

Report to the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

6th January 2017

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PRE-DEVELOPMENT FUND

Purpose of the Report

1. This report offers the Committee a set of proposals for consideration as brought forward via the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund (NPDF) following a review of the submissions by the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives.

Background

2. At its meeting in May 2016, the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) agreed to a number of budgetary allocations drawn from the Business Rates Pool; only the Nottinghamshire Councils (the County and Districts) Councils that contribute to the pool are involved in this process.
3. One of the allocations was for £1million towards a pre-development fund, offering the opportunity to access development funds for feasibility work and the drawing up of business cases for schemes which (ultimately) will have an impact on the economic development of the area and which will lever in significant investment and / or deliver tangible future benefits to the local authorities through Council Tax or Business Rates receipts. In addition, as town centre related submissions were likely to come forward through this process, an amount drawn from the £0.5million allocation for town centre activity would also be drawn into this process.
4. The NPDF was launched in early September 2016 with over 80 applications received, resulting in an over-bidding situation. Following an assessment process and review, a proposed set of projects was reviewed by the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives on the 9th December 2016 and this report offers the EPC a set of proposed projects for consideration.

Considerations

5. At its May 2016 meeting, the EPC agreed a process whereby the applications submitted via the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund (NPDF) be assessed, being considered against a set of criteria, referencing in summary, the business case; evidence of need; strategic fit / links to the N2 stated priority themes; impact (i.e. informing the pipeline for future development) and a consideration of

the costs, outcomes and a forward strategy on completion of the feasibility work.

6. This assessment was undertaken by all parties with the support of Nottinghamshire County Council as the accountable body. In parallel, each applicant authority was requested to rank its submitted projects in line with their respective priorities. This latter exercise resulted in a set of projects being brought forward, offered in summary at Appendices A and B, based on the following additional factors and considerations:
 - To support the process of allocations, on actual procurement, should the applicant's costs fall, this will be reflected in the finalised award. However, should the costs prove more expensive, then the maximum grant would be that referenced in application / assessment per Appendices A and B, with the Council expected to find the remainder;
 - A maximum of £250,000 be drawn from the N2 Town Centre allocation to support town centre related activity and to ensure that there remains a reasonable amount to support a potential future N2 Town Centre programme;
 - The maximum grant towards individual project costs is set at £70,000;
 - A number of joint projects have been identified through this process, based on their impact across 3 or more District areas;
 - A number of projects are deemed first reserve projects to be explored further given the limited remaining resources, the potential for some mergers or should some approved projects fail to be progressed or additional resources become available;
 - The assessment process will be utilised to review the prioritised projects going forward and ensure any issues are addressed as part of the procurement process;
 - Related, if the set of projects outlined at Appendix B is accepted, there will be a brief "standstill" period whereby they are reviewed by all parties, to explore any practical or potentially sensitive issues with those proposed to go forward. As part of the process, the summary details have already been shared between the authorities and some initial comments have been made.
7. The list of projects at Appendix B represents the conclusion of this exercise based upon the above considerations and the views of the EPC are requested.

Review

8. While it is suggested that the list at Appendix B represents a pragmatic solution, the Chief Executives agreed to consider how to improve processes for any further, similar funding processes. Specifically, the Chief Executives agreed to undertake a review which will cover how such approaches may be handled in the future, referencing:
 - Early discussions to agree the precise scope and content of the funding to be made available, driven by the adopted N2 Economic Growth Strategy;
 - The development of the appropriate criteria and the assessment process;
 - The process for drawing up bids and how it should be managed – e.g. via commissioning, an open call etc;
 - The overall management of the process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- a) the projects for the Ashfield District Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- b) the projects for the Bassetlaw District Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- c) the projects for the Broxtowe Borough Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- d) the projects for the Gedling Borough Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- e) the projects for the Mansfield District Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- f) the projects for the Newark and Sherwood District Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- g) the projects for the Nottinghamshire County Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- h) the projects for the Rushcliffe Borough Council area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- i) the projects for Joint/pan-County area as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved, with funding from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund and the N2 Town Centre Allocation as appropriate;
- j) the reserve projects detailed in appendix A be agreed;
- k) the Economic Prosperity Committee notes the review to be undertaken to inform any future funding processes.

Anthony May, Chief Executive Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Project summaries for each project listed in Appendix B

Appendix A
Prioritisation Process – Proposed Allocations

ADC (£)		BaDC (£)		BrBC (£)		GBC (£)		MDC (£)		N&SDC (£)		NCC (£)		RBC (£)		Joint (£)	
67	21,750	7/8	41,800	3	70,000	30	25,000	85	30,000	19	25,000	59	15,000	40	50,000	1	24,950
68	20,000	5	20,000	45	70,000	29	30,000	87	16,250	25	60,000	58	29,960	43	29,000	13	30,000
69	30,000	6	25,000			34	35,000	81	17,750	21	40,000	46	30,000	42	11,000	17	20,000
71	30,000	9	20,000			37	10,000	80	6,500			49	60,000	44	11,000	36	20,000
72	25,000	15	28,000			31	30,000	86	2,750							77	30,000
73	30,000							83	5,000								
								84	5,000								
								79	4,250								
								82	14,500								
Total	156,750		134,800		140,000		130,000		102,000		125,000		134,960		101,000		129,450
																	Total
																	£1,153,960

Notes:

- The left hand column indicates the Project Number. and the right hand column being the amount of grant awarded. The list in appendix B indicates the project details.
- The above total can be met via the £1million from the Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund (NPDF) allocation and at this stage, £153,960 from the N2 Town Centre (N2 TC) allocation.

The reserve projects are as follows:

- Project 35 – GBC’s Netherfield Town Centre as a potential N2 TC project (£20,000)
- Project 24 – N&SDC’s Newark Riverside as a potential N2 TC Project (£35,000)
- Projects 10 and 62 appear to have the potential to be reviewed as a joint N2 TC project and may be included subject to further discussions between the parties (BaDC and NCC)

Appendix B Project Details

Ashfield District Council (ADC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
67	Kirkby Leisure Centre	21,750	21,750
68	Housing Site Delivery	20,000	41,750
69	Hucknall Town Centre	30,000	71,750
71	Annesley Hall Options	30,000	101,750
72	Annesley Miners Welfare	25,000	126,750
73	Fox Street Sutton	30,000	156,750

Bassetlaw District Council (BaDC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
7 & 8	Harworth Town Centre	41,800	41,800
5	Middleton's Worksop	20,000	61,800
6	Middleton's Worksop 2	25,000	86,800
9	Worksop & Retford Markets	20,000	106,800
15	Expanded Settlements Study	28,000	134,800

Broxtowe Borough Council (BrBC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
3	Beeston Town Square	70,000	70,000
45	Chewton St Eastwood	70,000	140,000

Gedling Borough Council (GBC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
30	Arnold Town Centre	25,000	25,000
29	Carlton Square	30,000	55,000
34	Gedling Country Park Centre	35,000	90,000
37	Gedling Colliery Emp't Scheme	10,000	100,000
31	NE Arnold Sites Masterplan	30,000	130,000

Mansfield District Council (MDC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
85	Old Town Hall	30,000	30,000
87	Bellamy Road Open Space	16,250	46,250
81	Brick Kiln Lane	17,750	64,000
80	Rosemary Avenue	6,500	70,500
86	Bellamy Road Community Heart	2,750	73,250
83	Newark Drive	5,000	78,250
84	Newark Close	5,000	83,250
79	Windmill Lane	4,250	87,500
82	Rock Court	14,500	102,000

Newark & Sherwood District Council (N&SDC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
19	Ollerton Hall	25,000	25,000
25	Newark Gateway	60,000	85,000
21	Newark Town Hall & Buttermarket	40,000	125,000

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
59	Ollerton Roundabout	15,000	15,000
58	Kelham Bridge	29,960	44,960
46	Better Broadband fN Contract 3	30,000	74,960
49	BBfN Public Wi-fi	60,000	134,960

Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
40	Power Stations / Business Rates	50,000	50,000
43	West Bridgford Masterplan	29,000	79,000
42	YouNG Feasibility	11,000	90,000
44	Rushcliffe Country Park	11,000	101,000

Joint / Pan-County Submissions (Joint)

Project No.	Title	Value (£)	Cumulative Value (£)
1	A611 Corridor	29,450	29,450
13	Property Accelerator	30,000	59,450
17	Rural Growth Study	20,000	79,450
36	Poacher Line	20,000	99,450
77	Specialist Housing	30,000	129,450