

Report to Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet Member for Transportation

Decision to be taken on or after 8 August 2019

**Decision can normally be implemented at least
3 working days after decision has been signed.**

Cabinet Member Report No. R07.19

Title: Woodlands and Eastern Link Road South

Date: 31 July 2019

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Local members affected: Aston Clinton & Berton;

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

[Guidance can be found on the intranet at the following link:

<https://intranet.buckscc.gov.uk/how-do-i/member-services/decision-making/>

Is the report confidential? Please contact Democratic Services.]

Summary

This report is to formally approve the release of £350k from the Transport, Economy and Environment Strategic Development reserve as part of Buckinghamshire County Council's contribution to the £700k costs of progressing the design and planning application for the Eastern Link road south and the full business case for the Woodlands development. The remaining £350k contribution will be made by Aylesbury Vale District Council.

Recommendation

To APPROVE the release of £350k from the Transport, Economy and Environment Strategic Development reserve as Buckinghamshire County Council's contribution to the £700k cost to progress the design and planning application for the Eastern Link Road South and develop the full business case for the Woodlands development.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

1. The Eastern Link Road South is of strategic importance to the County Council in establishing a series of link roads around the outskirts of Aylesbury. It also provides essential infrastructure for the Woodlands development which is planned to provide high quality commercial floor space (102,080m²), 1,100 market and affordable dwellings, additional 60 residential extra care units, mixed use local centre and a new primary school.
2. £700k is required to progress the design and planning application for the Eastern Link Road South as well as developing the full business case for the Woodlands development. The costs are to be met equally by Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council, with each contributing £350k and is essential to avoid delays in the delivery of the project.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

3. The only other alternative is to delay this work which will delay the overall project delivery time.

C. Resource implications

4. The County Council's £350k contribution can be met from the Transport, Economy and Environment Strategic Development reserve, which was established for this type of expenditure. Of the total £700k required, £550k will be used to progress the design and planning application for the Eastern Link Road South and £150k will be used to develop the full business case for the Woodlands development and carry out the necessary due diligence.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

5. The expenditure is necessary to ensure that there aren't any delays in the delivery of the project. The full Business Case will include the necessary due diligence to ensure that the delivery of the overall scheme offers value for money to both the County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council.

E. Legal implications

6. There are no legal implications relating to this decision.

F. Property implications

7. The Director of Property and Assets will be leading on the development of the full Business Case.

G. Unitary Council

8. This investment is supported by Aylesbury Vale District Council and the Shadow Executive have been informed. The delivery of the Eastern Link Road South and Woodlands development will be inherited by the new Buckinghamshire Council and the business case will be presented to the Shadow Executive in November 2019.

H. Other implications/issues

9. There are no other implications or issues relating to this decision at this stage.

I. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

10. The local member for Aston Clinton and Berton has been consulted and is supportive of this decision.

J. Communication issues

11. There are no communication issues at this stage. Once the full business case has been developed, it will be reported to Cabinet and Shadow Executive.

K. Progress Monitoring

12. Progress will be reported in November when the full business case is due to be completed.

L. Review

13. Not applicable

Background Papers

None.

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 7 August 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk