

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Group Leader Plans, Policies and Place-Making

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Planning and Regeneration

Recommendation

That approval is given to enter into a Partnering Agreement, executed as a deed, with Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and the district authority partners with a commitment of £8,946 towards the commissioning of consultants.

Reason

To define the terms and conditions for the joint procurement and funding of a consultancy to undertake a Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Options and Constraints Mapping study.

Authority for Decision

Under the provisions of Section 8.2 of the Constitution (Delegation of Council functions), the Head of Service has delegated authority to sign contracts up to a value of £50,000 entered into on behalf of the Council in the course of the discharge of a Council function (subject to compliance with the Financial Regulations).

Decision and Date



25 March 2021

Background

The nine local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire along with the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) prepared the Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) in 2018 to set out the long-term aspirations for delivering growth in Leicester and Leicestershire. It contains proposals for future development that will be needed to support population change, meet housing needs and support economic growth until 2050. The SGP provides a framework for the Local Plans in Leicestershire and the opportunity to identify strategic development locations and the infrastructure that is essential to their delivery.

The study will aim to provide a better understanding of the potential for 'Strategic Growth Options' to deliver growth across Leicester and

Leicestershire in order to collectively deliver long-term growth and meet the aspirations of the Strategic Growth Plan. It will assess the merits and constraints of the Strategic Growth Options which have been identified in Leicester and Leicestershire, individually or collectively and will be informed by constraints mapping. It will also take into account the context which is provided by other relevant strategies associated with growth 'corridors' and 'nodes' (including the HS2 corridor, A5 corridor and East Midlands Gateway).

In addition, the study will be used to help inform Local Plans, along with the wider strategic aspirations identified in the SGP, by providing a robust evidence base which will assist local planning authorities in identifying potential strategic housing and employment allocations for inclusion in emerging Local Plans. It will inform Duty to Co-operate discussions in relation to the strategic distribution of development across Leicester and Leicestershire, in relation to the location of new settlements and other strategic growth.

The study will also help to identify, coordinate and assist the delivery of infrastructure and support strategic transport work being conducted by Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the local authorities.

The Partnering Agreement has been checked by Legal Services and is considered legally sound.

Comments from HR

The report has no HR implications.

Financial Implications

The total estimated costs of the commission will run to a maximum £80,516 with a maximum £8946 being apportioned to the Borough Council, as set out in Schedule 3 to the Partnering Agreement. The costs can be met from the Contributions budget within the Local Plans cost centre.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: Draft Partnering Agreement
(North West Leicestershire District Council)