

# East Herts Council Report

## Council

**Date of meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Report by:** Councillor Ben Crystall – Leader of the Council

**Report title:** Officer delegated authority to make decisions relating to the delivery of the Old River Lane project.

**Ward(s) affected:** Bishop's Stortford North

## Summary

- The officer delegation for Old River Lane requires changing due to staff changes and this report recommends delegation to the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

**(A) To delegate to the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy, in consultation with the Old River Delivery Board operating in line with its Terms of Reference and the S151 Officer (or Deputy S151 in their absence), the authority to make decisions relating to the delivery of the Old River Lane project.**

### 1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 Due to staff changes, Council is recommended to change the delegation for the Old River Lane project to ensure there is continuity of delegation for the project.
- 1.2 There are no changes proposed to the terms of delegation, so it remains in consultation with the Old River Lane Delivery Board.
- 1.3 The Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy is responsible for the Programme Manager and support to the Project and

supports the Delivery Board.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 At an Extraordinary Council meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 ([Item 435](#)) Council resolved to delegate to the Head of Strategic Finance and Property, in consultation with the Old River Delivery Board operating in line with its Terms of Reference as contained at [Appendix 1](#), the authority to make decisions relating to the delivery of the Old River Lane project.
- 2.2 Due to the Head of Strategic Finance and Property leaving the Council's employment at the end of November, Council is recommended to change the delegation to the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy in consultation with the S151 Officer (or their Deputy).

## **3.0 Reason(s)**

- 3.1 To ensure that delegated decisions can continue to be made in relation to the Old River Lane project.

## **4.0 Options**

- 4.1 RECOMMENDED – change the officer delegation to the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy.
- 4.2 NOT RECOMMENDED – change the officer delegation to another officer. This is not recommended as there is no other officer that is closely involved with the project other than the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. As the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Legal Services Manager are the only officers who can sign under seal and require a decision to sign but cannot make that decision and sign to provide separation of duties.
- 4.3 NOT RECOMMENDED – end the delegation arrangements which would mean all decisions in relation to Old River Lane reverting to Council. This would require Council to make decisions about very minor items and the frequent convening of meetings, most of which would need to be held with the press and public excluded.

## **5.0 Risks**

5.1 Agreeing the delegation will mitigate the risk of decisions not being made quickly and at the appropriate level.

## **6.0 Implications/Consultations**

### **Community Safety**

No

### **Data Protection**

No

### **Equalities**

No

### **Environmental Sustainability**

No

### **Financial**

No

### **Health and Safety**

No

### **Human Resources**

No

### **Human Rights**

No

### **Legal**

No

### **Specific Wards**

Yes – Bishop's Stortford North, which is where Old River Lane is located.

## **7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material**

7.1 None

**Contact Member**

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