



1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek agreement from Council to consult on a Strategic Growth Statement that has been prepared by the Strategic Planning Manager for Leicester and Leicestershire. The report also seeks approval to the costs associated with the production of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That Council:

- (i) Agree to consult on the Strategic Growth Statement for Leicester and Leicestershire starting in late July 2016.
- (ii) Approve the costs related to the production of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The nine local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire and the Local Enterprise Partnership are producing a Strategic Growth Plan that will respond positively to the 'Duty to Cooperate' which was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. The authorities intend to prepare a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan which will:

- be clear about the opportunities and challenges that are faced in the County;
- provide an agreed scale and direction for future growth, reflecting the evidence available and the will of the partner authorities;
- create a single consistent strategic framework for Local Plans, economic investment plans, transport and other infrastructure plans;
- ensure that Leicester & Leicestershire is positively positioned to take advantage of private sector inward investment opportunities and national programmes for investment;
- provide the right conditions for the growth of indigenous businesses; and, at the same time,
- protect our natural resources, our environment and historic assets.

- 3.2 The preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan will initially be governed by a Members Advisory Group comprising one representative from each of the nine local authorities. The Leicester & Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) will participate as an observer in this group. Technical work will be overseen by the Strategic Planning Group comprising senior officers from each authority and the evidence base will generally be commissioned on a joint basis. The Members' Advisory Group will report to individual authorities for decisions on all matters relating to the Plan. If a Combined Authority for Leicester & Leicestershire is established from the autumn of

2016, as currently anticipated, the Planning Sub-Committee of the Combined Authority will take over this governance role; that Sub-Committee will have the same membership arrangements as the Members' Advisory Group.

3.3 The first stage in the production of the Strategic Growth Plan is the Strategic Growth Statement. This forms the first of a three stage process and the intention is to set the framework for the draft and final form of the Strategic Growth Plan. The purpose of the Statement is to:

- summarise the changing context within which the Strategic Growth Plan will be prepared (Section 2);
- identify the defining characteristics of the area in 2016 and some of the opportunities and challenges that will be taken into account in preparing the Plan (Section 3);
- set out ambitions for the future and the overarching priorities that will provide a framework for future work on the Strategic Growth Plan (Section 4);
- outline the evidence base and the spatial options that will be considered in formulating a new strategy (Section 5); and
- describe the next steps in the process (Section 6)

3.4 The intention is that the Strategic Growth Statement will be consulted upon starting in late July 2016. Following this consultation, the next steps for the production of the Strategic Growth Plan are as follows:

Timescale	
Summer 2016	Consultation on the Strategic Growth Statement
	Continue to develop the evidence base
	Initial consideration of spatial options
Autumn 2016	Consideration of consultation responses on the Strategic Growth Statement
	Continue to develop the evidence base
	Further consideration of spatial options
Winter 2016	Finalise housing numbers and employment land requirements – new Memorandum of Understanding
Summer 2017	Draft Strategic Growth Plan
	Consultation on Draft Strategic Growth Plan
Autumn 2017	Consideration of consultation responses on Draft Strategic Growth Plan

3.5 A report was considered at Strategic Planning Group in October 2015 that outlined the indicative costs associated with the production of the Strategic Growth Plan and considered potential options for the distribution of these costs across the partner authorities. The costs associated with producing the Strategic Growth Plan predominantly arise from the procurement of evidence base documents to support the plan. This report identified that the potential total cost of producing the plan would be approximately **£505,000** from 2016 - 2018.

3.6 The different methodologies identified for splitting the costs were:

1. Splitting any costs equally between the authorities (eight Local Planning Authorities plus Leicestershire County Council and the LLEP);
2. Splitting any costs between the City Council, plus the eight districts and boroughs based on population;
3. Splitting any costs between the City Council, plus the eight districts and boroughs based on population, plus a contribution from both the County Council and LLEP.

- 3.7 Using the above methodologies, the highest costs for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council would be from using methodology 1 and the lowest costs would be by using methodology 3. As not all elements of the evidence will be funded using the same methodology, the exact costs for each authority cannot be set.
- 3.8 The report identifies that the costs for Hinckley and Bosworth would range from **£43,228** through to a potential maximum of **£63,125**. For this reason it is considered prudent to set a budget of **£65,000** from 2016 to 2018 to ensure that the Council is planning for the highest possible costs.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [TF]

- 4.1 The table below summaries the current position for the LDF reserve after allowing for site allocation savings and costs for the Strategic Growth Plan requested in this report.

	Planned £'000	Expected Spend £'000	Saving / (Costs)
Opening Balance 15/16	523.3	523.3	-
Site allocation	(224.0)	(11.7)	212.3
Local development scheme	(147.5)	(0.7)	146.8
Forecasted Transfer to reserve	165.0	165.0	-
Estimated Opening Balance 16/17	316.8	676.0	359.1
Site allocation	-	(113.3)	(113.3)
Gypsy & Traveler	-	(3.0)	(3.0)
Strategic Growth Plan	-	(44.0)	(44.0)
Local development scheme	(82.5)	(127.5)	(45.0)
Forecasted Transfer to reserve	180.0	180.0	-
Estimated Opening Balance 17/18	414.3	568.2	153.8
Site allocation	-	-	-
Local development scheme	(318.0)	(82.5)	235.5
Strategic Growth Plan	-	(21.0)	(21.0)
Forecasted Transfer to reserve	152.0	152.0	-
Estimated Opening Balance 18/19	248.3	616.7	368.3
Site allocation	-	-	-
Local development scheme	-	(268.0)	(268.0)
Forecasted Transfer to reserve	-	-	-
Estimated Opening Balance 19/20	248.3	348.7	100.3

- 4.2 The costs relating to the Strategic Growth Plan will be met by the current funds budgeted for in the LDF reserve.
- 4.3 The gross costs of the scheme will be £65,000. The in year costs in 2016/17 of £44,000 and £21,000 in 2016/17 will require Council approval.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [MR]

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2000 empowers the Council to do anything which it considers is likely to promote the economic or social or environmental well-being of its area and in doing so to incur expenditure and/or enter into arrangements with others

5.2 It is considered that the proposed work on the Strategic Growth Plan and the incurring of expenditure in conjunction with the other local authorities fall within the powers in the Local Government Act 2000

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The production of the Strategic Growth Plan will provide a strategic planning framework for Leicester and Leicestershire, ensuring that effective cooperation takes place between the authorities in the County. It is considered that this would contribute to the following Strategic Aims:

1. Creating a vibrant place to work and live
2. Empowering communities
3. Supporting individuals
4. Providing value for money and pro-active services

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation on the Strategic Growth Statement will take place in late July. Following this, further rounds of public consultation will take place on later iterations of the Strategic Growth Plan.

7.2 Consultation will be a key part of the development of the Strategic Growth Plan and a communications team has been established which will ensure that effective engagement takes place throughout the production of the plan.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Maintaining a five year supply of housing	Engage with other authorities to plan effectively cross boundaries to ensure that adequate land is identified to meet the needs of the County.	Nic Thomas
Not contributing to the production of the Strategic Growth Plan would jeopardise the plan as a whole and would severely limit the Borough Council's ability to demonstrate that we have met the Duty to Cooperate in plan making.	Contributing fully to the production of the Strategic Growth Plan in terms of costs and officer time will ensure that the Council not only meet the Duty, but also that the interests of the Borough are ingrained in the document.	Nic Thomas

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Strategic Growth Plan will provide a strategic planning framework for Leicester and Leicestershire for the foreseeable future. It will include strategic allocations and policies that will impact on all communities in Hinckley and Bosworth and therefore consultation on all stages of the plan are essential to ensure appropriate engagement.
- 9.2 An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is to be undertaken at key stages in the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan. A Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment / Habitats Regulation Assessment is to be undertaken which will also inform the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications
 - Voluntary Sector

Background papers:

Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan - Stage 1: Strategic Growth Statement

Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan - Evidence Base and Costs report:
Strategic Planning Group 15 October 2015

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