for the Peterborough Business Improvement District (BID).

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 5.1 The Café Culture Project will create a catalyst for increasing footfall and length of visits to the City Centre, in turn creating more jobs in the hospitality services and having a positive knock on effect on other city centre businesses.

The specific project outcomes are as follows:

Cafe Culture Return on Investment measures and committed outputs

1 100 jobs retained in hospitality & retail sectors

2 Stimulate new enterprise culture in the City

3 Boost city centre business productivity by 28%

4 Infrastructure will be net carbon neutral

5 Attract additional investment in the city of £10M by 2025

6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 The Council has agreed to provide financial support by way of capital funds to the Build Back Better: cafe culture project to support jobs, investment and enterprise in the city. The project will be a powerful stimulus that will help businesses in the city to respond to the challenges of Covid19 and help raise the spirits of the city.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Do Nothing: The Council could choose not to support this project. This was rejected as it would jeopardise future investment projects and the opportunity to help city centre businesses to recover from the worst effects of COVID19.
Seek alternative funding: no such funding exists for this Project.

8. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 8.1 £800k grant funding from CPCA and £183k capital funding from PCC. PCC revenue cost of borrowing the £183k amounts to approx. £11k pa and this will be covered by rental income from the new installations. CPCA funding must be fully used by 31st October 2021.

Legal Implications

- 8.2 This grant funding is allocated in accordance with Part 3 Section 3 of the Council's Constitution. Paragraph 3.6.5(i) provides that to determine the allocation of external funding over £500,000 a key Cabinet Member decision is required.

Application of the funds and the appointment of sub-contractors to carry out the works associated with the Project will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Rules.

PCC owns the freehold of part of the land (the former Norwich Union building) upon which it is proposed to carry out works to create a café culture within the Cathedral quarter of the City with ownership of the remainder of the land unknown due to its status as unregistered land. The land is designated as public highway and PCC is the Highway Authority.
. Where land is designated as public highway the owner of the land takes subject to the status of the land as public highway.

The Highways Act 1980 ("the Act") gives the Highway Authority the following powers:

- Section 115(b) of the Act - to place objects or structures on, in or over the highway, for the purpose of:
 - (i) enhancing the amenity of the highway and its immediate surroundings; or
 - (ii) providing a service for the benefit of the public or a section of the public

provided that consent of the frontagers is obtained (i) to the placing of the object or structure; (ii) to the purpose for which it would be placed; and (iii) to the proposed grant of permission to any third party to use the object/structure erected

- Section 115(c) of the Act - to provide, maintain and operate facilities for recreation or refreshment or both on a highway subject to obtaining the consent of the frontagers.

Before any works are carried out, PCC in its capacity as Highway Authority will therefore need to consult the adjoining owners/occupiers fronting the area of the public highway and obtain consent to the proposed works.

There is also a requirement under Section 115(g) of the Act to publish notice of the proposed works and a copy of the notice must be served on any owners or occupiers likely to be materially affected by the proposals allowing a consultation period of at least 28 days for representations to be made to PCC and for consideration to be given to all representations.

NB If a pedestrian planning order or traffic order has been made in relation to the land, no notice under section 115(g) is required.

It will also be necessary for planning permission to be obtained (if necessary) in connection with the proposed works.

Equalities Implications

8.3 None

Carbon Impact Assessment

8.4 The cafe culture project has a stated output for the infrastructure to be net carbon neutral. A Carbon Impact Assessment has been carried out.

9. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

9.1 None.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

10.1 None.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.