

Partnership Board to Assist in Delivering The Andover Masterplan

Report of the Leader / Strategic Regeneration and Partnership (North)

Recommended:

To establish a Partnership Board as outlined in section 6 with Hampshire County Council and other key stakeholders as appropriate to facilitate the delivery of the Andover masterplan.

SUMMARY:

The delivery of the Andover masterplan is a key priority of the Council. In order to help secure the delivery of the masterplan it requires a close working relationship with partners, including Hampshire County Council. It is proposed that this relationship is formalised through a partnership board structure.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement for the Council to create a partnership board to help guide the delivery of the Andover masterplan. This partnership board would formalise the existing working relationship at an advisory and consultative level with key partners.

2 Background

- 2.1 The regeneration of Andover is one of the leading priorities for the Council. The core elements of the masterplan look to adapt the town centre to reflect the changing ways town centres are. This includes creating a mixture of uses including a significant number of new homes.
- 2.2 Such aspirations complement the central focus of the Government's drive for growth and their 'Levelling Up' agenda. Whilst the initial levelling up fund has focused on those areas of the country where economic differences are more extreme there remains value in working towards the Government's principles of supporting and providing the required infrastructure necessary to improve our communities, economy and environment. More specifically the Government's drive for housing growth in particular on brownfield sites.
- 2.3 The successful delivery of the masterplan relies, in part, with establishing and continuing sound working relationships and partnerships with stakeholders, including in particular Hampshire County Council. The Council has an existing strong working relationship with the County Council in its capacity as responsible infrastructure provider and in the ability to help access and secure additional resource. As a result, it is suggested that the Council and County Council engage to prepare the ground for the way in which the partnership arrangements will work moving forward.

- 2.4 The County Council played an active role in engaging with the Council and its consultants in the drafting of the masterplan. This benefitted the setting of the objectives and the detailed content of the masterplan.
- 2.5 There have already been clear successes of joint working in Andover Town Centre with the County Council as shown by the design and delivery with the M3 LEP of the Town Mills riverside park and the shared funding of transport modelling for the town centre.
- 2.6 To be able to move forward with implementing the masterplan in a continued positive way it is proposed that a formal partnership board structure is established. The role of the board will only be in an advisory and consultative capacity. The endorsement of the board structure will also be considered by the County Council in the near future.
- 2.7 The Council is also committed to the delivery of the South of Romsey Town Centre masterplan. Work is progressing on the feasibility of public realm improvements and on commissioning further evidence to inform later stages of the project, such as the future of the Crosfield Hall. At a strategy level, the Romsey Future vision document is also currently being refreshed. To deliver this masterplan a partnership approach will in consultation with Romsey Future members and partners.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 Town Centres are one of the four priority areas of the Council's Corporate Plan (2019-2023). Establishing a joint board structure would help deliver the objective of adapting the town centres and making them attractive, vibrant and prosperous places to be achieved.
- 3.2 The principle of delivering the masterplan also complements the recommendations contained within the Hampshire Vision 2050 document relating to both the changing economy and changing environment agenda, specifically "To maintain, regenerate and develop vibrant settlements across Hampshire to offer attractive, stimulating and thriving business, and cultural and residential environment and communities".

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 The principle of the proposed approach has been discussed with Senior officers and Councillors of both Councils. Wider engagement with other key stakeholders would occur in due course.
- 4.2 The masterplan has been completed following thorough and comprehensive public and stakeholder engagement especially with Andover Vision (AV). The board structure proposes that this should continue through a dedicated group. This would complement the existing AV structure with the member group and the new Vision Champions group.

5 Options

- 5.1 The option to consider is whether to establish a joint partnership with Hampshire County Council and others (option 1) or not (option 2).

6 Option Appraisal

Option 1

- 6.1 The success of any regeneration programme is in part down to the strength of its partnership and the working arrangements between the various decision makers, delivery bodies and key landowners. Whilst both Councils have a strong history of working together this has been on a less co-ordinated basis and meant making the most of opportunities when they arise. Establishing the board structure creates a foundation for this to continue in a structured way and afford this Council the earliest possible insight into potential opportunities (funding or otherwise) for co-operation and co-ordination on issues likely to influence the regeneration project.
- 6.2 Establishing a board provides a mechanism to consider and advise on strategic issues including, but not limited to, place making; phasing, infrastructure delivery; bids for external funding and engagement.
- 6.3 Work has progressed on the early phases of the masterplan focusing on the public realm and highway improvements. This is a common approach of beginning with these elements of implementing masterplans in order to demonstrate progress. Given this focus it is proposed that at this stage the board structure would only comprise the Council and Hampshire County Council. In due course the membership would be widened to include those other partners such as Enterprise M3 LEP and key landowners.
- 6.4 The Partnership Board structure would comprise 3 groups:-
- 1) A Partnership Strategy Group – A group formed of strategic partners who are either landowners, have a statutory function related to the implementation of the masterplan, or are potential funding bodies. The main aim of the group is to bring the strategic partners together to advise on the delivery of the masterplan and the regeneration of Andover town centre. Initially the group would be made up of County Council and TVBC Cabinet representatives. Eventually the membership would expand to include other organisations such as the EM3 LEP, Andover College, Simplyhealth and pertinent delivery bodies such Homes England and/or One Public Estate.

Two groups would report to the Partnership Strategy Group. These would be:-
 - 2) A Delivery and Implementation Group – An officer based board made of representatives of HCC, TVBC and other agencies as required. The main focus of the group would be on the delivery and implementation aspects of the regeneration work.
 - 3) A Stakeholder Engagement Group - This group would be formed from the existing community partnership of Andover Vision including Borough Councillors from Andover and Andover Town Council. The main purpose will be to ensure that the community led nature of engagement and communication on the masterplan is continued through into the delivery phase.

- 6.5 The composition of the Partnership Strategy group is an important factor with the need to establish the correct balance and numbers to ensure that momentum can be maintained. It is proposed that initially the group would comprise Councillors from both the County Council and Borough Council. This would include the County Council's Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment as chair as well as other Andover County Councillors. It is suggested that the Leader of the Council would also be a member in his role as the Borough's Portfolio Holder for Strategic Regeneration and Partnership (North) and as chair of Andover Vision with the Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder from the Council also being a member.
- 6.6 The board will be advisory in nature only. Formal decision making will rest with the relevant party and will be made in accordance with its normal processes and procedures. Over time, it is likely the membership of the board will be updated to reflect the evolving nature of both the project and the partnership.
- 6.7 Establishing such a model will assist in demonstrating joint working as part of bidding for external funding. In addition, should there be a future County Deal having an existing formal relationship between the two Councils would be a clear benefit in any future discussions.
- 6.8 Should this option be agreed officers would undertake more detailed discussions on the working arrangements, including the drafting of Terms of Reference, with officers from the County Council. Any working arrangements including Terms of Reference will need to be confirmed by Cabinet.

Option 2

- 6.9 Without this model the partners would still continue to work together but would lose the potential for greater, more structured progress to be made. There is also the risk of having to react in a less planned way with the potential consequence of missing opportunities. It is for this reason that this option is not recommended.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 The recommendations contained within this report can be met from within existing resources and budgets.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation.

10 Equality Issues

10.1 There are no equality issues arising from this recommendation.

11 Other Issues

11.1 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate.

11.1.1 Through establishing the partnership structure it will help facilitate the delivery of many infrastructure improvements that assist in addressing climate change and completing a sustainable town centre redevelopment.

11.2 Property Issues.

11.2.1 The Council is a main landowner for both areas included within the Andover masterplan.

11.3 Wards/Communities Affected.

11.3.1 St Marys, Andover.

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

12.1 The delivery of the Andover masterplan is a key priority of the Council. In order to help secure the delivery of the masterplan it requires a close working relationship with partners, including Hampshire County Council. It is proposed that this relationship is formalised through a joint partnership board structure.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Andover Masterplan (2020)

<https://www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk/andovermasterplan>

Confidentiality

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:

0

File Ref:

N/A

(Portfolio: Leader/Strategic Regeneration Partnership (North) Councillor P North

Officer:

Graham Smith

Ext:

8141

Report to:

Cabinet

Date:

8 December 2021