

North Hampshire Narrative

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That Cabinet endorses the North Hampshire Narrative shown as Annexed to the report.

SUMMARY:

The Council along with three other north Hampshire local authorities have produced a North Hampshire Narrative. This document is intended to help articulate the aspirations for growth that each authority share and to help inform and support any future bids for external funding that may arise.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council along with Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor Council have produced a North Hampshire Narrative (Annex) to help articulate what the area has to offer, its aspirations for development and what is needed to address housing, economic and infrastructure challenges based on existing local plans, strategies and evidence.
- 1.2 By having the document in place it will help inform conversations and support bids for future funding with key stakeholders such as Central Government, Homes England, Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, Hampshire County Council and other infrastructure providers.

2 Background

- 2.1 Funding and investment opportunities particularly for infrastructure improvement are essential to the successful delivery of the growth ambitions of the Council. In order to clearly articulate and promote the opportunities and needs of the Boroughs/Districts to secure funding it was considered necessary to outline this within a wider strategic context.
- 2.2 The document articulates what North Hampshire has to offer, its aspirations for development, what is needed to address housing, economic and infrastructure challenges and how to put each authority in a stronger position to deliver the growth required.
- 2.3 The four authorities recognised that the production of a high level narrative identifying the shared opportunities of this wider geography would be beneficial to promote their areas to key stakeholders as well as when bidding for available funding streams.

- 2.4 The document is split into five chapters, with Chapter 2 providing context on the growth across North Hampshire including the level of housing growth planned in addition to some shared opportunities and constraints.
- 2.5 Chapter 3 details the ‘Spatial context and potential of North Hampshire’ and identifies:
- That the area acts as a gateway between the south coast and London, the Midlands and the North and also between London, Surrey and the Thames Valley and the South West.
 - The strengths and opportunities for each of the main settlements. It should be noted that for Test Valley the focus is on Andover rather than the whole borough. This is in order to reflect the geography of the narrative and to highlight the Council’s growth aspirations for the town.
- 2.6 Chapter 4 explores what is needed to unlock growth in North Hampshire. It explores the challenges and opportunities that will impact on the delivery of growth. The following opportunities are identified:
- Diversifying the offer in town centres;
 - Encouraging more active travel and use of public transport;
 - Quality of design and place making in new developments are key to their success and contribution towards sustainability;
- 2.7 Chapter 5 identifies the main themes for achieving good growth:
- Place Making and Design: including the opportunity to collaborate on the preparation of design codes;
 - Town Centre Regeneration;
 - Economic Initiatives including investment in skills;
 - Transport;
 - Green Infrastructure;
 - Diversification of the Housing Market;
- 2.8 Through this document it will help inform conversations with key stakeholders and also act, in part, as a prospectus clearly explaining the existing and future plans for the area. It has no status as a statutory document but brings together the content of existing local plans, strategies and evidence base studies. The document does not propose additional development.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 The Council’s Corporate Plan ‘Growing our Potential: 2019-2023’ sets out the Council’s objectives for the regeneration of Andover town centre, supporting the delivery of homes and economic growth. The North Hampshire Narrative will help the Council in achieving these priorities.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 The intended primary audience for this document are those organisations which will help deliver and/or fund infrastructure. The document brings together the content of existing local plans, masterplans and strategies each of which have been the subject of their own consultation. As such no further consultation has been undertaken in the drafting of this document.
- 4.2 Informal engagement has been undertaken with officers of EM3 LEP and Hampshire CC during its drafting.

5 Options

- 5.1 The option to consider is whether to endorse the North Hampshire Narrative, or not.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 The ability to bid for external funding is often dependent on the ability to set proposals within a wider strategic context and demonstrating a joined up understanding and partnership approach. Being able to articulate the case for the area often at short notice and on a competitive basis is vital. By having the document in place would help put the Council in a better position.
- 6.2 Joint working between local authorities within County areas is not new, with the established Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) operating in the South of Hampshire in a more formalised structure. The creation of the document is based on informal discussions and not as a result of a formal governance model. The ongoing discussion regarding the development of County Deals is in its primary stages however in the context of the northern part of Hampshire to articulate the strategic case for development and investment can only be a positive.
- 6.3 Each of the other three authorities have endorsed the North Hampshire Narrative through their own respective processes. By supporting the document it would show commitment to the other authorities and stakeholders as well as demonstrating co-operation at a strategic level.
- 6.4 By not endorsing the North Hampshire Narrative it may hinder the opportunities for funding bids to be submitted, does not advertise an informal partnership approach, and does not bring together the requirements needed to achieve the respective growth agendas of each authority.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes so the Council's Risk management process does not need to be applied.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 The production of the document has been undertaken using existing resources. There are not considered to be any resource implications arising from the recommendation.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation. The document is not a statutory document.

10 Other Issues

10.1 Community Safety – N/A

10.2 Environmental Health Issues –N/A

10.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – The document highlights a range of planning and infrastructure interventions that relate to climate change and measures that could support green recovery or green growth. The document would assist the North Hampshire authorities in being prepared for opportunities to bid for funding streams that could help to deliver these measures.

10.4 Property Issues – the document highlights the Andover masterplan which includes land under Council ownership.

10.5 Wards/Communities Affected – Andover and surrounding wards.

11 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

11.1 The document, once endorsed, will assist the Council and its partner authorities in promoting North Hampshire as an area for growth and investment and in bidding for external funding to deliver the Council's priorities including town centre regeneration and the delivery of infrastructure all of which are crucial to securing sustainable growth in Andover.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
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