



meeting **Cabinet**

date **11<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

agenda item number

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration**

### **Sherwood Growth Zone Development Project**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval :
  - to the establishment of a project management role to co-ordinate the potential development of quality employment sites along the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR) and to explain the development of the Sherwood Growth Zone concept;
  - in accordance with Finance Standing Order A3.4, for the expenditure of funding from the Alliance Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership (SSP) of up to £95,000 towards this work;
  - to a contribution of up to £76,234, including an in-kind contribution of £36,234, towards the total costs of this work up to March 2008.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. Following approval by the Cabinet members for Finance and Property and Regeneration in July 2005, the County Council has been working to exploit the economic and job creation potential of the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR). It has done this by working in partnership with local district councils, West Notts College and the Alliance SSP. Together, the group now known as the "MARR Partnership" has been co-ordinated by a half-time post managed within the Economic regeneration service of the Communities Department. This post is jointly supported by resources from the County Council and the Alliance SSP and has a development budget associated with it.
3. Since last August, the Partnership has commissioned work to determine the sites along the MARR as having the best potential for development as high-quality employment sites. The County Council is also involved in detailed discussions with West Notts College regarding land use options along the MARR.

4. The Partnership is also working with the private sector on a vision for the phased development of a larger tract of land between the A60, east towards the A617 Southwell Road. This will include an assessment of site infrastructure costs, the possible levels and the availability of public sector “gap” funding required to bring particular sites forward.
5. As the MARR project has developed, so too has mutual understanding of the requirement to assess and bring forward for development sites in the wider Mansfield/Ashfield area, with a population of approximately 200,000. From this has developed the notion of identifying and developing “growth zones” wherein a range of sites can be identified and brought into a condition suitable for development as employment sites, with the involvement of local key partners from the public and private sectors. Two such growth zones in the Alliance SSP sub -region have been identified. One lies in North-East Derbyshire. The other begins at junction 27 and 28 of the M1 and moves east to include the Mansfield/Ashfield conurbation (and hence the MARR) and through to the Sherwood Energy Village at Ollerton. This has been identified as the “Sherwood Growth Zone” and the MARR Partnership has agreed in principle to rename the MARR Partnership the Sherwood Growth Zone Partnership to adopt this wider agenda.
6. The terms of reference of the Partnership remain – to use its collective resources to develop opportunities for high-quality employment and complementary training to achieve sustainable increases in economic growth for the area.
7. To support the Partnership in achieving its aims, it is proposed that the co-funding arrangements between the County Council and the Alliance SSP continue. The County Council’s contribution comprises an in-kind contribution of £36,234 (including travel costs); equivalent to a half-time post at Band C, to enable delivery of the project to March 2008, and two contributions of £20,000 in each of the years 2006/7 and 2007/8 towards the project’s development budget. The in-kind contribution will be met from the Economic Regeneration staffing budget and the cash contributions would be met from the Economic Regeneration budget within the Culture and Regeneration portfolio. In addition to this, the Alliance SSP has agreed to contribute £35,000 to the development budget for 2006/7 and £60,000 in 2007/8.
8. In summary, the total County Council contribution to the project up to March 2008 would be £76,234. This would be matched by a contribution from the Alliance SSP of £95,000, which has already been agreed by them.
9. On a day-to-day basis, the work will be managed by officers from the Community Safety, Regeneration and Protection Division but supported by :

- close and regular collaboration with officers of the Alliance SSP, by means of briefing meetings, etc;
- an internal County Council officer group, comprising officers from Corporate Property, Highway Planning, Planning and Regeneration;
- a wider group comprising members of the Sherwood Growth Zone Partnership, its strategy being set by the Steering Group.

### **Financial Implications**

10. The costs and funding of the project are as follows:

	2006/07	2007/08	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure:</b>			
Staff costs	13,101	23,133	36,234
Development costs including appointment of consultants	55,000	80,000	135,000
<b>Total</b>	<u>68,101</u>	<u>103,133</u>	<u>171,234</u>
 <b>Funded by:</b>			
NCC in-kind contribution	13,101	23,133	36,234
Economic Regeneration budget	20,000	20,000	40,000
Alliance SSP	35,000	60,000	95,000
<b>Total</b>	<u>68,101</u>	<u>103,133</u>	<u>171,234</u>

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material; they have been described in the text of the report

### **Recommendations**

12. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the “growth zone” approach as set out in the report and that approval is given to :
- a. the establishment of a project management role to co-ordinate the potential development of quality employment sites within the Sherwood Growth Zone and including the MARR;
  - b. the reporting arrangements as set out in paragraph 9 of this report;

- c. the expenditure of funding from the Alliance SSP of up to £95,000 towards this work in accordance with Finance Standing Order A3.4;
- d. a contribution of up to £76,234, including an in-kind contribution of £36,234, towards the total costs of this work up to March 2008, as proposed in the report.

**Councillor Steve Carroll**  
**Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration**

**Strategic Director, Resources' Financial Comments (CC/PB)**

The financial implications are outlined in the report.

**Legal Services' Comments**

**Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Innes England Employment Land and Sites Study (Phase 2a)

**Electoral Divisions Affected**

All within the Mansfield and Ashfield District areas, Blidworth and Ollerton