

Subject:	Heritage Action Zone Funding Uplift Application	Status:	For publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	13 th October 2021
Report of:	Director of Economic Development	Portfolio Holder:	Health and Leisure
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1. For Cabinet to accept a grant uplift award of up to c.£59,645.48 and to authorise the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to accept the award if approved and enter into a grant funding agreement.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1. To update on recent discussions held with Historic England and to obtain approval to submit a funding uplift application for c.£59,645.48.

To seek authority for the Director of Economic Development to enter in to a grant funding agreement to support this funding uplift application if it is successful. The outcome of the funding uplift application will not be known until 29th November at the earliest.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. This report should be read in conjunction with the [Rossendale Borough Council - Council Report – 23rd December 2019 – C4. Bacup Town Centre, 2040 Vision, Masterplan and External Funding Update.](#)

3.2. Strategic fit

A thriving economy is priority 1 of the Council's Corporate Plan.

Bacup Heritage Action Zone is part of priority 1 of the Economic Development strategy, a Thriving Town Centre.

Bacup Heritage Action Zone is part of the Bacup 2040 Vision and Masterplan.

3.3. Summary of the Heritage Action Zone

Bacup Heritage Action Zone received £1.085 million of Historic England funding in 2020. Following a funding uplift application in 2020, the funding increased by £40,000 to £1.125 million. The purpose of the Heritage Action Zone funding is to regenerate up to 22 properties within the Heritage Action Zone, to provide community engagement and training, and to provide a cultural programme delivered through the Cultural Consortium.

3.4. Historic England

The HS HAZ grant is awarded by Historic England who have recently toured the town centre to monitor progress of the project. During discussions they have indicated that they would be potentially supportive of an uplift application to support 18-20 Yorkshire Street. This would be additional funding that has been released by Historic England.

This report was brought forward on a tight deadline, as the team had to respond at short notice in order to secure the uplift. An uplift application was submitted by 30th September and a decision is expected in late November, with spend by 17th March.

3.5. 18 – 20 Yorkshire Street

The proposed uplift application for 18 – 20 Yorkshire Street is for a window replacement scheme.

- Total proposed project cost: £56,805.22
- Total proposed project cost with VAT: £68,166.26
- Grant application (85% of total project cost and 100% VAT): £59,645.48
- Owner contribution (15% of total project cost): £8,520.78

3.6. Forward plan for the Regal Bingo Hall

Historic England and Economic Development are supportive of a forward plan for the derelict Bingo Hall site which is within the HS HAZ area. They have indicated that they are happy for existing consultancy funding to be used to support a development brief for the site so that historic features can be incorporated within its future use.

3.7. Implications of the Bid

The funding uplift must be spent by 17th March 2022, resulting in a tight project delivery timescale. However, a project plan has been carried out; it is believed the project is deliverable and realistic in timeframe following discussions with contractors.

3.8. Heritage Action Zone Board

Approval for submission of the funding uplift application was sought at the Heritage Action Zone Board meeting on 16th September 2021 who have delegated authority over the project.

4. FINANCE

4.1 There are no financial implications to submitting the bid. If successful, the Council will be the Accountable Body and will administer the grants. Officers will monitor the projects to ensure compliance with the grant agreement. The Council will not be required to provide any match funding in relation to this bid or the potential award.

5. RISK

5.1. The application is not successful

Historic England will be engaged with throughout the uplift application process.

5.2. Landlord refusal to participate

The risk of landlords refusing to participate in the application mitigated as the landlord of the proposed property has already signed up to the HS HAZ scheme.

5.3. Contractors cannot deliver

There is a risk that Buttress and Ross Lee cannot deliver the grant uplift works. However, the contractors, Ross Lee and Buttress, are fully procured.

5.4. Delay to works and deadlines missed

There is a risk that the project could miss its target date of 17th March 2022 to draw down the funding. Whilst delivery is tight both the architect and the building contractors have confirmed that this is achievable. Also, we will be issuing a letter of offer stating that the grant will not be paid out after this deadline, protecting the Council.

5.5. Property improvement costs go over budget

Grant offer letters will only be issued in line with the budget. In the event any costs overrun, the Council will not be liable.

6. LEGAL

- 6.1. The Council has been invited to bid for this uplift which if successful requires Cabinet approval to accept the bid. Completion of contract variations will need to follow once approval has been granted.

7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The HS HAZ funding uplift application helps to realise the Bacup 2040 Vision. Full consultation with stakeholders, residents, Bacup 2040 Board, CMT and portfolio holder has been completed for the Bacup 2040 Vision and a full equality impact assessment has been completed. Any equality implications throughout the delivery of the project will be considered in a relevant and proportionate manner.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. The funding uplift application will uplift the HS HAZ scheme by c.£59,645.48 and uplift one building within the HS HAZ.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Rossendale Borough Council - Council Report – 23 rd December 2019 – C4. Bacup Town Centre, 2040 Vision, Masterplan and External Funding Update	Agendas, reports and minutes Rossendale Borough Council
Rossendale Borough Council - Council Report – 25 th September 2019 – D3. Future High Streets Fund/ Heritage Action Zone	Agendas, reports and minutes Rossendale Borough Council
Cabinet Report – 16 th June 2021 – C2. Bacup High Street Heritage Action Zone – Cultural Consortium Grant	Agendas, reports and minutes Rossendale Borough Council
Bacup 2040 Masterplan	Appendix Ab Bacup 2040 Masterplan Rossendale Borough Council
Bacup 2040 Vision	Appendix Aa Bacup 2040 Vision Rossendale Borough Council