



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Policy and Resources Committee – 11 February 2013

Rushden Transport Study Funding

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform the committee about funding for a Rushden transport study and seek approval for this work to commence.

Attachment(s)

None

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) and Rushden Town Council (RTC) wish to work together to appoint consultants to conduct a traffic and transport study to explore current and projected capacity of Rushden's transport infrastructure, as well as identifying options for maximising sustainable transport modes.

2.0 Funding

2.1 The Core Spatial Strategy for North Northamptonshire (adopted June 2008) is currently under review and went out for an initial stage of consultation in August 2012 for ten weeks. The emerging plan proposes to designate Rushden as a growth town which will provide the greatest share of new housing, employment, retail and leisure development for the East Northamptonshire district. A study on the traffic and transport issues for this growth town will play a key role in determining how the area will accommodate further growth, now that the initial stages of providing a better town centre public realm have attracted and created new investment and businesses.

2.2 ENC are currently working on a development plan document called the Four Towns Plan (FTP) which covers the southern half of the district, including Rushden. It is anticipated that this traffic and transport study will feed into the development of the FTP, which will provide a detailed planning policy framework for the south of the District.

2.3 The estimated cost for the transport study is £40,000. The funding split is proposed as follows:

- Northamptonshire County Council: £20,000
- NNDC: £10,000
- Rushden Town Council: £10,000

2.4 Instead of providing a financial contribution, ENC plans to provide officer time to project manage the study. The study will require the appointment and management of specialist transport consultants to undertake the work. To date ENC has submitted a funding bid for £10,000 to NNDC and that funding has been agreed in principle. A letter confirming NNDC's intent to support the project has been received.

2.5 The Rushden Transport Study will also be used to inform the East Northamptonshire Transport Study to be produced by Northamptonshire County Council, therefore the study will need to be substantially completed by June 2013. The provisional timetable for the study is shown below:

2.6	February/March 2013	Invite Bids for Project
	March 2013	Bids to be returned by 4.30pm on xx March 2013
	Wk of xx March 2013	Interviews (provisionally these will be held on xx March 2013 and consultants are requested to keep this date free. Confirmation of the interview date will be given to those shortlisted)
	Wk of xx March 2013	Approval of successful bidder
	Wk of xx March 2013	Inception Meeting with Steering Group (NNDC will be a member)(date to be agreed with successful bidder)
	March/ April 2013	Consultant to review existing data/information and carry out further assessments etc
	By end May 2013	Provide 1 st draft report to Steering Group for consideration
	End of June 2013	Consultants to pre-consult any other appropriate consultees, if applicable and provide final report
	July 2013	ENC to present final report to Members for information

2.7 Those funding the study expect to make their payments to ENC after completion of the study. This would therefore require a budget to be set up by ENC, with funding being reimbursed after the study finishes.

3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.0 Risk Management

5.1 There are no significant risks in relation to this report, subject to all parties making payments on time (see below).

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 ENC is making no financial commitment to the study, however it is providing officer time. In order to help minimise the potential financial risk outlined above, ENC will draw up terms re- payments and get the respective partners to sign up to these before commencing work.

7.0 Corporate Outcomes

7.1 The relevant corporate outcomes are:

- Regeneration and economic development

- Sustainable development
- High quality built environment
- Effective partnership working
- Strong community leadership

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 The Committee is recommended to:

(1) Approve the commencement of this work, subject to setting up a budget specifically for this work, which will be reimbursed by the partners on completion of the study

(Reason: The proposal will assist with the development of the Four Towns Plan and will provide further opportunities to regenerate Rushden Town Centre, a priority of the council)

Legal	Power: Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767)				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers:					
Person Originating Report: Sarah Hawkins, Planning Policy Officer, shawkins@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk 01832 742134					
Date: 28 January 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)