

Agenda item 9

For decision – Request for match funding

Author: Peter Wheelhouse – Economic Development & Regeneration Manager and Deputy Town Clerk

A bid has been submitted for Government funding under the Community Renewal Fund. If successful, this would allow some research and community engagement to be undertaken that will assist with town centre regeneration. This in turn would provide evidence to support future capital funding bids under the Government’s Levelling Up Fund.

Specifically, the research would focus on the feasibility of bringing forward some town centre regeneration projects. They include:

- The regeneration of the former Western Warehouse at Saxonvale
- The regeneration of some vacant retail spaces at the Westway Centre
- The creation of a music and events industry training and skills centre (“Event-Tec”) based at the Cheese and Grain, building on its success as a music venue

We expect to hear the outcome of the bid in late July. If successful, it will result in £127k of grant funding. This requires match funding of £10k and councillors are requested to agree that subject to the outcome of the bid, £10k is found from the New Projects EMR to provide that match.

Recommendation

That a sum of £10k is allocated from the New Projects EMR to provide match funding if the application to the Government’s Community Renewal Fund is successful.