



Policy and Resources Committee - 7 June 2010

Proposed Rockingham Masterplan

Summary

This report seeks Members' agreement to act as the accountable body for funding of a Masterplan for Rockingham Motor Speedway and the surrounding area with representation on the Project Board, and seeks agreement to accept a spend of £80,000 from North Northamptonshire Development Corporation to deliver the Masterplan.

Attachment(s)

Appendix A: Draft Project Protocol

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As part of the recently completed Strategic Employment Land Assessment for Northamptonshire (SELA), Rockingham Motor Speedway and its surrounding land area was identified, along with Silverstone and Brixworth (where F1 related engineering companies are based) as part of the county's internationally recognised strength in terms of its high performance engineering and related motorsport sector.
- 1.2 Further to this North Northants Development Company (NNDC) have taken a decision to allocate up to £80k of the current round of growth area funding (GAF 3) to support the development of a masterplan for this area. This represents an opportunity to nurture diversification of the economy of the district and attract high skill, higher wage jobs to North Northamptonshire generally.

2.0 Discussion

- 2.1 The area of the proposed study straddles the boundary between Corby and East Northamptonshire. A draft protocol has been created to guide the development of the masterplan (Appendix A). This is due to be considered at the forthcoming Planning Policy Committee on 14 June 2010.
- 2.2 The Council has been approached by NNDC with a possible alternative approach to funding. They have suggested that the funding (£80K) could be transferred to the Council and that the Council become the authorised authority for the payment of the invoices. This would enable the full amount of the grant to be used for the payment of fees (with VAT being refundable) and thus be better value for money than if NNDC handle payment of fees (VAT non refundable).

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that
- a) approval is given for East Northamptonshire Council to act as the accountable body for this project
 - b) the transfer of the £80,000 grant from NNDC (should it be offered) be approved
 - c) a budget of £80,000 be approved for the Rockingham masterplan work which is to be funded from the grant, and as per the attached protocol.

Implications:					
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy					
Good Quality of Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Effective Partnership Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership	<input 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:					
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 - 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: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers: Rockingham Masterplan Protocol and Consultants Tender Brief					
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Date: 28.04.10					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 21)

ROCKINGHAM MASTERPLAN STUDY
Planning Authority Management Protocol

The Rockingham Masterplan will inform the development of this key area of opportunity under the SNEAP for high performance engineering and other related businesses, which is referred to under Sector Specific Sites in line with Government Guidance within the SELA report a(p 28, Executive Summary and also p 242 of the document) as follows:

Sector Specific Sites

In line with Government Guidance on ELRs, the SELA draws attention to key sectors/clusters in Northamptonshire. In light of the county's internationally recognised strengths in High Performance Engineering and the Motor Sport sector and the emerging Northamptonshire Strategy for the sector, the following sites should be considered as having significant potential in meeting sector/cluster-specific needs:

- Silverstone S1
- **Rockingham E25 (part in Corby and part in East Northamptonshire)**
- Brixworth; Land at Ilmor Way D5

These sites, in aggregate totalling 84.4 ha, would support a range of B and non B use employment in these locations. The sites are at differing stages of the planning and commercial delivery process. Local partners should continue to work together, as part the Northamptonshire Strategy for High Performance Engineering and Motor sport in bringing forward these sites to specifically support the county's long term growth opportunities. There is considered to be a realistic prospect of suppliers and sub-contractors being attracted to such sector specific locations where some of their major customers already operate. This opens up the opportunity to stimulate the clustering of cutting edge technology supply businesses which can play a major part in generating new, high-value jobs in the County. It is to be noted that site E25 lies across the boundary between Corby and East Northamptonshire. Consequently, in order to maximise the economic potential of the site, it will be necessary for both local authorities to work closely together in planning for its development (e.g. through a joint master planning approach).

As the study area straddles the boundaries of both Local Planning Authorities – East Northamptonshire Council and Corby Borough Council, it is important to ensure that both authorities take formal ownership of the study. This will be secured through the adoption of the masterplan as a joint Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to take forward Policies 8 (Delivering Economic Prosperity) & 11 (Distribution of Jobs) of the adopted Core Spatial Strategy.

To this end, both Local Planning Authorities are to agree with the following protocol to ensure alignment with the study findings and their policy implications.

- 1. That the outcomes of the study will be taken forward as a joint Supplementary Planning Document to guide future development of this strategically important site.**

- 2. Financial Management – Corby Borough Council or East Northants District Council to be the accountable body for the study in order to minimise the VAT/Tax inefficiencies that would occur if NNDC became the accountable body.**
- 3. Both authorities will be represented at senior Officer and Member level (Chairman of Planning Policy Committee or named substitute) at the study inception meeting and subsequent Project Group meetings organised by NNDC at which the Consultant will provide regular progress reports.**
- 4. Both Authorities will consider study progress through relevant Committees at inception and appropriate intervals to ensure that elected members are engaged and local issues taken into account in preparing a draft SPD for consultation, considering amendments proposed by the Project Group in the light of consultation, and in deciding whether to formally adopt the SPD.**
- 5. If requested by the authorities, the formal consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Document can be coordinated through the JPU.**