

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE		Item 6	Page 1
Councils Affected	All	20 th January 2016	
Report Title	GARDEN COMMUNITIES CAPACITY BID - Update - New Bid 2016 to 2018 (2 year funding)		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- (a) To update members on the capacity bid and the progress to date in using the capacity funds.
- (b) New Capacity Bid – 2016/2018

2. INFORMATION

A. Update report

- 2.1 As you may recall a paper was brought to this committee in August to give members an update. The bid in principle set 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.
- 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 was therefore:-

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

Item	Descriptor	Revised Cost	As to end March 16 Committed Spend
Senior Management	Time spent on Growth and support for partnership structures	20	20
Growth Manager Post	Delivery Unit Manager and Project Management Resource	67	67
Project Officer	To assist in coordinating and driving the delivery of the consented Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) and associated infrastructure, including leading and managing specific projects.	50	11
Planning Staff	Additional Planning Staff for Delivering Unit	117	116

Development Management capacity		35	35
Highways Staff	Additional Highways Planners to work with Delivery Unit	108	108
Legal Capacity	Costs associated with delivery of SUEs and governance of unit, etc	75	50
Viability Testing	External Consultative Advice/Negotiations	39	20
Joint Planning Unit	Additional support on specialist planning matters – ecology, heritage, sustainability, design, etc.	29	29
Community Engagement	The Growth Community, as a concept, requires additional engagement above and beyond existing scope	24	12
Economic Development	Place marketing, promotional work, inward investment expertise, funding bids	45	20
	Sub Total	609	488
Assessments and Studies			
Programme of commissioned work on NN Growth Community	Ensure appropriate best-practice principles are enshrined in operational delivery	98	98
Transport Assessments, etc	Required to support delivery of SUEs	40	40
Set up costs/other		3	3
Total		750	629

2.4 The award was paid in two parts

- £300,000 – received by Kettering BC as accountable body in mid-June and
- £450,000 which is due on satisfactory completion of a series of milestones. These milestones have been met and the drawdown for the second payment has now been received.

2.5 Milestones

- The key posts (Delivery Unit Manager, Project Officer, Planning and Highways staff) to be appointed to and staff active in role, either using interim appointees or full time appointments.
- Consultants to 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 continues to advise the Joint Delivery Unit. 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 North Northamptonshire Strategic Stakeholders' Group met on the 9th Dec 2015 and have started to have helpful inputs into a number of matters such as the Delivery Plan, Health, Action Plans, Community Trust and Self-Build. Key partners in attendance are HCA, DCLG, BIS, DET, NEP, SEMLEP, NCC and some developers.
- 2.8 The table that is set out above shows the commitment to the end of March to show the progress of the intended rate of spend. As shown there is likely to be a sum of £121k underspend at the present rate. The underspend has come about from, in the main, legal, economic and viability work. Discussions are set up (Jan) with the Chief Officers' Steering Group to agree a way forward to achieve more or less a total spend of £750k. The areas that may take up more spend than was allocated may be the health study and DM support.

Item	Progress	Costs
Appointment of staff		
Growth manager	Adrian Arnold has been appointed, after a selection process, on secondment from KBC as Delivery Unit Manager until the end of March 16.	95% of cost covered by fund - of £67,000. Remainder covered by KBC.
Project officer	A Project Officer Post. One part time is already been seconded and another part time due to start on 21st Jan 2016.	Full cost covered by fund. Within assumed ceiling up to £50,000

<p>Highways</p>	<p>Kier/Northamptonshire Highways have appointed three additional highway engineering staff (2 FTEs) to provide additional capacity to the SUEs in North Northants. Plus a rolling fund to support the processing of the S278/S38 highway agreements.</p>	<p>Full cost covered by fund - £108,000. Progress is being made to appoint staff/use resources and the process time to deal with highway agreements have started to be reduced.</p>
<p>Planning</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>Viability Testing</p> <p>Joint Planning Unit</p>	<p>It is expected that additional legal capacity will be required for the Highways Authority and the planning authorities.</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>The JPU is commissioning additional design capacity to support existing and emerging SUEs.</p>	<p>Legal capacity is being achieved for the highway agreements. Currently in discussion to explore a legal framework, so officers could have a call off facility.</p> <p>No expenditure yet.</p> <p>Due to be covered by the provision within the fund and through developer contributions. Additional days support to run on after the current JPU additional capacity funding that is in place</p>

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Community engagement

Still to be developed. See subsequent report on this agenda

£8K spend on East Kettering Newsletters.

Economic development

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 materials developed before 2010.

£20k committed to deliver a business directory and web pages to highlight the SUEs, which provides important links to other information.

Assessments and studies

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. A final draft was presented to committee on 22nd Oct. Further work has been carried out to address the concerns raised. 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.

Cost of £30k

Utilities study

A county wide utilities study has been completed from Peter Brett Associates by NEP and this is in progress.

Costs being borne by NEP.

Health services study	Agreement has been reached in principle with Nene CCG to commission a study of health needs and health service solutions across the SUEs.	There are ongoing discussions with Consultants to get the appropriate expertise on board to do the work. Therefore, it could be mid-summer before a report can be presented to the Committee.
Urban design studies	Detailed urban structure analysis of Corby and 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.	Costs of £18,000
Transport assessments	NCC to commission these	Costs of £40,000. Details of this work has been agreed with NCC,
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

2.9 Progress has been made with the milestones, with the Delivery Plan in a final draft form and the Health Study under discussion with consultants. With the appointment of two part-time project officers agreed, the pace of work can take a further step up.

2.10 The North Northamptonshire Strategic Stakeholders' Group has been meeting, which is key to help unlock barriers to the delivery process. More detailed work is underway on specific SUE action plans, which will focus in detail on the actions to remove the barriers to delivery of homes and jobs. They will clearly evidence by a variety of different elements of information to demonstrate start dates on key infrastructure, housing and employment sites. These action plans are work in progress, but are not static documents and will be modified as things change.

2.11 Further work will commence, once the Delivery Plan has been endorsed, to implement the key actions set out in the Action Matrix, which in turn will help the debate regarding the future of the JDU.

2.12 Working arrangements with the developers are taking place to focus on delivery. Those discussions are having an impact on reducing the barriers, discharge of conditions, approvals of S278/S38, drainage and strategic matters.

B. New Capacity Bid 2016/2018

2.13 A new bid has been submitted to DCLG in early Jan 2016.

2.14 Discussions have been taking place with DCLG and officers to progress a new bid. The bid sets out the need to progress the current work that is in process and the good work that has been achieved to date. A main consideration this time is to look forward to the amounts of work likely to be coming from the current SUEs and estimate the work that could come from the additional sites that are being brought forward. Therefore, there will be an expansion of work that the JDU could be involved in and as it seeks to implement the Delivery Plan and other work.

2.15 Funding is being sort this time for a two year settlement, which helps best use of resources. But more importantly it takes time to get these large sites to continue to deliver and others to start up and keep moving forward. The two year approach will reduce the risk of a stop/start process of removing or reducing the barriers to delivery.

2.16 At a future committee meeting, the progress and any outcome or comments that come from DCLG will be reported.

3. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to note the report