

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



DATE	15th January 2013
PORTFOLIO	Regeneration and Economic Development
REPORT AUTHOR	James Warnock
TEL NO	(01282) 477207
EMAIL	jwarnock@burnley.gov.uk

WEAVERS' TRIANGLE: ERDF FUNDING FOR HIGHWAYS / INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Report is
 - (i) To seek the Executive's approval to the acceptance of an European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant offer, providing up to £1.5 million of capital funding for essential highways and other infrastructure works, further supporting the redevelopment of the Sandygate area of the Weavers' Triangle.
 - (ii) To put in place the necessary authorities and delegations to finalise the grant offer and to enable its use by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive;
 - (i) Approves the acceptance of an ERDF Priority 3 grant offer of up to £1.5m as detailed in this report to be used within the regeneration programme of the Weavers' Triangle.
 - (ii) Approves the Council's role as Accountable Body to the grant.
 - (iii) Authorises the Director of Resources to enter into a funding agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to finalise the grant.
 - (iv) Recommends to Full Council that the ERDF grant resources are incorporated into the Council's capital programme.
 - (v) Authorises the Head of People and Law to negotiate and enter into all necessary legal agreements to secure the grant's implementation.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Council, along with Barnfield Investment Properties has formed a joint venture company to progress the regeneration of the Weaver's Triangle. Considerable progress is being made with the first phases of the area's regeneration programme with Victoria Mill currently being converted into a University Technical College and a major planning application being considered by the Council for the Slater's terrace, Sandygate mill area. These commercial developments will require a comprehensive upgrading of the area's infrastructure to meet both the needs of incoming tenants and in the case of Victoria Mill to meet outstanding planning approval conditions.

The opportunity presented by these ERDF resources, alongside the already secured Regional Growth Fund Round 2 resources which will match them, will enable this essential infrastructure investment to take place to a higher standard.

All ERDF programmes and projects require a formal contractual funding agreement to be agreed and as part of that the role of Accountable Body identified. As well as the Council having long experience of such roles, in this instance there is no other alternative.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. 4.1 The scheme for which this grant is sought will enable the implementation of an important strategic strand of the proposed redevelopment of key sites in the Weavers' Triangle.

The ERDF will part contribute to a wider programme of highways/infrastructure works designed to reduce the traffic impacts of future developments; to improve the separation of vehicle, cycle and pedestrian movements; to create safe pedestrian routes between key development sites and public transport points, including Manchester Road and Barracks stations, and between these sites and the town centre; to create welcoming routes for pedestrians within the Sandygate complex of sites; and, by this means, to encourage and facilitate private investment in an area that at present constitutes a difficult environment for all means of access.

In brief the project will in principle comprise:

- The partial realignment of Trafalgar Street to widen the footpath and create pull-in areas;
- Measures to improve visibility and increase turning space at the junction of Trafalgar Street and Sandygate;
- Resurfacing of Sandygate to provide pedestrian priority, together with improvements to footway surfaces;
- Provision of high quality public realm to improve pedestrian access to, and across, Sandygate Square;

- The provision of a new footbridge over the canal to link the Victoria Mill and Slater Terrace sites to Sandygate Square.

The Council will be letting the contracts for these works to Barnfield Construction in the first half of 2013 and the exact details will be the subject of a further report to the Executive.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

5. The draft offer from DCLG is for ERDF capital grant of up to £1,500,000. This has to be matched pound for pound and the necessary match funding is available within the Council's Capital Programme, as part of the Regional Growth Fund (Round 2) scheme which provides grant support both for the Todmorden Curve and for Weavers' Triangle infrastructure works.

The grant has to be drawn down by June 30 th 2015 at the latest. Essentially though the timeframe for the use of the ERDF will be determined by the Council's Regional Growth Fund Round 2 programme which has to be defrayed by the end of January 2015.

The Executive should be aware of the risk related to this grant offer. EU resources will be open to robust EU Audit in due course and any discrepancies in its use will subject to potential claw back, for which the Council will be ultimately responsible.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6. The securing of this grant will provide a major boost to the delivery of the Weavers' Triangle regeneration programme, a key Council priority.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

7. Director of Resources
Director of Economic Regeneration
Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: James Warnock
Ext. 7207

ALSO:

**Adam Lockett
Ext. 7204**