



Policy and Resources Committee - 19 April 2010

Town Centre Regeneration

Summary

This reports updates Members on progress to date on delivering town centre regeneration and proposes an approach to help achieve this outcome.

Attachment(s)

Appendix A - Terms of reference of Rushden Regeneration Project Board.

1. Background

- 1.1 Town centre regeneration, in particular Rushden regeneration, is one of the priority outcomes in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 With support through Growth Area Funding (GAF) from Central Government, we have carried out town centre improvement projects in Raunds and Irthlingborough and are proceeding with the Manor Park leisure centre project, which will unlock key sites in Rushden town centre.
- 1.3 A Rushden Regeneration Project Board (RRPB) was set up on 9 November 2009, the membership being taken from the Manor Park Leisure Centre Board. The terms of reference of the RRPB are set out at Appendix A for information.

2. Delivering regeneration projects

- 2.1 There are a number of challenges associated with delivering regeneration projects, particularly:
 - The capacity and capability needed to develop master plans and to procure and manage large-scale projects
 - Availability of public and private-sector funding.
- 2.2 One option considered by Members to address these challenges was the creation of a Local Asset-Backed Vehicle (LABV), a model which has been used in some other Council areas. This Committee decided at its meeting on 9 December 2009 that this option should not be pursued now, and that other means of achieving the Council's aims for town centre regeneration should be considered by a group of Members set up for that purpose (Minute 277 refers).

3. Town Centre Regeneration Working Group

- 3.1 Further to Minute 277, it is proposed that a Town Centre Regeneration Working Group be set up, consisting of the following Members:
 - Chair of Policy & Resources (Cllr. Robin Underwood)
 - Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources (Cllr. Wendy Brackenbury)
 - Deputy Leader (Cllr. Steve North)
 - Economic Development Champion (Cllr. Phil Hardcastle)
 - Vice Chair of Planning Policy (Cllr. John Richardson).

- 3.2 It is further proposed that the Working Group's Terms of Reference should be as follows:
- To consider which parts of the District are in need of regeneration and make recommendations to the Policy & Resources Committee.
 - To consider possible methods of regeneration, and to consider which one(s) are appropriate for the District.
 - To recommend methods of regeneration to the Policy & Resources Committee.
 - To propose governance arrangements for the regeneration work.
- 3.3 The criteria for assessing methods of regeneration should include (but not be limited to):
- deliverability;
 - sustainability;
 - respect for the existing character and heritage of the District;
 - affordability; and
 - risk minimisation.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to approve:
- the setting-up of a Town Centre Regeneration Working Group as set out in paragraph 3.1 above;
 - the Terms of Reference as set out in paragraph 3.2 above; and
 - the criteria to be considered as part of the Working Group's assessment of appropriate methods of town centre regeneration.

Implications:	
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy	
Good Quality of Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Reputation <input type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Quality Service Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong Community Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation <input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - <input type="checkbox"/> residual risk score - <input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Power: Section 2 of Local Government Act 2000 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other considerations: <input type="checkbox"/>

Background Papers: None					
Person Originating Report: David Oliver, Chief Executive - 01832 742105 cx@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 6 April 2010					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 21)

East Northamptonshire Council

Rushden Regeneration Project Board



Terms of Reference

1 Name

- 1.1 The name of the Board is the Rushden Regeneration Project Board.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 The Board will cover the town centre regeneration. It is a collaborative partnership working for the benefit of Rushden and the surrounding area, to enable the successful completion of the project in an efficient way, within an agreed budget and an agreed timetable.
- 2.2 The Board will ensure that the project defines and achieves key outcomes relating to the improvement of Rushden. It will provide a co-ordinating role in undertaking work to regenerate the town centre.
- 2.3 The Board will monitor performance and delivery against the agreed project plan and targets and will determine the steps necessary to achieve the targets. It will decide on any changes to the programme or timetable which appear to it to be desirable or necessary to ensure delivery.

3 Membership

- 3.1 The Board will comprise:-

East Northamptonshire Council

- Chief Executive (the Project Director)
- The two Executive Directors
- Member Champion for Economic Development
- Member Champion for Sustainable Communities

Rushden Town Council

- Leader of the Council (Cllr Colin Wright)
- Town Councillor (Richard Lewis)
- Clerk to the Council (Peter Fraser)

Northamptonshire County Council

- Cllr Michael Tye

North Northamptonshire Development Company

- Caroline Wardle (deputy Adrian Jones)

Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited

- Sajeeda Rose

- 3.2 The Group will be serviced by East Northamptonshire Council Chief Executive's Office.

- 3.3 The Board will invite individuals or representatives of other organisations, consultants, contractors and advisers to attend a particular meeting when an item of relevance to them is to be discussed or where particular specialist input is needed.

4 Meetings

- 4.1 Board meetings will take place every two months initially. Timings of future meetings will be reviewed as the regeneration plans are developed and implemented. The business of the meeting shall be set out in an agenda and notified to members of the Group five days in advance of the date of the meeting. At least 50% of the members will need to be present for a meeting to take place. The Board will be chaired by the Project Director.
- 4.2 Items suggested for inclusion in the agenda may be submitted to the Chief Executive's Office by any member of the Board at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 4.3 The minutes of the previous meeting shall be submitted for agreement at the start of every meeting.

5 Members' Responsibilities

- 5.1 Members must declare at the start of any meeting an interest in any matter for discussion in which they have a personal interest or involvement.

6 Voting

- 6.1 The Board will work towards securing mutual agreement on all aspects of the project, but should a vote be necessary each member will have a single vote and decisions will be made on the show of hands. In the event of a tie in the number of votes, the ENC Member Champion for Economic Development will have a second or casting vote.
- 6.2 Individuals or group representatives invited to the meeting for particular items will not have voting rights.

7 Variation of the Terms of Reference

- 7.1 These Terms of Reference may be altered by a majority vote of the Board. In the event of a tie in the number of votes, the ENC Member Champion for Economic Development has a second or casting vote.

DO/SP 5.11.09

Agreed by Board 9 November 2009