

MINUTES OF CABINET MEMBER SIGNING MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2023, 9.35 - 9.40 AM.

PRESENT: Councillor Ruth Gordon, Cabinet Member for Housebuilding, Placemaking, and Development.

In attendance: Peter O'Brien, Assistant Director for Regeneration and Economic Development; Reba Toussainte, Head of Area Regeneration; and Fiona Rae, Principal Committee Co-ordinator.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. GOOD GROWTH FUND: ENTERPRISING TOTTENHAM HIGH ROAD DEED OF VARIATION

The Cabinet Member for Housebuilding, Placemaking, and Development considered the report which sought approval to vary the Greater London Authority Good Growth Fund Enterprising Tottenham High Road agreement to enable the receipt of an additional £2.3 million grant from the Greater London Authority (GLA) for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of the 639 Enterprise Centre Building Project in Tottenham. The Deed of Variation to the grant agreement was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. To approve the receipt of £2.3 million from the GLA for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of the 639 Enterprise Centre Building Project.
2. To agree to the Deed of Variation to the Good Growth Fund Enterprising Tottenham High Road Grant Agreement attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
3. To agree to the Forward Strategy for the delivery of the 639 Enterprise Centre Building Project as per Appendix 2 of the report to enable the council to receive the £2.3 million grant by March 2023.
4. To agree to entering into a funding agreement with the GLA for the purpose of delivering the 639 Enterprise Centre Building Project in conformity with the Forward Strategy set out at Appendix 2 of the report and to grant delegated authority to the Director of Placemaking and Housing, after consultation with the Lead Member for Housebuilding, Placemaking, and Development and the Director of Finance, to agree the final terms of the Agreement, and to any amendments subsequently required.

Reasons for Decision

The 639 Enterprise Centre is owned by the Greater London Authority. Located in Tottenham, it represents an important component of a wider strategy to improve the high street as set out in the Strategy for Tottenham High Road, through the provision of affordable workspace and the associated business support offer.

The original 639 project has become unviable due to significant increases in construction costs, and also an increase in the investment need in the building.

The additional £2.3m grant will enable the council to work with the GLA who will deliver the additional works to the building to support the building's longer-term future. The council itself will not be undertaking the £2.3m works but rather will enter into a separate funding agreement with GLA to enable to GLA to carry out the required works to the 639 Enterprise Centre.

The restoration of the building will make a significant contribution to the protection of Tottenham's built environment heritage.

Alternative Options Considered

Option 1 – Accept the £2.3m grant and enter into a funding agreement with the GLA to deliver the Forward Strategy for 639 Enterprise Centre

Option 1 is the recommended approach as it allows the council to vary the existing agreement with the GLA for the GGF ETHR programme to enable the receipt and claim of grant of the additional funding by March 2023.

Option 2 – Reject the grant offer from the GLA

Rejecting the grant from the GLA would miss an opportunity to draw in £2.3m of Government funding into the borough. The absence of this funding would create uncertainty around how the required improvements to the 639 Enterprise Centre would be funded.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has agreed that the call-in procedure shall not apply to this decision. This is because any delay in implementation caused by the call-in procedure would seriously prejudice the Council's opportunity to secure additional funding from the GLA for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of the 639 High Road workspace project. Accordingly, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the decision is both reasonable in all circumstances, and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency. This is in accordance with Part 4, Section H, and Paragraph 18 (a) and (b) of the Council Constitution.

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Ruth Gordon

Signed by Cabinet Member

Date: ...22 March 2023.....