

## Officer Executive Decisions

### Housing Infrastructure Fund Bid – New Routes to Good Growth

**Delegation from Leader and Cabinet and date:** On 5 February 2019, the Cabinet considered a report which provided details of Medway's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Bid – New Routes to Good Growth, which planned for much needed infrastructure to enable growth in and around the Hoo Peninsula and waterfront regeneration sites and sought approval for the submission of the Bid for up to £170million on 1 March 2019.

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, that following submission of the bid, to liaise with Homes England to make any required changes to the HIF bid prior to the MHCLG's final decision on the outcome of the bid (decision no. 24/2019 refers).

The report may be viewed online:

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?Id=24334&Opt=3>

**Decision:** In accordance with the Cabinet decision minor amendments were made to strengthen and clarify the bid's stance on both house numbers and the Statement of Common Ground (with the Hoo Consortium). See also details set out below.

**Reasons for Decision:** To secure funding for the future infrastructure required to enable the development of 12,100 homes by 2043 on the Hoo Peninsula.

**Date of Decision:** The final decision on the bid was made on 1 November 2019.

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#### **Details of any other options considered and rejected:**

The only change to the HIF bid submission post the Cabinet meeting on 5 February 2019 was the decision to review and amend the content of the Additional Essential Development Infrastructure. Section 4.6 of the Cabinet Report sets an allocation of £17m to the Additional Essential Infrastructure, which was regarded as match for the delivery of both a Health Hub and Leisure Centre (as described in 4.29). However, during the final stages of HIF bid's development it became increasingly clear that the MHCLG wanted more robust evidence that the HIF funded outputs were 100% required to unlock planning applications. The case was made for road and rail but needed strengthening for the Essential Infrastructure. During this time, officers continued to develop understanding of the need to strategic environmental management schemes to be in place to unlock housing. Section 4.29 of the Cabinet report makes the case for infrastructure to be deliverable by March 31 2023. It was considered that the Strategic Environmental matters were

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deliverable, whilst there was not enough time to establish the need, match funding and deliverability of the Health Hub and Leisure Centre. A decision was therefore made for the environmental measures to replace the Leisure and Health Hub. This received a HIF allocation of £14.35m. However, to note work continues on the feasibility and deliverability of a Leisure and Health Hub.

**Conflicts of Interest:**

None