

REGENERATION DELIVERY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Contact: Charles Meakings 01494-421980 charles_meakings@wycombe.gov.uk

What is the Commission being asked to do?

- (i) To agree the terms of reference and scope of the Regeneration Delivery Task and Finish Group as set out below; and
- (ii) To seek Members of the Improvement and Review Commission in the first instance to serve on the Task and Finish Group, commencing in March 2016 and reporting to the Commission on 14 September 2016.

Background

At the last meeting of the Commission (11 November 2015) it was agreed to establish a task and finish group to investigate the capacity, decision-making process and project delivery arrangements required to achieve the Council's income target as a result of its regeneration priority, covering both commercial and residential regeneration within the Major Projects and Estates Executive's prioritised programme.

The Council's Corporate Plan

Cabinet (16 November 2015) recommended to Council (14 December 2015) the adoption of the Corporate Plan 2015-19. One of the priorities related to "Regeneration and Infrastructure", focusing on investing in our District and enabling regeneration through the use of the Council's assets and capital - and where possible, external funding. In this way we are also helping to ensure we have the appropriate infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

The approach is to use the Council's assets and capital in such a way that not only delivers regeneration and growth in a sustainable way, but also generates annual revenue to support Council services to the public, thus contributing to the projected funding shortfall in future years. In this way the Council can make sure essential services continue to be provided and help to provide jobs, as well as retail, leisure and other facilities for local people to enjoy.

This priority is also about making sure that we have plans in place to facilitate the wider delivery of required growth in our district. Our residents have told us that the provision of affordable homes, jobs for local people and other infrastructure is important to them. They have also told us that they value the beautiful landscape setting that we enjoy in this district meaning that a balance has to be sought.

Our plans, such as the new Local Plan, will help us to work with developers to make sure that new developments are sustainable and of high quality: future proofing them for climate change and in particular flooding. Development is not just about the built environment and we want, through this planning process, to investigate opportunities to facilitate the creation of a wide range of solutions for economic, environmental and social benefit - which will not only be good for people, but will help safeguard wildlife

too. The detailed work streams are attached as appendix A for information.

The Government's spending review and autumn statement, delivered on 25 November 2015, confirmed the approach outlined in the Corporate Plan to plan towards financial self-sufficiency.

Cabinet's response to Budget Task and Finish Recommendations

The two relevant recommendations related to increasing income through the use of Council's assets to generate new income streams to meet a set annual target by December 2018, with a prioritised programme to deliver the short, medium and long-term projects, drawing on the six categories of commercial development identified.

Cabinet (14 December 2015) formally responded to the Budget Task and Finish Group recommendations, agreeing to this approach (which is endorsed in the Corporate Plan) and have included suitable projects in the major projects programme. The resourcing required is currently being identified.

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To investigate and help shape the emerging arrangements for the delivery of the Council's Regeneration and Infrastructure priority in order that the Council can make the smooth transition to financial self-sufficiency, specifically focusing on:
 - (a) The prioritised regeneration programme to deliver the scale of recurring annual income required by 2018;
 - (b) The organisational resources, decision-making and project delivery arrangements in place to ensure delivery of the regeneration projects on time and on budget; and
 - (c) The partnership arrangements in place to ensure delivery of the regeneration projects on time and on budget, in particular with Buckinghamshire County Council and the Bucks (Thames Valley) Local Enterprise Partnership.
2. To make recommendations to the Improvement and Review Commission on 14 September 2016 for submission to Cabinet on 19 September 2016.

Conducting the Review

It is proposed that the first meeting be held in March 2016, when an update on progress can be provided on the programme of work and resources in place to deliver them, which can act as the starting point for the Task and Finish Group's work.

Membership

The Chairman has asked the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Alex Collingwood, to chair this Task and Finish Group.

The aim is to have a cross-party membership of between 6 and 9 Members.

Next Steps

To agree the membership of the Task and Finish Group ahead of the first meeting in March.

Background Papers

Improvement and Review Commission Agenda and Minutes 11 November 2015

Cabinet Agenda and Minutes 16 November and 14 December 2015.