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| <b>Decision of:</b>             | <b>EXECUTIVE</b>                                  |
| <b>Decision Number:</b>         | EX20/2017   |
| <b>Relevant Officer:</b>        | Alan Cavill, Director of Place                    |
| <b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b> | Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>         | 19 June 2017                                      |

## WINTER GARDENS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the authorisation of £500,000 expenditure in order to fund an enabling works package for the proposed Conference and Exhibition Centre.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That £500,000 expenditure is authorised in order to fund an enabling works package for the proposed Conference and Exhibition Centre.
- 2.2 To delegate approval of the detailed programme of enabling works to the Director of Place.
- 2.3 To note that a further report will be brought to the Executive once the Growth Deal 3 grant funding application evaluation process is completed.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To progress the delivery of a fit for purpose 21<sup>st</sup> century conference centre which once delivered will allow Blackpool to compete in the economically important business tourism sector and significantly contribute toward attaining the Council vision for Blackpool of being the UK's number one family resort with a thriving economy that supports a happy and healthy community who are proud of this unique town.
- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Do not complete the enabling works package.

The time constraints associated with completing the project are extremely tight. This course of action would increase the possibility of deviation from project schedule.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 Following receipt of delegated authority allowing the Director of Place to progress the project, a number of significant steps toward delivering the scheme have been made including:

- Full planning approval including listed building consent
- Progress of scheme designs to technical stage
- Selection of the preferred bidder for the main contract works
- £2,900,000 Coastal Communities grant funding award
- £15,000,000 Growth Deal 3 grant funding application evaluation is now at an advanced stage

5.2 The next step in delivery of the project is the completion of an enabling works package. This work will assist in ensuring the site is prepared for commencement of construction works later this year and support adherence to project plan. The Conference Centre is presently scheduled to open Spring 2019. A further report will be submitted to the Executive to confirm the final project plan once the result of the grant funding application is known.

5.3 The exact content of the enabling works package is currently being organised and will be approved by the Director of Place however, activities are likely to include:

- Further survey work
- Utility diversions
- Existing building elevation repairs
- Demolitions
- Site clearance

- 5.4 Authority for up to £500,000 expenditure is now sought in order to fund the enabling works package.
- 5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
- 5.6 **List of Appendices:**
- None.
- 6.0 **Legal considerations:**
- 6.1 The Council's contracting and commissioning procedures will apply. A suitable contract will be developed in consultation with the Council's Legal Services team.
- 7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**
- 7.1 None.
- 8.0 **Equalities considerations:**
- 8.1 None.
- 9.0 **Financial considerations:**
- 9.1 The £500,000 expenditure for which authority is sought in this report will initially be classified as a revenue expense. Reclassification of the £500,000 will take place once the full financing package is in place and it will form part of the Conference Centre capital expenditure.
- 10.0 **Risk management considerations:**
- 10.1 The £15,000,000 Growth Deal 3 grant funding application evaluation process is now at an advanced stage. It is anticipated that notification of award will be received in August. The risk that Growth Deal 3 grant funding is ultimately not forthcoming has been identified.
- 10.2 Should grant funding not be awarded, the £500,000 requested will be charged to the Strategic Leisure Assets portfolio as a revenue expense.
- 10.3 The time constraints associated with completing the project are extremely tight. Completion of the enabling works package will assist in minimising the risk of deviation from schedule.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation has taken place with both internal departments and external consultants on the requirements set out in this report.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Key decision information:**

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 12/2017

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**15.0 Call-in information:**

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: 9 June 2017 Date approved: N/A

**17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

17.1 Councillor Jackson declared a prejudicial interest in the item, the nature of the interest being that he was a Council appointed director of Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited. Councillor Jackson left the room during consideration of the item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

## **18.0 Executive decision:**

The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. That £500,000 expenditure is authorised in order to fund an enabling works package for the proposed Conference and Exhibition Centre.
2. To delegate approval of the detailed programme of enabling works to the Director of Place.
3. To note that a further report will be brought to the Executive once the Growth Deal 3 grant funding application evaluation process is completed.

## **18.2 Date of Decision:**

19 June 2017

## **19.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

To progress the delivery of a fit for purpose 21<sup>st</sup> century conference centre which once delivered will allow Blackpool to compete in the economically important business tourism sector and significantly contribute toward attaining the Council vision for Blackpool of being the UK's number one family resort with a thriving economy that supports a happy and healthy community who are proud of this unique town.

## **19.1 Date Decision published:**

21 June 2017

## **20.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair

Councillors Cain, Campbell, Cross, Kirkland, Smith and Mrs Wright

Note: Councillor Jackson having declared a prejudicial interest left the room during consideration of the item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

## **21.0 Call-in:**

## **22.0 Notes:**