

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Developer and Partner Charter

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **That the Developer and Partner Charter be approved and adopted, and that developers and associated businesses be encouraged to sign-up to the principles and objectives**

3. Background

- 3.1 The most recent census data shows us that 19.5% of the working age population within Chichester District have no qualifications and that the resident population is aging - almost 1 in 4 people in the District are aged 65+, which is significantly higher than the national average.
- 3.2 The Council's Economic Development Strategy recognises that Chichester's economy needs working age people over the longer term if it is to achieve sustainable economic growth. Priority 1 of the strategy is to 'attract and retain working age talent', identifying the need for people who can fill lower and intermediate level jobs that support the Districts ageing population and growing visitor economy; and identifying the need to retain and attract fresh talent to enable its high growth businesses to innovate, expand and to attract new investment from outside.
- 3.3 However, Chichester District is regularly cited as one of the most expensive places to buy a property within the UK (source: ONS). Thus the majority of housing in the District is largely not accessible to younger working age households and out of reach of a person on a low wage.
- 3.4 Talent is a key driver of economic growth, and Priority 3 of the Economic Development Strategy - 'to match skills to business and economic needs' - further recognises the need to support residents to acquire the right skills to give them more choices in the labour market, enabling them to command higher earnings and to achieve higher paid jobs, reducing their risk of social deprivation, and enabling them to afford to remain in the District.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed to introduce a Developer and Partner Charter. This will be an informal agreement between Chichester District Council, developers, skills and training providers, and, where relevant, local businesses and community groups, to explore and secure opportunities for local residents and local businesses arising from developments and associated business activities within the District.
- 4.2 It is therefore intended that the Charter will maximise the benefits to the local economy from future developments and associated business activities. The Charter will support and aid developers and associated new and growing businesses to engage with the local area in order to maximise their economic impact in the District.
- 4.3 The proposed Charter is included at the Appendix.

5. Outcomes to be achieved

- 5.1 Increased opportunities for residents to be employed locally and reduction in some of the negative factors - such as accessibility and expense - that they face in seeking work. No other Councils keep records of the outcomes of their Developer and Partner charter, so we asked them to informally estimate numbers per year. After one year, we will have collated enough data to be able to review and apply outcome figures that are more considered to the requirements and abilities of the District. Provisional outcomes are contained within the attached Charter.
- 5.2 Developers encouraged to work with local education providers to provide work experience placements, apprenticeships and training opportunities.
- 5.3 Improved opportunities for local residents and local businesses to secure contracts to supply and/or work on local developments.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

- 6.1 Do nothing. This is not considered appropriate. We are aware that numerous councils, including Arun, Adur and Worthing, and Crawley, all have similar schemes in place which are successfully meeting their objectives, to promote local businesses and employees to developers.
- 6.2 Consideration was initially given to establishing an Employment and Skills Plan. Following consultation with Planning Policy and with Arun District Council and Crawley Borough Council, it was agreed that a Developer and Partner Charter would better achieve our objectives.

7. Resource and legal implications

- 7.1 The Economic Development Service and Development Management Service will work with developers to adopt the Charter. We will further

promote the Charter using case studies with the help of PR. The Economic Development Service will maintain details of developers who have adopted the Charter and any planned and current developments with which they are involved. The Service will seek to monitor progress and adherence to the Charter, involving six-monthly reports from developers.

- 7.2 In adopting the Charter, the Council will adhere to its principles in respect of any developments undertaken by the Council, or with which the Council is involved.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The Economic Development Service has consulted internally with Planning Policy, Procurement, Public Relations, Housing, Estates and Corporate Information
- 8.2 Externally, there has been extensive consultation with Crawley Borough Council's and Arun District Council's economic development services, and with South Downs National Park Authority. It has also been shared with the housing strategy group, including the housing partners that CDC work with. Consequently, Hyde-Martlet has already indicated that they wish to sign up to the charter once implemented.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

- 9.1 It is intended that the Charter will positively increase local community and business involvement with new developments and other business activities
- 9.2 The Charter is an informal voluntary agreement so adoption and adherence by developers and businesses is not mandatory. There is therefore a risk that developers and local businesses will decide not to sign-up to it. The adoption of the Charter by the Council and consistent promotion of its benefits will help to ensure its adoption across the District's economy

10. Other Implications

Crime & Disorder:		None
Climate Change:		None
Human Rights and Equality Impact:		None
Safeguarding:		None

11. Appendix

- 11.1 Appendix – Proposed Developer and Partner Charter

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 None