

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE		Item 5	Page 1
Councils Affected	All	Date: 12 th August 2015	
Report Title	GARDEN COMMUNITIES CAPACITY BID		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To set out the contents of the capacity bid, the terms of the award made and the progress to date in using the capacity funds.

2 INFORMATION

- 2.1 The bid proposal submitted to Communities and Local Government Department in January 2015, on behalf of the North Northamptonshire Councils, is attached at Appendix "D". It sets out the investment, in kind and in cash, that local authorities were already putting into the growth agenda and the additional resources required, and asked government to bear a fair share of that.
- 2.2 The award made in the spring budget was of £750,000, which was more than the £500,000 limit that had been applied to the garden communities programme. The government however did not specifically advertise the award as related to garden communities (unlike, say, the similar contemporaneous award in respect of Bicester).
- 2.3 The award was, nevertheless, less than had been sought and some trimming of the intended budget took place. The resulting budget for the programme is therefore:-

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE	Item 5	Page 2
--	--	-----------	--------

Table 1 – Capacity Fund Share of Resource Requirement 2015/16 (£000s)

Item	Descriptor	Revised Cost
Senior Management	Time spent on Growth and support for partnership structures	20
Growth Manager Post	Delivery Unit Manager and Project Management Resource	67
Planning Staff	Additional Planning Staff for Delivering Unit	167
Highways Staff	Additional Highways Planners to work with Delivery Unit	108
Legal Capacity	Costs associated with delivery of SUEs and governance of unit, etc	75
Viability Testing	External Consultative Advice/Negotiations	39
Joint Planning Unit	Additional support on specialist planning matters – ecology, heritage, sustainability, design, etc	29
Community Engagement	The Growth Community, as a concept, requires additional engagement above and beyond existing scope	24
Economic Development	Place marketing, promotional work, inward investment expertise, funding bids	47
	Sub Total	574
Assessments and Studies		
Programme of commissioned work on NN Growth Community	Ensure appropriate best-practice principles are enshrined in operational delivery	136
Transport Assessments, etc	Required to support delivery of SUEs	40
	Total	750

2.4 The award was to be paid in two parts

- £300,000 – received by Kettering BC as accountable body in mid-June and
- £450,000 which is due in August on satisfactory completion of a series of milestones by 31st July 2015.

2.5 These milestones were/are:-

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE	Item 5	Page 3
--	--	-----------	--------

- The key posts (Delivery Unit manager, Project Manager, Planning and Highways staff) will be appointed to and staff active in role, either using interim appointees or full time appointments.
- Consultants will be appointed to undertake the main cross-scheme assessments for which funding is sought – assessment of resilience of electric and gas supplies and assessment of on-site health service provision.

Progress to date

2.6 The following table sets out the progress made against these key milestones as well as against other aspects of the bid. A small steering group was established, comprising officers from the five councils and from the Joint Planning unit, to progress the establishment of a delivery unit, and this group will continue in being until the Joint Delivery Unit is fully operational. Thereafter, between them, this committee, the North Northants Chief Executives group and the Chief Planning Officers Group will continue to support and oversee the work of the JDU.

2.7 The items marked in bold are the key triggers required by CLG to release the second tranche of funding

Item	Progress	Costs
<u>Appointment of staff</u>		
Growth manager	Adrian Arnold has been appointed, after a selection process, on secondment from KBC as Delivery Unit Manager until the end of the year.	95% of cost covered by fund - of £67,000. Remainder covered by KBC.
Project manager	A Project Manager Post has been advertised for internal secondment and should be filled by the end of July.	Full cost covered by fund. Within assumed ceiling of £50,000
Highways	Kier/Northamptonshire Highways have appointed three additional highway engineering staff (2 FTEs) to provide additional	Full cost covered by fund - £108,000

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE	Item 5	Page 4
--	--	-----------	--------

<p>Planning</p>	<p>capacity to the SUEs in North Northants.</p> <p>The planning authorities have identified planning, administrative and economic development staff either on a full time or part time secondment to the delivery unit, amounting to 5.25 FTEs rising to 5.75 FTEs.</p>	<p>This represents a value of £21,000 per calendar month, and the lending authorities will be compensated at 55% of the costs, to keep within the overall budget within the fund.</p>
<p><u>Additional capacity</u></p>		
<p>Legal Capacity</p>	<p>It is expected that additional legal capacity will be required for the highways Authority and the planning authorities.</p>	<p>Nothing has been committed as yet.</p>
<p>Viability Testing</p>	<p>NNDC have offered their services to Wellingborough and Corby (as currently provided to Kettering and East Northants, with the costs to be borne from the fund.</p>	<p>No expenditure yet.</p>
<p>Joint Planning Unit</p>	<p>The JPU is commissioning additional design capacity to support existing and emerging SUEs.</p>	<p>Due to be covered by the provision within the fund and through developer contributions.</p>
<p>Community engagement</p>	<p>Still to be developed. See subsequent report on this agenda</p>	<p>No spend.</p>
<p>Economic development</p>	<p>An ad hoc economic development officer group has identified the need to develop place marketing work, building on work by developers and also work by NNDC pre 2010. This would require a web presence and update of</p>	<p>Still to be worked through.</p>

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE	Item 5	Page 5
--	--	-----------	--------

	materials developed before 2010.	
<u>Assessments and studies</u>		
Delivery plan	A delivery plan has been commissioned by the JPU on behalf of the partnership from a consortium of consultants led by Aspinall Verdi, after a competitive tendering process. They have begun work. This is an overall plan to guide the work of the Joint Delivery Unit and to provide evidence for the examination of the Joint Core Strategy A presentation on the draft Delivery Plan will be made to the next meeting of the Joint Committee	Cost of £30k
Utilities study	A county wide utilities study has been commissioned from Peter Brett Associates by NEP and this is in progress. There will be opportunity to refine this to the NN area if necessary once it has been completed.	Costs being borne by NEP.
Health services study	After a difficult start, agreement has been reached in principle with Nene CCG to commission a study of health needs and health service solutions across the SUEs.	Yet to go out to tender
Urban design studies	Detailed urban structure analysis of Corby and	Costs of £18,000

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE	Item 5	Page 6
--	--	-----------	--------

Transport assessments	Rushden has been commissioned by the JPU on behalf of the partnership to assess opportunities for improving connectivity, walking and cycling options, and for measuring the spatial effects of expansion to the towns. NCC to commission these	Within budget of £40,000
Accommodation for the JDU	Wellingborough BC have offered space in their Swanspool Offices for the JDU to be housed there.	No cost to the fund, although some additional Kit costs to be borne from within the fund at the point they are incurred.

Conclusion

- 2.8 The initial progress has been sound, but with the appointment of a JDU manager and a project officer, then a step change in speed can be achieved, particularly around those elements without much work undertaken so far. Subject to confirmation from CLG it is believed that enough has been done to date to secure the remaining £450,000 of funding.
- 2.9 Progress reports will continue to be delivered to the committee each time it meets.