

Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Call-In Future High Street Fund	
Report No:	OAS/FH/19/006	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14 March 2019
Portfolio Holders:	<p>Councillor Lance Stanbury FHDC Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth Tel: 07970 947704 Email: lance.stanbury@forest-heath.gov.uk</p> <p>Councillor Susan Glossop SEBC Portfolio Holder Planning and Growth Tel: 07473 041394 Email: susan.glossop@stedsbc.gov.uk</p>	
Lead officers:	<p>Julie Baird Assistant Director (Growth) Tel: 01284 757613 Email: julie.baird@westsuffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk</p>	
Purpose of report:	To investigate the called-in decision relating to the Portfolio Holders Decision Notice regarding "the submission of an expression of interest in round one of the Future High Street Fund", published on 28 February 2019.	
Recommendation:	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Allow the decision to be implemented immediately following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting; or 2) Refer the decision back to the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee with alternative recommendations from the Forest Heath Overview and Scrutiny Committee. 	

Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>		<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:		• N/A	
Alternative option(s):		• N/A	
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
None			
Wards affected:		All	
Background papers:		Press release by the MHCLG on 26 December 2018: £675 Fund to Transform High Streets	
Documents attached:		Appendix 1 – Completed Call-In Request Form Appendix 2 – Portfolio Holder’s Decisions Notice – 28 February 2019 - Attached Appendix 3 – Portfolio Holder’s Report – 27 February 2019 - Attached Appendix 4 – Call-In Meeting General Guidance Notes	

Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1. Call-In Request

- 1.1 In line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, as contained within Part 4 of the FHDC Constitution, Councillor Victor Lukaniuk, with the support of Councillors Andrew Appleby, Christine Mason, David Palmer and Peter Ridgwell has called-in the Portfolio Holders decision notice published on 28 February 2019, in respect of the "Future High Street Fund".

The call-in has been actioned under items 1 and 8 of the principles for decision making, as follows:

- We in Brandon were not given the opportunity to make a case for funding; and
- The process was flawed.

The reasons given for the call-in are as set out in the Call-in Notice, attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 26 December 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government issued a press release setting out details of a "*£675 million fund to transform high streets and town centres opens to communities*", which was made available to all members as a policy alert.
- 2.2 On 19 February 2019, an intention to make a decision was published both on the Councils website and Intranet by the Portfolio Holders for Planning and Growth as follows:

The Forest Heath DC and St Edmundsbury BC Portfolio Holders for Planning and Growth will be asked to consider approving a submission of an Expression of Interest in round one of the MHCLG's Future High Street Fund. The objective of this Fund, which comprises a total allocation of £675m is to "renew and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that improves experience, drives growth and ensures future sustainability".

Other options would be considered later when the second round of bidding opens. In the current round, local authorities can bid for up to £25m. The submission will be made to MHCLG, who will then shortlist bids to be put forward to a second round of bidding, which will require production of a full business case. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by 22 March 2019.

In making their decision, the Portfolio Holders will need to consider a number of options, the wider strategic context, and which preferred option would be best placed at this time to meet the stringent criteria set by Central Government.

- 2.3 On 28 February 2019, a Portfolio Holders Decisions Notice, attached at (**Appendix 2**) was published setting out the reasons for the decision and other options considered.

Published alongside the Decisions Notice, was a supporting Portfolio Holder's Report, **CAB/JT/19/008**, attached at (**Appendix 3**).

3. Call-In Meeting General Guidance Notes

- 3.1 Attached at **Appendix 4** to this report are guidance notes on how the call-in meeting will be conducted by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to either:

- 1) Allow the decision to be implemented immediately following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting; or
- 2) Refer the decision back to the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee with alternative recommendations from the Forest Heath Overview and Scrutiny Committee.