

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS AND COMMERCIAL)

DOVER JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 28 NOVEMBER 2019

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – MARKET SQUARE, DOVER

1. Summary

1.1 This report updates Members on a possible project to deliver improvements to the public realm in the Market Square, Dover.

2. Background

2.1 In January 2019 the Council submitted a bid on behalf of Dover Town Team Ltd to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Coastal Communities Fund for improving access and public realm at the Market Square and Old Town from the St James's development in Dover. The objective of the project being to re-purpose Dover's historic Market Square as a hub connecting the local community and tourists alike with the town, and the proposals were subject to public consultation in 2018.

2.2 A grant of £2.44m was awarded on 1 October 2019 and Dover District Council's Cabinet will consider whether to accept the grant on 2 December. The project is considered a non-local authority project by the funder MHCLG, but the grant will be paid to the Council who are acting as the accountable body for the project under powers contained in section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Should Cabinet decide to accept the funding, the Council will therefore lead and administer the project to enable and deliver the physical works, liaising with the Town Team as the grant applicant. An associated programme of seasonal events and activities in the Market Square and Old Town will be delivered by the Town Team.

2.3 As part of the application the Council committed to providing a funding contribution of £500k, £350k of which is allocated within the current year's budget. £150k has been requested through the 2020/21 Mid Term Capital P bidding process.

3. Purpose of Report

3.1 It is anticipated that, should DDC decide to accept the grant, the Council will formally request that Kent County Council procures the physical works. KCC supported preparation of the bid and initial discussions indicate that it will be possible for the two councils to work together on the scheme, building on the excellent working arrangements established between KCC and DDC working on other related projects, such as the current Bus Rapid Transit scheme.

3.2 In advance of preparing detailed specifications for the works the project team would like to share concept plans with members of the Joint Transportation Board and obtain feedback regarding any areas of concern. This will be used to inform design development prior to further stakeholder engagement over the coming weeks.