



RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION (OFFICER)

1. Decision Reference No.	CEX231
2. Name/Title of Officer	Edd de Coverly Chief Executive
3. Email address of Officer	edecoverly@melton.gov.uk
4. Title / Subject Matter:	Submission of Levelling up fund Round 2 bid
5. Type of Decision:	Public
6. Key Decision?	No
7. Decision Taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To approve submission of the final combined, round 2 Levelling Up Fund bid with Rutland County Council in accordance with the delegated authority received from Cabinet on the 16th June 20222. Following a review of deliverability, and in accordance with the direction given by Cabinet at the aforementioned meeting, to note that the the King Street building element of the bid has been removed from the submission to ensure only the strongest elements proceed.3. To confirm that Rutland County Council will take on the responsibility of the 'Lead Authority' function in terms of bid submission and grant receipt should the bid be successful.	
8. Reasons for Decision: Background: Following the unsuccessful outcome of the Round 1 submission to the Levelling Up Fund, it was agreed that to enhance the chances of a successful submission outcome, which could gain the formal support of the MP (who was only able to support one bid), a joint, coherent, and cohesive bid would be developed alongside Rutland County Council to be submitted to the second round of the Levelling Up Fund. Building upon the positive and comprehensive feedback received from the Round 1 submission, significant work has been undertaken to take these points on board and shared with Rutland CC to ensure the bid is as strong as it can possibly be. This bid has been developed and the Melton elements were set out within the 13 th July Cabinet report. It is broadly based upon the delivery of three key themes and elements within them:	

Food Innovation Showcase - Development of the Stockyard site to provide a multifunctional events space and associated infrastructure, food and drinks production units and spaces where visitors can enjoy our local produce. In conjunction with future planned activity in the town centre this will create a unique destination that will support the wider town centre area during the day through attracting new and repeat visitors to the area. As well as this the bid will be supporting other tourist and cultural activities in partnership with the SMB Group to support the evening economy.

Health Innovation Showcase - Development of a new digital innovation facility anchored around health at the Oakham Hospital Site (Rutland) supporting the creation of high growth businesses and extending into a new digital visitor experience showcasing the globally significant recent archaeological finds in Rutland.

Sustainable Travel Showcase - Enhancing access, through the development of an e-enabled, community directed approach to demand focus travel, based on a Mobi-Hub, headquartered at the Oakham Hospital Site but providing links across the whole geography harnessing the economic potential of over 100,000 people.

The total amount being sought from the Levelling Up Fund is £22,950,690 of which the Melton elements are seeking £10,121,966 for the Stockyard proposal and £1,958,851 for the theatre proposal.

Until very recently, the guidance required the MPs could only provide formal support to one bid per constituency, which has resulted in Melton Borough Council working closely with Rutland County Council on a single, coherent and more extensive joint bid. In mid July, when the submission portal was opened and the submission deadline extended to 2nd August (from the original 6th July), it was also confirmed that MPs could now support more than one bid per constituency. Whilst unhelpful to have such a fundamental change at this late stage, all partners have agreed that it is preferable to maintain a single joint bid as this will represent the strongest possible proposition and demonstrate the ongoing partnership across the Rutland and Melton area.

The reasons for the decisions are set out below

- 1) This decision to submit a bid alongside Rutland County Council was to enhance the chances of success of both bids following the unsuccessful application made by MBC in the first round and the feedback received from this. It will also retain the support of the MP.
- 2) The decision to remove the King Street element was taken following in-depth consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the individual elements within the bid. Due to the ongoing uncertainty with regards to the building ownership and sale it was considered that this impacted significantly on deliverability which in turn would weaken the wider application. Given any finalisation of this aspect would come after the submission deadline it would also undermine the Council's ability to gain relevant subsidy control advice and undertake the relevant value for money and cost/benefit calculations. On this basis it was concluded that the best course of action for the wider bid was to remove this element and to look to support via another mechanism should they become available. This outcome has been confirmed with relevant partners.
- 3) Due to the sustainable travel element of the bid, it was felt the most appropriate organisation to act as the lead authority would be Rutland as they are a transport authority with the relevant skills necessary to deliver this proportion of the bid and would therefore make sense to be directly accountable for it. Should the bid be successful MBC and RCC will develop additional Heads Of Terms to ensure MBC takes proportionate responsibility and risk for the projects taking place in Melton.

9. Authority / Legal Power:

1. Delegated Authority for the Chief Executive to make these decision in consultation with the Portfolio Holder was secured through [Cabinet on the 16th June 2022](#)

10. Background Papers attached?

Equality Impact Assessment

11. Alternative options available / rejected:

1a) Not submit the bid: due to the positive feedback received from the first submission it was felt there was sufficient merit in updating and attempting to secure funding through the second round.

1b) Submit the bid without RCC: due to the eligibility criteria in regards to how the bid needs to be assessed and submitted it was felt our best opportunity was to submit a bid alongside RCC in order to formally secure the MP's support

2) Retain the king street bid: Despite the many positive elements of this proposition in relation to town centre regeneration, it was felt the weaknesses were significant enough that the risk was too great to the wider bid.

3) MBC act as the lead authority: This was rejected as MBC does not have any expertise or skills in regard to sustainable travel or developing DRT services so was more sensible that RCC where directly responsible for this section with Government should the bid be successful.

12. Implications:

<p>Legal</p>	<p>There will have to be separate legal agreements between RCC and MBC to pass on responsibilities and risks associated to the Melton proportion of the bid. These will cover legal, financial, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation risks/ responsibilities for the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>MBC in turn will have to have similar arrangements in place with partner organisation within the Melton portion of the bid specifically, SMB group in relation to the theatre works.</p> <p>Should the bid be successful there will be some work required to develop terms for the leasing of this area of the site once finished for the day to day operation of the new facilities.</p> <p>[Legal Approval - 4 July 2022]</p>
<p>Finance</p>	<p>There will be financial implications for Melton Borough Council as a result of this bid. Directly we will need to commit circa £1m (a minimum of 10% of total ask) towards the costs of the project in terms of match and we will also bear responsibility for accounting for Melton's proportion of the LUF funding should the application be successful in terms of following procurement, financial and monitoring and evaluation rules.</p> <p>[Finance Approval by Dawn Garton – 30 June 2022]</p>

HR	Not applicable
13. Signature of Decision Maker with authority to sign	Email approval received Edd de Coverly Chief Executive
14. Consultation with:	Email notification received Cllr Rob Bindloss Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity
15. Date:	29 July 2022

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