

Report of the Chief Executive

**GREATER NOTTINGHAM GROWTH OPTIONS STUDY
PROCUREMENT**1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to gain Committee approval for Broxtowe Borough Council to act as lead authority in the procurement of a piece of vital evidence required on behalf of the Greater Nottingham Housing Market Area to progress the Aligned Core Strategy Review. The report also seeks the delegation for the Section 151 Officer to sign the tender contract on behalf of the Council.

2. Detail

The full detail is included in the appendix. The main requirements for Committee approval are to allow for the prompt commissioning of this essential piece of work, and in doing this it will speed up the review process with numerous benefits regarding housing supply, infrastructure provision, maintaining control over development and maintaining partnership arrangements all of which also have financial benefits.

3. Financial implications

There are no additional costs associated with Broxtowe acting as lead authority to procure the study, other than officer time. Officers across the Greater Nottingham area are undertaking procurement on a rotational basis to share the burden of cost of officer time. The study itself will require Broxtowe to contribute towards the cost of the study, which will be met from the £40,300 in the 2019/20 General Fund revenue budget for Local Plan examination costs. However, this would happen irrespective of which council acts as lead procuring authority.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 1. Broxtowe Borough Council act as lead authority on behalf of the Greater Nottingham Councils in the procurement of a Greater Nottingham Growth Options Study.**
- 2. The Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to accept the tender and sign the tender contract on behalf of the Council once appointment is made.**

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 33) requires local authorities to review their Local Plan policies and spatial development strategies at least once every 5 years (taken from the adoption date of the Local Plan). Where this is not done policies which are used to determine planning applications will be deemed to be out-of-date and a presumption in favour of sustainable development applies which makes it more difficult for local planning authorities to refuse planning permission for development.

Part 1 of the Local Plan for Broxtowe is the Aligned Core Strategy (which was adopted in September 2014) and so the review of this planning policy document is required. Broxtowe worked in partnership with the councils within Greater Nottingham Housing Market Area (Erewash Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Nottingham City Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council) to develop the Aligned Core Strategy. The final plan was fully aligned between Broxtowe, Gedling and Nottingham. Rushcliffe and Erewash prepared separate plans but based on the same overarching strategy with near identical policies.

All of the councils have resolved to work together to review their Core Strategies in an attempt to re-align the Strategies for the area into a single document. This work is now underway and is currently focused on an ambitious timescale for evidence gathering and document production (shown in appendix 1) which was approved by the Joint Planning Advisory Board (JPAB) consisting of senior officers and members of each of the respective council.

The Growth Options study is a fundamental part of the evidence base required for the Aligned Core Strategy Review and the results of the study will be used by the Councils to determine the strategy for future development within the area (including the distribution) up until 2038. Much of the subsequent work required for the Aligned Core Strategy Review cannot be undertaken until the result of this study are known and therefore it is essential that the procurement and tendering process is undertaken as swiftly as possible. It is also essential that this work is undertaken quickly so that the partnership of Councils working together does not break down.

It is important to note that if Broxtowe does not act as the procuring authority on behalf of the other Greater Nottingham Councils the study will still need to be undertaken and therefore the responsibility for procurement will pass to one of the other councils leading to a delay in the evidence gathering process.

The agreed budget for the work is around £75,000. All of the Councils will make an equal contribution (a fifth of the price); therefore Broxtowe's contribution will be around £15,000 (dependent on the result of the tender and the appointment). The brief for the tender has been prepared jointly by the Greater Nottingham Councils and will be awarded on an assessment of both price and quality.

Delegated approval for the Section 151 Officer to sign the contract for the award will mean that there is not a delay in getting the work undertaken. Delay for further committee approval is likely to lead to slippage of at least a month in the Aligned

Core Strategy Review timetable which will affect all of the Greater Nottingham Councils.