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**LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND 2 BID**

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

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1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To consider a bid submission for Levelling Up Round 2 (LUF 2).

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 Members are requested to approve the submission of a LUF 2 bid to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as set out in 4.1 of this report.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (LUF2) was launched in March 2022. The fund focuses on three main investment themes; transport, Regeneration & Town Centre, and cultural investment. A local authority can submit a bid of up to £20m. The criteria is set out in the prospectus that was published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) on 23 March 2022.

3.2 Members will recall that the District Council agreed 3 masterplans; Ely, Littleport and Soham, which were adopted by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). These documents provide a good evidence base and starting point for a bid.

3.3 Metrodynamics were commissioned to assist Officers to review potential opportunities for the Council to make a bid which meets the criteria of the prospectus. Genecom have also been commissioned to write the bid on the Council's behalf.

3.4 Following a review of the potential projects Officers are recommending a hybrid active travel and commercial space bid for Littleport. This is supported by Metrodynamics analysis of potential projects.

Cycle Route- Linking Littleport Station with the town and over to the A10 Wisbech Road (BP garage).

3.5 The cycle route selected is one which has been identified in the Sustrans report as a route of interest. It is also a route that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has been working on. CCC has reached the final draft stage of their

costed report and delivery plan for the routes. Officers are working closely with CCC to collate the information for the bid submission.

#### Development of Commercial Space

- 3.6 E-Space North has been identified as the best option to include in a bid. The bid would be for the refurbishment and extension of the business centre. The project will include reconfiguring the existing work space and sustainable energy interventions.
- 3.7 The aim is to generate space for an additional 100 full time equivalent workers on site and provide hybrid working space for business community casual workers.
- 3.8 There is still work to be done to refine and finalise the bid, including drawing and cost plans. The bid must be submitted by 6 July 2022.
- 3.9 There is a requirement for match funding of 10%. If the bid is successful, subject to further formal approval, it would be possible through either the Community Infrastructure Levy or Cambridgeshire Horizons Fund to make this commitment.
- 3.10 A decision on whether the bid will be successful is expected in the Autumn.

#### 4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Members are recommended to submit a bid which focuses on active travel and increased commercial space in Littleport as detailed in 3.5-3.7 of this report.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The Council does not have the in house expertise to develop the bid and produce the project plan and supporting documentation. Officers have commissioned Genecom at a cost of up to £35,000. This will be met from existing budgets.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.
- 5.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

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#### Background Documents

LUF2 Prospectus (March 2022)

#### Location

The Grange,  
Ely

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