

**Bolsover District Council**

**Executive**

**4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Future High Streets Fund Bid Outline**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder - Town Centre Renewal, Media & Marketing**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To request Executive endorse the outline Expression of Interest (EoI) for Bolsover Town Centre for the Government's call for proposals for the Future High Streets Fund.
- To request Executive to delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Leader to finalise and submit the EoI.

**1 Report Details**

1.1 Executive agreed on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to Bolsover Town being the preferred town centre for the Future High Street fund EoI. Since then the Bolsover Town Centre EoI is being drafted.

1.2 The EoI bid is based around three themes against which places will be selected to go forward to Phase 2. These are:

- i) Defining the place
- ii) Setting out the challenges
- iii) Strategic ambition

1.3 Due to the bid timescales and the timing of the report for the Executive meeting the EoI is not yet complete. The Economic Development team working with the Partnership team using amongst other sources the Regeneration Frameworks for the EoI. They have identified the following key challenges facing Bolsover Town which the bid will look to address:

- Diversifying the choice of retail offer,
- Reducing number of empty properties,
- Increasing investment,
- Increasing footfall on the high street,
- Enhancing night-time economy,
- Improving urban environment,
- Ensuring holistic approach is taken towards new development,
- Reducing the leakage of retail spending power to towns outside District,

- Limited tourist spending in the District, coupled with lack of quality accommodation, particularly for Bolsover (which contains one of the country's top heritage assets, Bolsover Castle),
- Economic and social deprivation, lower wages, lower skills and fewer job opportunities,
- Limited transport connectivity,
- Ensuring the town benefits from proximity to the Castle and its visitors and spending power potential.

1.4 The current draft of the Eol gives Executive the reassurance that the appropriate thematic areas are being covered and that the correct narrative is written regarding Bolsover Town Centre's current challenges.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 Based on the timings of the Eol and the Executive meeting calendar the Eol is not yet completed. The Eol will however be ready for the 22<sup>nd</sup> March deadline.

2.2 An outline Eol bid has been drafted for Bolsover Town Centre This is to reassure Executive that the appropriate areas are being addressed as part of the Eol stage.

2.3 For the reasons set out above, and subject to approval by Executive, it is recommended that a Phase 1 Eol bid for Bolsover Town Centre be finalised and submitted by the CEO in consultation with the Leader by the MHCLG deadline of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

3.1 In preparing the Eol, officers have engaged with Old Bolsover Town Council, Ward Councillors, Executive, Joint Strategic Director – Place and the Joint Chief Executive.

3.2 SCR, DCC and D2N2 have indicated willingness to support a really strong strategic narrative for any Eol bids that are submitted.

3.2 Stakeholder and community engagement will be undertaken during preparation of a Phase 2 bid to support the development of the business case. In preparing the bid regard will be given to equality impact to ensure that no groups are disadvantaged. One of the routes will be via Bolsover Partnership to ensure all sectors are consulted and engaged.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 There is the option of no Eol submitted – BDC could decide to not submit any bid to the Future High Streets Fund; however this would mean our town centres would forego the ability to access Government funding that may provide a significant investment opportunity. Also this would contradict the recommendation from the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Executive to submit a bid for Bolsover Town Centre. This is not a recommended option.

## 5 Implications

### 5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 The preparation of and submitting of the EoI poses no financial implications and has no risk implications.

### 5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 This will be taken into account during the preparation of the EoI.

### 5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 The allocation of officer time from both the Economic Development Team and the Partnership Team to prepare the EoI.

## 6 Recommendations

6.1 That Executive note the contents of this report

6.2 That Executive endorse the outline EoI for Bolsover Town Centre for the Government's call for proposals for the Future High Streets Fund.

6.3 That Executive delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Leader to finalise and submit the EoI.

## 7 Decision Information

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b>	Yes
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	Bolsover North West, Bolsover South, Bolsover West
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	<b>Corporate Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unlocking Our Growth Potential</li></ul>

	<p><b>Growth Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Enterprise: maintaining and growing the business base</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Development and Housing Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable town centre development</li> </ul>
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## 8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
<p><b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
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