

Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor

Decision title: Submission of “Vision for Tonedale” Levelling Up bid

Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Marcus Kravis

Author Contact Details: Joe Wharton, Asst Director Major and Special Projects

Date of Decision: 18.06.21

Details of decision:

The Portfolio Holder approves Somerset West and Taunton Council’s submission of a bid into the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government’s Levelling Up bid, entitled “A Vision for Tonedale”

Reasons for proposed decision:

This Levelling Up bid provides an opportunity for Somerset West and Taunton, working in partnership with many partners, stakeholders, and the community at large to deliver benefits in community and commercial sectors, education and apprenticeships, health and wellbeing, employment opportunities and environmental improvements, whilst simultaneously meeting many of the Levelling Up outputs under the regeneration and cultural criteria.

Tonedale Mill and the surrounding green spaces and waterways are integral to the fabric of Wellington both as a place and as crucially in its identity. The deterioration of the nationally significant industrial fabric and infrastructure whilst in private ownership has reached a critical point, but it is not too late. The Levelling Up bid can combine the needs of the community with the salvation of the natural and built assets to the benefit of all.

Consultation to date:

Regular updates have been provided to the Wellington Town Council and Langford Budville Parish Council. Significant local stakeholders and consultation has occurred through our partnership with the Wellington Mills CIC.

WMCIC was established in 2018. In January 2021 SWT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the group to formalise and demonstrate the joint commitment to the heritage and environment of Wellington. They have completed multiple rounds of community consultation for the sites and may become end users for parts of each project.

SWT are also working closely with community sports, cultural and leisure groups who are interested in or who would benefit from the community land consolidation project.

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Alternative funding options sourced:

The submission into the Levelling up fund bid does refer to a number of match funding contributions that have been made by SWT, including capital and revenue expenditure. This funding is already committed and/or spent and does not require further approval.

There is no financial ask of SWT in the Levelling Up fund. A report to Full Council will follow the submission to request that should the bid be successful, a supplementary capital budget is created to allow the spend of the monies on the projects described. The LUF proposal stipulates that some of the funds must be spent in financial year 21/22, hence this paper seeks approval to spend the funds if successful ahead of time to allow time for procurement and design to take place.

The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	Cllr Janet Lloyd Cllr Keith Wheatley Cllr Andrew Govier Cllr Vivienne Stock-Williams Cllr Mark Lithgow	01.06.21
The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.		
Finance implications	No further finance implications on the submission	
Legal implications	No further implications on the submission	
Links to corporate aims	Yes	17.06.21
Climate and Sustainability implications	No further implications on the submission	17.06.21
Community Safety Implications	No further implications on the submission	17.06.21
Equalities Impact	No further implications on the submission	17.06.21
Safeguarding Implications	No further implications on the submission	17.06.21
Risk management	Yes	17.06.21
Partnership implications	Yes.	17.06.21

Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.

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Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kravis', is enclosed within a rectangular box.

Name: Cllr Marcus Kravis

Date: 18.06.2021

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication and the period for any call-in has expired.

Note: A copy should also be sent to the Governance Team – governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Supporting statements:

Corporate Aims

The bid supports the following Corporate Objectives:

A low-carbon, clean, green and prosperous district that attracts high quality employment opportunities and encourages healthy lifestyle

Shape and protect our built and natural environment, supported by a refreshed Local Plan and develop our heritage, cultural and leisure offer including a clear vision and delivery plan for the Taunton Garden Town

Encourage wealth creation and economic growth throughout the District by attracting inward investment, enabling research and innovation, improving the skills of the local workforce and seeking to ensure the provision of adequate and affordable employment land to meet different business need.

Support the enhancement of arts and culture provision within the District

Develop and deliver effective communications, consultation and engagement which listens to and engages with our residents and stakeholders and is central to the delivery of our services, strategies and plans

Engage with the voluntary sector in their mission to help support our communities

Seek additional funding for new strategic infrastructure and regeneration projects from developers, investors, Government and other funders, which support or enable existing or new communities within our district

Meet the challenge of Government completely withdrawing the Council's grant funding
Ensure our land and property assets support the achievement of the council's objectives (including service delivery, regeneration projects and community initiative

Climate and Sustainability implications

The re-use of historic buildings is an essential part of the response to the threat posed by climate change and repairing historic buildings is a crucial part of sustainable development. The carbon impact of not repairing these buildings and risking future demolition and replacement would be significant.

The proposal seeks a like-for like approach and the retention and repair of the maximum amount of historic fabric for future re-use. Future conversions will look to industry best practice to ensure sensitive and appropriate measures to deliver carbon benefits.

The design approach at Toneworks has been taken to maximise the integration between the buildings and the environment and harness as much of the natural environment as possible. The buildings were constructed over the river to harness not only the power but the flow of the water for production. The proposals to re-purpose the site have been

conceived of to work with, not against, the natural environment and conserve and protect the valuable ecosystem which is so special in this part of the world.

Risk Management:

The submission includes a detailed risk register for each of the individual projects proposed as well a generic risk register that covers the bid. The risks covered include Design, Planning & Permissions, Procurement, Construction, Stakeholder Mgmt, CDM H&S, Legal, Commercial and Project Management. The criteria as listed in the bid prospectus and supporting documentation insist on a detailed appraisal of risk and any successful bid will be subject to monitoring and evaluation based on the published risks.

Partnership Implications:

This bid has been submitted with the support of many cooperative groups, community interest groups, heritage organisations, councils and other local, regional and national bodies. This cements the existing relationship with many and if the bid is successful will lead to many successful benefits and outcomes for all. Until a decision is made on the success or otherwise of the bid, SWT will continue to plan to deliver the outcomes in partnership with these bodies.