

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE **FULL COUNCIL – 19TH April 2010**

MASTERPLAN FUNDING FOR ATTLEBOROUGH

1. Purpose of Report

To inform members that all funding from the Homes and Communities Agency for the Masterplan Project for the Attleborough growth, as agreed by Members on the 12th August 2010, has been received and URS Scott Wilson have delivered the Masterplan.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1 Note the support and assistance of the Homes and Community in funding and delivering the Masterplan and that the Masterplan is now available for reference as part of the community engagement strategy.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The grant was for the sum of £50,000 which was as a result of a bid for Rural Masterplan funding aimed at assisting Councils with large rural areas, tackle issues that growth and expansion may have in a particular area. The bid was made to assist the planning of the growth of Attleborough to enable the rural aspects and issues in that locality to be managed in way that fully involves the community and the Council.
- 3.1.3 As part of the process the Homes and Communities Agency have also set up a panel of expert consultants through a government procurement process to provide the a route for appointment of appropriate expertise for the process.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The funding was first awarded to the Council in February 2010 and subsequently put on hold with the change in Government and the review of funding to different projects. The funding was confirmed on the 23rd July 2010, with a request to sign up to the grant conditions and the procurement of the Consultant through the Homes and Communities Agency panel.
- 3.2.2 The award of funding had a short timeframe for expenditure, March 2011 and the project took 6 months to complete with all grant obligations met.
- 3.2.3 A procurement process was undertaken with the Homes and Communities Agency for a consultant. Consultants from the Homes and Communities Agency's approved list, which had been through a tender process under EU regulations, were asked to submit expressions of interest in the project. These submissions were then asked to submit further tenders and resulted in the interview of three consultants and the

selection of URS Scott Wilson to undertake the work.

- 3.2.4 The project as a whole contributes to the capacity of the Planning team in delivering the Local Development Framework for the Attleborough area and the Area Action Plan.

4. Other Implications

- a) Equalities: there are no Equalities issues relating to this report
- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: There are no crime and disorder issues relating to this report
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: The project will be addressing issues relating to the environment as part of the masterplan exercise and do not need to be highlighted separately
- d) Human Resources: There are no human resources issues related to this report
- e) Human Rights: There are no human rights issues related to this report
- f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004]

5. Alignment to Council Priorities

- 7.1 Building safer and stronger communities, prosperous communities, Your Council your services.

6. Ward/Community Affected

- 6.1 Attleborough.

Background Papers

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

Appendices attached to this report: