

## West Suffolk Council

### Cabinet Decisions Notice

(Published: Thursday 16 November 2023)

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday 14 November 2023 and, if not called in by councillors, will come into operation on Friday 24 November 2023. An executive decision may be called in, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, by at least five councillors submitting the required call-in request form to the Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory) (e-mail: [democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk)) **by 5.00 pm on Thursday 23 November 2023**. Should you have a query regarding any of the decisions taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, the relevant portfolio holder or via Democratic Services, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 3YU.

Agenda item and report number	Declarations of interest	Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for decision(s)	Other options considered and reasons for rejection	Contacts
Item 9  CAB/WS/23/050	None  (It was noted that Cllr Diane Hind was the Town Mayor of Bury St Edmunds)	<b>National Heritage Lottery Bid - Abbey of St Edmunds</b>  Resolved:  That: 1. Having considered the merits of the proposed joint National Heritage Lottery bid, with St Edmundsbury Cathedral and English Heritage, the pursuing of the stage one bid submission, be agreed.	The Abbey Gardens was a green flag award winning park which attracted around 1.3 million visits per year. Within the gardens stood the ruins of the former Abbey of St Edmunds. The current cathedral building was one of the Abbey's churches. The Abbey ruins were English Heritage's most visited free to visit venue in the country. Given its popularity as a visitor destination it played a significant role in helping boost the local economy.	If the Council chose not to support the bid, the Council would ultimately need to consider how else it would fund the necessary access and path improvements on its land. English Heritage have	<b>Portfolio holder:</b> Ian Shipp 07368 134769  <b>Officer:</b> Mark Walsh Director (Operations) 01284 757300

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		<p>2. The Director (Operations) be authorised to agree the final stage one submission documents, in consultation with the other partners to the bid and based on approval from the S151 Officer and Portfolio Holder for Leisure.</p> <p>3. £250,000 be allocated, in principle, from the Section 106 funding already earmarked for improvements in the Abbey Gardens to the delivery phase of the project as contributory funding, should the bid be successful at stage one development phase.</p>	<p>Working in partnership, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, West Suffolk Council and English Heritage were proposing to submit a joint stage one National Lottery Heritage 'Fund (NLHF) bid for funding to specifically address the challenges outlined within paragraph 1.2 of Report number CAB/WS/23/050. The Cathedral would be the lead applicant for this submission, as the bulk of the capital spend would be on their land.</p> <p>In order to make the bid, the NLHF would want to see a partnership agreement between the Cathedral, West Suffolk Council and English Heritage and this agreement had been drafted and was currently being considered by each partner. The Cathedral had appointed and were funding a consultant to draw together the bid. West Suffolk Council were holding</p>	<p>already indicated that they don't have the funding at their disposal to undertake all the works needed to the ruins in one go and this would, therefore, result in large areas of the ruins remaining fenced off indefinitely. The visitor centre and improvements within the cathedral could not be progressed. This lack of investment could ultimately impact on visitor footfall and negatively</p>	

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			<p>around £250,000 of Section 106 funding ringfenced for the Abbey Gardens which the Council could use as its contributory funding towards the bid.</p>	<p>impact on the wider economy of the area.</p> <p>Alternative funders for projects of this nature were currently few and far between and far between and The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) was the primary organisation for grants of this scale and nature.</p>	

Jennifer Eves  
 Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory)  
 16 November 2023