

**REPORT TO: OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP**

**DATE: 5 DECEMBER 2017**

**TITLE: REGENERATION STRATEGY - INTERIM REPORT**

**LEAD OFFICER: JANE GREER, HEAD OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING (01279) 446406**

**CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: JULIE HOUSTON, STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (01279) 446445**

**RECOMMENDED** that the Overview Working Group recommends to Cabinet that:

- A** A revised timeframe of 12 months from the date of this meeting is planned for the production of the Regeneration Strategy be approved.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. The Council established an Officer Working Group to review the opportunities for the Council's future regeneration activity. There then followed engagement with the County Council establishing a fresh approach to dialogue and joint working on regeneration opportunities for Harlow and a conversation about priorities for future policy and activity.
2. At the same time, dialogue commenced with the Cities and Local Growth Unit: Government's local growth team – a partnership between the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Communities and Local Government with a similar aim of establishing opportunities for joint working to meet Harlow's regeneration priorities. The Council subsequently worked with the Cities and Local Growth Team on an "Immersive Visit" and workshop for civil servants, local government officers, the Leader of the Council and the appropriate councillor Portfolio Holders and local stakeholders to explore that opportunity.
3. The product of these events will now inform the development of how the key agencies and stakeholders can further define the key challenges and opportunities and deliver potential solutions.
4. Due to the fact that these discussions are at early stage it is proposed to run the development of the Regeneration Strategy in parallel with the development of these joint local/central government engagement which is envisaged to be over the next 12 months.

## ISSUES/PROPOSALS

5. The key areas of joint local/central government focus for regeneration policy and activity arising out of the above engagement are as follows:
  - a) Town Centre;
  - b) Skills;
  - c) Infrastructure;
  - d) Housing renewal;
  - e) Harlow Enterprise Zone;
  - f) The impact of Permitted Development Rights enabling Office to Residential conversion; and
  - g) The future of Princess Alexandra Hospital
6. Clearly many of these issues in fact inter-relate and particularly within the context of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project. Harlow has a key role to play in achieving the economic potential of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor. Additionally, as a sub-regional centre, Harlow and the wider area is a key focus for both housing and economic growth, playing a complementary role to London and Cambridge.
7. The above key areas of focus also inter-relate and support the Council's aspirations to deliver a thriving economy as evidenced in the Economic Development Strategy and its aspirations for improved community, health and wellbeing outcomes and support for a thriving leisure, sporting and cultural life within the town. The Council's Regeneration Strategy will also address these themes which are fundamental to a successful place to live, work and do business.
8. It is suggested that Officers pursue ongoing discussions local and central government partners into the New Year. The Officer Working Group will continue to meet to discuss and develop wider strategy options.
9. A Member/Officer workshop will be held in spring 2018 to discuss the outcomes to date of both the local/central government joint work agenda and the Officer Working Group. The output of this to form an interim report to the Overview Working Group approximately six months from the date of this meeting.
10. A Community/stakeholder workshop/conference will be held in the early summer to consult on the progress achieved and content from the above activity.

11. The draft Regeneration Strategy will be produced in autumn 2018 for consideration by the Overview Working Group by November 2018.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Place (includes Sustainability)**

As outlined in the body of the report.

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

### **Finance (Includes ICT)**

None Specific

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

### **Housing**

As outlined in the body of the report.

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

### **Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)**

As contained within the report.

Author: **Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

### **Governance (includes HR)**

As the Regeneration Strategy is developed, any data sharing that involved personal data must be in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. Further that if consultations are carried out that the proper procedures are following. As the project moves forward further legal and governance implications may have to be addressed

Author: **Amanda Julian, Legal Services Manager, on behalf of Brian Keane, Head of Governance**

