

REPORT TO: OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP

DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2019

TITLE: REGENERATION STRATEGY – INTERIM REPORT

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

RECOMMENDED that the Overview Working Group:

- A** Establishes a member Working Group for the purposes of producing the Regeneration Strategy with a minimum of three members.
- B** Agrees the approach to the development of the Regeneration Strategy detailed in the report.
- C** Notes that an interim report will be delivered by March 2020.

BACKGROUND

1. Regeneration and a thriving economy is a priority for the Council. The Council requires a clear statement of policy to guide its regeneration activity and make the case for investment in Harlow. This is particularly important in the context of the development of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project, and opportunities to attract and bid for external investment and funding.
2. Officers have reviewed the approach previously suggested to the development of the Regeneration Strategy and are proposing a revised approach which is considered more succinct and appropriate and enables the authority to direct resources to the development of projects that will flow from the Strategy.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

3. The Council needs a Regeneration Strategy that has a clear vision for the regeneration of the town over the long term, that is based on a review of the currently available evidence and that seeks to proactively capitalise on opportunities as and when they become available.
4. In the first instance a member Working Group is suggested to develop a vision for the regeneration of Harlow and review the evidence.
5. The Working Group will consider the following key themes central to developing a strategic approach to opportunities for regeneration:

- a) Infrastructure;
 - b) Town Centre;
 - c) Neighbourhood Renewal;
 - d) Employment and Skills;
 - e) Arts and Culture;
 - f) The role of public sector assets; and
 - g) Third sector support and community leadership
6. Councillors are invited to consider whether there are any additional themes that should be included.
 7. Each theme will develop a series of key projects to deliver the aspirations of that theme as the opportunities arise.
 8. It is suggested that the Working Group comprise of at least three Councillors and that the group will consult with key Portfolio Holders to develop the Vision and themes appropriate to them.
 9. The Strategy will be subject to review on a bi-annual basis.
 10. The Working Group will be convened at the earliest opportunity to commission the required evidence base, develop its work plan and schedule of meetings to achieve the work plan.

IMPLICATIONS

Environment and Planning (Includes Sustainability)

None specific.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning

Finance (Includes ICT, and Property and Facilities)

None specific.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive

Housing

As outlined in 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 contained within the report.

Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.