



CABINET

6TH NOVEMBER 2014

AGENDA ITEM (8)

FUNDING FOR LOCAL PLAN PREPARATION

Accountable Member	Councillor NJW Parsons Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning
Accountable Officer	Chris Vickery Forward Planning Manager 01285 623544 chris.vickery@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To approve additional financial resources needed to assist the delivery of the Local Plan.
Recommendations	<p>(a) That financial resources in a sum of £250,000 be approved from the Council Priorities Fund to enable the commissioning of further external studies, etc., and for resourcing additional staff to help deliver the Local Plan as soon as possible;</p> <p>(b) That any future contributions received from third parties towards these one-off costs be appropriated to the Council Priorities Fund.</p>
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To help enable the delivery of the Local Plan, by ensuring that appropriate, up-to-date, and robust evidence is produced, which will help the submitted Plan to pass tests of soundness at independent examination.

Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Key Decision	Yes
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	In February 2014, the Council approved its Medium Term Financial Strategy which included a provision of £500,000 (£250,000 in 2014/15 and £250,000 in 2015/16) to fund the development and examination of the Local Plan, with funding being made available from the Council Priorities Fund. This report seeks formal approval for £250,000 of this funding to be made available for development of the Local Plan during 2014/15.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None

Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	Failure to deliver robust, up-to-date, evidence that would meet the tests of soundness at independent examination.
Equalities Impact Assessment	None

Related Decisions	Cabinet 7 th November 2013 - Funding for Local Plan Preparation Cabinet Member for Forward Planning Decision-Making Meeting 21 st March 2013 - Switch from preparing Core Strategy to comprehensive Local Plan Cabinet 3 rd November 2011 - Funding for LDF Core Strategy
Background Documents	None
Appendices	None

Performance Management Follow Up	N/A
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Background Information

1. Procurement of technical studies is required as part of the necessary evidence base to inform the preparation and delivery of the Local Plan and to ensure that it is justified and robust and as such meets the test of soundness at examination. This work includes:-

- (i) District Transport Study/modelling;
- (ii) Sustainability Appraisal (in progress);
- (iii) Recreation, Play, Pitch Study;
- (v) viability testing;
- (v) Water Cycle study and sequential test (in progress) - remaining costs ;
- (vi) Econometrics and OAN work (in progress);
- (vii) Travellers' Sites Assessment (in progress);
- (viii) Parking Study;
- (ix) Infrastructure Delivery Plan (in progress);
- (x) Habitat Regulations Assessment (on-going up to submission);
- (xi) miscellaneous consultancy work - legal advice, economy and employment, community engagement, etc. (on-going);
- (xii) Community Infrastructure Levy.

2. In addition, two eighteen-month contracts for Assistant Planners have been temporarily added to the establishment up until October 2015 to help deliver the Local Plan as quickly as possible. Financial resources in a sum of £250,000 are sought from the Council Priorities Fund to enable the commissioning of work considered necessary to produce robust evidence for the Local Plan and to cover the cost of the extra Officers.

3. It should be noted that the above studies are required to get a draft Local Plan to a position where it could realistically be submitted for examination. The examination itself, including the Planning Inspectorate's costs, will be the subject of a further funding request in due course. It is impossible to provide an accurate estimate of what the examination costs will be because there is no

indication yet of the issues that will need to be examined but, whatever the costs are, they would be payable during a future financial year.

4. In February 2014, the Council approved its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which included a provision of £500,000 (£250,000 in 2014/15 and £250,000 in 2015/16) to fund the development and examination of the Local Plan, with funding being made available from the Council Priorities Fund. This report seeks formal approval for £250,000 of this funding to be made available for development of the Local Plan during 2014/15. This is the first draw down of the funding earmarked in the MTFS.

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