

**RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION**

Date	Decision Maker	Decision	Reason(s) for Decision	Alternative Options Considered	Conflicts of Interest Declared (and Dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer)	Consultation with relevant Ward Member(s)	Subject to Call-in?
						Yes/No	Yes/No
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024	Leader of the Council	<p>To allocate £30,000 from the High Street Accelerator project to procure a public realm architect/specialist to design the Green Space projects, funded from the £500,000 of external funding allocated following a successful bid to Government.</p> <p>This will be funded as follows:</p> <p>£5,000 from the High Street Accelerator Seed Funding budget and a further £25,000 from the revenue budget which supports the HSA Green Fund.</p> <p>Furthermore, to approve the direct commissioning of David Hills, Director of DSDHA, a specialist in urban design to support the High Street Accelerator (HSA) Seed Funding and Green Space Funding Projects. This will ensure that the HSA Partnership can achieve maximum impact for the area.</p>	<p>Dovercourt High Street was chosen as one of ten high streets to receiving funding from a High Street Accelerator Pilot Programme which was announced in March 2023 as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan.</p> <p>The aim of the pilot is to put the decision making back in the hands of the community led by a Partnership containing the local authority and representatives from local businesses, community organisations and property owners, along with a non-local authority chair.</p> <p>The MOU for the funding stipulates that the local authority will administer the funds but it is a partnership</p>	<p>To do a full procurement exercise for a consultant and invite quotes. Due to time restraints it would not only be advantageous for the contractor to have the knowledge and experience required, the process would delay the project and potentially result in the money being given back to MHCLG.</p> <p>To not procure and miss the opportunity to maximise the offer to Dovercourt and not providing the best value.</p> <p>To not do the green space projects or scale them down,</p>	N/A	No	Yes

	<p>David Hills was initially recommended to the High Street Accelerator (HSA) Partnership by the HSA Team within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of their package of free support and has already met with the partnership, carried out site visits and provided advice during the early stages of the funding.</p> <p>This commission will ensure consistency and will build on existing knowledge of the green space projects and seed funding projects while delivering maximum impact for the community and aligning with the Capital Regeneration Project regarding public realm being delivered by Essex County Council.</p> <p>Further to this the HSA has a critical deadline for the funding to be committed by 30 June 2025, which will be challenging with the green space projects if a full procurement exercise is carried out and would add a greater level of risk which may require the funding to be returned to MHCLG</p>	<p>decision on the projects it would like to take forward.</p> <p>There are two different funding streams:</p> <p><b>Seed Funding</b> which consists of £50k in 2023/24 and £187k in 2024/25. This must be committed by 30 June 2025.</p> <p><b>Green Space Funding</b> which consists of £500k. This must be committed by 30 June 2025.</p> <p>Year 1 of the seed funding has been spent but there is still available funding in year 2 which will pay for this commission so there is no cost to the Council.</p> <p>The green space projects are at a critical stage in their development and would benefit from expert support and advice to ensure the projects are cohesive,</p>	<p>returning money to MHCLG therefore not requiring this support.</p>	
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	This Decision makes the recommendation to make a direct award to David Hills to enable support to maximise the offer to High Street Accelerator Partnership and the greater community	and that they shape the high street for years to come.		
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**URGENT DECISIONS ONLY (If non-urgent go to "Agreement to Decision" below):-**

<b>GENERAL EXCEPTION APPLIES?</b> (Rule 14 Access to Information Procedure Rules)	YES/NO	If yes, has at least 5 clear days notice been given to the Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee?	YES/NO
<b>SPECIAL URGENCY APPLIES?</b> (Rule 15 Access to Information Procedure Rules)	YES/NO	If yes, has the Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee's consent been obtained?	YES/NO
<b>EXEMPTION FROM CALL-IN APPLIES?</b> (Rule 18) Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules)	YES/NO	If yes, has the Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee's consent been obtained?	YES/NO
<b>URGENT &amp; OUTSIDE BUDGET OR POLICY FRAMEWORK?</b> (Rule 6 Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules)	YES/NO	If yes, why is it not practical to convene a quorate meeting of full Council?	
		If yes, has the Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee's consent been obtained?	YES/NO

**AGREEMENT TO DECISION:-**

Signed:-

  
Leader of the Council

Deputy Leader of the Council,  
Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Leisure

Date:-

6/11/2025

Delegated Power Reference (in Part 3 of the Constitution):-

Part 3.34 (inward investment)  
Part 3.38 number 3 (approval of grants to organisations)

**Original signed copy to be retained by Service. Electronic copy to be sent to Ian Ford (Committee Services) for publication.**