

Exercise of emergency functions – Acceptance of the sum of £8,100,000 (Eight Million One Hundred Thousand Pounds) from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government and £12,000,000 (Twelve Million Pounds) from the West Midlands Combined Authority (“the Funding Amount”) for the delivery of the Getting Building Fund (“the Scheme”)

1. Part 2M of the constitution of the City Council provides for the Scheme of Functions delegated to Employees including to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
2. Paragraph 3.8 of Part 2M of the Constitution enables the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader to make decisions required in an emergency.
3. In response to the Coronavirus, Covid – 19, the Government has announced there would be additional funding for “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects which could commence immediately and stimulate the country’s economic recovery.
4. The Government has also issued guidance for the scheme which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-building-fund>. Indicative lists of projects to be funded in the West Midlands (including Coventry) and in the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership area are also included here.
5. The funding will be managed using the existing arrangements for management of the Local Growth Fund. Coventry City Council will therefore act as the accountable body for the Coventry projects within the West Midlands allocation (£12m) and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership allocation (£8.1m)
6. The West Midlands Combined Authority will provide the Council with a “back-to-back” funding agreement for the £12m Coventry allocation. It should be noted that the funding will originate from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government and will be passed on the Council on the same terms.
7. The Government will make the Funding Amount available to the Council immediately and this funding will upon receipt need to be added to the Council’s Capital Programme.
8. In these current challenging times to individuals and businesses, the Council wishes to accept the Funding Amount as quickly as possible in order to allow the projects to proceed as quickly as possible and provide the intended stimulus to the local economy.

9. On the basis set out above, I am satisfied that the decision being taken pursuant to this emergency provision is critical to the Council's ability to provide the much-needed support to the local economy in these challenging times.

10. In light of the above I agree that this constitutes an emergency and I am making the decision that the City Council:

- accepts the CWLEP Funding Amount up to the sum of £8.1m from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government;
- accepts the Coventry Funding Amount up to the sum of £12m from the West Midlands Combined Authority;
- that this Funding Amount be added to the Council's Capital Programme; and
- delegated authority be given to the Head of Economic Development (following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services) to finalise the terms and conditions of the funding agreements, manage the Scheme up to the value of the Funding Amount and enter into the necessary funding agreements to ensure deliverability of the Scheme whilst also ensuring that eligibility criteria are adhered to.

I have consulted with the Leader of the City Council to confirm his agreement to this course of action.

A report will be taken to Council at the next appropriate meeting that will include information about this emergency decision.

Signed:

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Chief Executive of Coventry City Council.

Chief Executive of Coventry City Council

Dated: 14 August 2020