Chichester District Council

THE COUNCIL **25 September 2018**

Southern Gateway Regeneration – LEP Funding

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1 **To delegate to the Cabinet, when required, the ability to expend the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP) funding in accordance with the funding agreement**

2.2 **To delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Growth Board members, the ability to spend up to £250,000 of LEP funding in accordance with the funding agreement**

3 **Background**

3.1 The District Council approved the Southern Gateway Masterplan on 21 November 2017 and the PID associated with the implementation of the Masterplan on 7 November 2017. On the 27 March 2018 the District Council signed a Funding Agreement that secured £5m from the C2C LEP to support the implementation of the project.

3.2 Key achievements since the initial PID was approved in November 2017:

- Securing £5m of LEP funding by CDC
- Completion of site specific studies e.g. archaeology, contamination, services etc.
- Appointment of legal consultants
- Preparation of consultation material including a dedicated website (www.chichester.gov.uk/southerngateway)
- A series of presentations to local groups and organisations to raise awareness of the project
- Soft Market testing
- Development Appraisal
- Official confirmation by the Ministry of Justice that the courts will close on the 21 December 2018
- Agreement to provide alternative “pop-up” court provision at EPH

- Acceptance of the project on the Department for International Trade overseas investment mission
- Identification of relocation sites for Royal Mail and Stagecoach

3.3 The project has now reached a stage where key strategic decisions are required in order to progress the implementation in accordance with the objectives contained within the approved PID. Some of these decisions involve significant LEP grant expenditure, the first instance of which will be reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 2 October 2018.

3.4 As the Council has not approved a budget to spend the £5m funding from the LEP the constitution will require every item of expenditure to be reported to the Council for approval. At a time when activity is likely to require these decisions to be taken in a timely way the need to refer such decisions to the Council could cause undue delay and might prejudice delivery of the project. For example the decision of the Cabinet on 2 October 2018 would not be ratified until the Council meets on 20 November 2018.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

4.1 Timely use of the LEP grant to deliver the Southern Gateway project and outcomes in accordance with the funding agreement.

5. Proposal

5.1 It is therefore proposed that the Council ratifies a budget head of £5m associated with the LEP grant and delegates to the Cabinet, when required, the ability to expend the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP) funding in accordance with the funding agreement.

5.2 Furthermore it is proposed that the Deputy Chief Executive is delegated the ability to spend up to £250,000 of LEP funding in accordance with the funding agreement after consultation with the District Council Growth Board members.

5.3 Other spending decisions not associated with the LEP funding grant will be reported to the Cabinet and the Council as required and are not impacted by this proposal.

6. Alternatives Considered

6.1 The Council could continue as present without the provision of the delegation but the consequences of this are set out in paragraph 3.4 above.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 The Council is constitutionally able to delegate this function to the Cabinet if considered desirable.

8. Consultation

8.1 No consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report. However, the LEP have confirmed that the ability of the Council to expend the grant monies within the timescales set in the Funding Agreement is essential.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 The community impacts of the delivery of the Southern Gateway project are set out in the PID approved in November 2017.

9.2 The risks associated with the acceptance of the LEP Grant funding were fully explained and accepted when the grant was approved by the Council at its meeting on 6 March 2018. On balance the delegation requested in this report reduces the risk of losing the grant due to it not being spent in the timescales set ie 31 March 2019.

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder the development will be delivered using secure by design standards	x	
Climate Change and Biodiversity: The development will be undertaken to BREEAM "very good" standard which will be a positive improvement on the buildings that are currently on site.	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact in the event that a CPO resolution is required a full EIA will be undertaken as part of the report	X	
Safeguarding and Early Help the development will increase demand for health services, education etc. This will be accommodated by making provision for a potential community health hub and via CIL contributions to support the delivery of aspects of the development.	X	
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Any public CCTV systems installed will comply with and be operated in accordance with GDPR	X	
Other (please specify) eg health and wellbeing		x

11. Appendices

11.1 None

12. Background Papers

12.1 None