

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

GREATER NOTTINGHAM STRATEGIC PLAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - RESOURCING

1. Purpose of Report

To seek agreement to a Memorandum of Understanding on the resourcing of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

2. Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to CONSIDER the Memorandum of Understanding in the appendix and RESOLVE to agree accordingly.

3. Detail

The Council has agreed in principle to work with Gedling Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. As part of a Project Management Review undertaken by the Planning Advisory Service, a recommendation was made to provide greater certainty that the appropriate resources would be in place to help expedite preparation of the Strategic Plan due to it being a statutory requirement and to recognise the strategic importance to the Authorities.

With the exception of the Conurbation Planning Policy Manager, work undertaken on the Strategic Plan is undertaken by officers employed within each of the Authorities, with additional support provided by officers at Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Authorities recognise that there are significant benefits through joint work including sharing skills and expertise, saving money through preparing a joint evidence base and planning for sustainable growth on a strategic scale.

This MoU seeks to provide greater certainty in respect of resources to ensure the timetable set out in the Project Plan is met.

4. Financial Implications

The sharing of resources will result in savings when compared to working alone on a similar plan, albeit the extent of savings is hard to quantify.

5. Legal Implications

It is a statutory requirement for local planning authorities to prepare a development plan and this duty would have to be discharged by some other means if not by co-operating in this way.

Furthermore, it is a statutory requirement for local planning authorities to co-operate with neighbouring or other affected local planning authorities in preparing their development plan. This is known as the Duty to Co-operate.

Working jointly in the agreed manner is likely to result in an inspector examining the plan finding that the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled. Resourcing this further ensures that the agreed working happens in practice.

6. Human Resources Implications

The officers necessary to meet the commitments in the Memorandum of Understanding are those that would anyway need to be deployed to carry out work on any strategic-level plan prepared by the Council unilaterally.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Data Protection issues have already been considered in setting up the working arrangements and this simply ensures resources are available.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is not a change to policy but merely a confirmation that the current policy will be resourced, an equality impact assessment has not been made.

10. Background Papers

Nil