

REPORT TO: CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP

DATE: 12 APRIL 2018

TITLE: REGENERATION STRATEGY – UPDATE REPORT

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

RECOMMENDED that:

- A** Officers procure external consultants to produce the Regeneration Strategy in line with the process outlined.

BACKGROUND

1. The first joint meeting has taken place between:
 - a) The Cities and Local Growth Unit: Government's local growth team – a partnership between the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government; and
 - b) Officers from both the Council and the County Council.
2. The meeting considered a joint briefing produced by Officers focused around the themes of economic growth and connectivity, town centre regeneration, employability and skills, and housing renewal. Joint working groups are to be established to progress each theme.
3. This is an important step and emphasises the Government's commitment to joint work with Harlow following the inclusion of the town in the Industrial Strategy published in November 2018, in which it was stated that the 'Government will consider agreeing approaches with towns on how the government, local councils, local enterprise partnerships and businesses can work together to deliver growth in that area'.
4. In addition to this, the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Project is progressing with greater speed following the appointment of the Project Director. A variety of work streams have been initiated which take forward the many different aspects of development of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town as an integrated urban area supporting housing and economic growth, with excellent transport connectivity and quality of life.

5. On 29 March 2018, Full Council agreed the publication of the Local Plan for Regulation 19 consultation. A Regeneration Strategy will help to reinforce the economic and renewal priorities and policies set out in the Local Plan.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

6. To ensure that the Council is maximising the potential of these major projects to inform the development of the Regeneration Strategy. It is suggested that external consultancy support is procured to support the additional capacity required and produce the Strategy.
7. A Member/Officer workshop will be held in early summer to discuss:
 - a) The outcomes to date of both the local and central government joint work agenda;
 - b) The emerging output from the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project; and
 - c) Key Regeneration priorities in the context of the above.
8. An interim report will be brought to the Working Group approximately 6 months from the date of this meeting detailing the outcomes of the above.
9. Additionally there will be a community/stakeholder workshop/conference will be held in the early summer to discuss and consult on the key regeneration priorities for Harlow.
10. The draft Regeneration Strategy will be produced in autumn 2018 for consideration by the Overview Working Group in November 2018.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (Includes Sustainability)

As contained within the report.

Author: Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place

Finance (Includes ICT)

Financing for this regeneration work has been set aside in earmarked reserves.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance

Housing

None specific.

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)

When looking to award the Contract the Council's Contract Standing Orders, the Procurement Regulations and the Best Value for Money duty will be followed when looking to appoint external consultants.

Legal and procurement advice and assistance will need to be sought to mitigate risks to the Council of non-compliance with the tendering process.

Any contract entered into will need to comply with the Council's obligations under current legislation.

Author: Amanda Julian, Legal Services Manager

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.