

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING: 7 OCTOBER 2020

TITLE OF REPORT: NORTH HAMPSHIRE NARRATIVE

Report of: Joint Chief Executive

Cabinet Member: Cllr Graham Cockarill, Place

I PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council along with three other Hampshire local authorities have produced a North Hampshire Narrative document (Appendix 1) to provide a combined narrative for north Hampshire, which includes the north of Test Valley (Andover), Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor council areas.
- 1.2 The document articulates what North Hampshire has to offer, its aspirations for development, what is needed to address housing, economic and infrastructure challenges and how to put each authority in a stronger position to deliver the growth required.
- 1.3 The document will also be used to help inform conversations with key stakeholders such as Homes England, Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, Hampshire County Council and infrastructure providers and as a supporting document for funding bids demonstrating the opportunities in the Boroughs in a wider strategic context. The document will help the north Hampshire authorities articulate the strategic case for the area in the context of any potential "County Deal". It is not intended as a strategy document and has no statutory status.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet endorses the North Hampshire Narrative Document (Appendix1).

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Funding and investment opportunities particularly for infrastructure improvements are essential to the successful realisation of the growth ambitions of the four authorities in the north of Hampshire. In order to promote the opportunities and needs of the Boroughs/Districts and secure funding, it is important to be able to articulate the wider strategic context. Being able to articulate the case for the area often at short notice and on a competitive basis is vital. Assessment criteria frequently consider the wider strategic context and demonstrating a joined up understanding and partnership is often a key element. The four authorities recognised that providing a high level narrative identifying the shared opportunities of this wider geography would be beneficial to promote their areas to key stakeholders and, in some cases, businesses as well as when bidding for available funding streams.

- 3.2 Joint working between local authorities within County areas is nothing new, with the established Partnership for South Hampshire (PUSH) operating in the South of Hampshire in a more formalised structure. The ongoing focus of central government on devolution continues to evolve and the emerging Devolution White Paper is expected to provide some clarity on this topic moving forward. The ability for the northern part of Hampshire to articulate the strategic case for development and investment can only be positive in this context.
- 3.3 It is important to note that the endorsement of the North Hampshire Narrative and any future joint working between the partner authorities will not impact our existing relationships with other adjoining planning authorities or other partners.

4 NORTH HAMPSHIRE NARRATIVE

- 4.1 The Council along with three other Hampshire local authorities have produced a North Hampshire Narrative (Appendix 1) to provide a combined narrative for north Hampshire, which includes the north of Test Valley (Andover), Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor Council areas.
- 4.2 The document articulates what North Hampshire has to offer, its aspirations for development, what is needed to address housing, economic and infrastructure challenges and how to put each authority in a stronger position to deliver the growth required.
- 4.3 The document is split into five chapters, with Chapter 2 providing context on the growth across North Hampshire including the level of housing growth planned in addition to some shared opportunities and constraints.
- 4.4 Chapter 3 details the 'Spatial context and potential of North Hampshire' and identifies that the area acts as a gateway between the south coast and London, the Midlands and the North and also between London, Surrey and the Thames Valley and the Southwest. An overview of each authority is also provided.
- 4.5 Chapter 4 explores what is needed to unlock growth in North Hampshire. It explores the challenges and opportunities that will impact on whether the growth that is delivered is of high quality and can be considered as 'good growth' or even 'green growth'.
- 4.6 Chapter 5 identifies the main themes for achieving good growth:
- Place Making and Design, including the opportunity to collaborate on the preparation of design codes;
 - Town Centre Regeneration;
 - Economic Initiatives including investment in skills;
 - Transport;
 - Green Infrastructure;
 - Diversification of the Housing Market

- 4.7 The document could also be used to help inform conversations with key stakeholders such as Homes England, Highways England, Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, Hampshire County Council and infrastructure providers. It is not intended as a strategy document and has no status as a statutory document.

5 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The document, once adopted, will assist the Council and its partner authorities in promoting North Hampshire as an area for growth and investment and in bidding for external funding to deliver the priorities detailed in paragraph 3.6 above, including town centre regeneration, sustainable transport infrastructure and the delivery of green infrastructure all of which are crucial to deliver green growth.

6 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCING IMPACT

- 6.1 There are not considered to be any financial implications arising from the decision.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct impact to climate from this report. Any infrastructure of other activity would be subject to their own reports and impact assessments

8 LEGAL AND EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are not considered to be any legal issues to consider in adopting the North Hampshire Narrative.

9 ACTION

- 9.1 Subject to the decision by Cabinet, Council adopts the North Hampshire Narrative (Appendix 1) which will also be adopted by the partner local authorities through their processes.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: North Hampshire Narrative