

Report To:	Cabinet	Date:	19 January 2016
Heading:	APPROVAL OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR DON DAVIS – DEPUTY LEADER AND ECONOMIC GROWTH		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	Yes		
Subject To Call-In:	Yes		

Purpose Of Report

To seek Cabinet approval to accept a grant offer of £156k from the Nottinghamshire Pre Development Fund for feasibility studies for key Corporate projects.

Recommendation(s)

- a) To approve acceptance of £156k grant offer from the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee for the procurement of feasibility studies and evidence based work to support delivery of ADC priority projects;
- b) To approve an increase in the Council's budget to accommodate match funding requirements, of up to £17,250;
- c) To authorise the Chief Executive and relevant Portfolio Holder to enter into funding agreements with the Accountable Body NCC;
- d) To authorise the Chief Executive and relevant Portfolio Holder to vary funding agreements where necessary.

Reasons For Recommendation(s)

ADC submitted a number of bids on 2 November, into the Nottinghamshire Pre Development Fund. Successful bids were announced on 6th January at the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Board and ADC has been awarded £156k for 6 priority projects linked to the Corporate Plan.

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

Not to accept the award of grant: not recommended, as the ADC bids reflect corporate priorities and this work is vital in being able to bring forward fully evaluated and viable projects into the delivery pipeline.

Approve this report now to allow work to commence: recommended. It is essential that corporate priorities are progressed in order to deliver positive economic outcomes for Ashfield District. It should be noted that this grant has been awarded specifically for the feasibility and research projects mentioned in this report and not for any other purpose.

Detailed Information

The Nottinghamshire Pre-Development Fund (NPDF) was launched to all N2 Local Authorities on 5 September 2016. It is funded from the Business Rates Pool into which ADC contributes and has a total available of £1m. Applications via Local Authorities were required with a deadline of 2 November.

The objective of the Fund is to unlock and speed up delivery of projects by enabling them to be fully scoped and developed. The Fund provides an open and competitive route to funding for pre-development costs (eg, feasibility studies, economic impact assessments, business planning, master planning). Applicants needed to demonstrate impact against at least one of the N2 priority growth sectors of Agriculture, Food and Drink, High Value Manufacturing, Transport/Logistics, Digital and Creative, Visitor Economy, Life Sciences, Health and Social Care, Construction, Low Carbon.

Nottinghamshire County Council managed the bidding and evaluation process and will subsequently act as Accountable Body for the successful applicants.

ADC has been successful with applications amounting to a total grant from the Fund of £156K, plus a contribution from ADC budgets **of £17,250**. A summary table is set out below.

Wherever possible we will utilise internal capacity and expertise and if costs per study are less than anticipated, we will review the allocated overall budget in consultation with NCC to see what other ADC project pipeline priorities we can support.

Title	Summary
Those funded	
Leisure Centre Feasibility	Site evaluation for Kirkby, optimum facility mix and business plan
Housing Site delivery	Options for the most viable methods for delivering housing on council owned land
Piggins Croft	Development options for the site, including mix, financial and business viability planning
Annesley Hall	Options for future uses, appraisal and viability work
Annesley Miners Welfare	Working with the landowners to develop development options, market and viability assessments, business planning
Fox Street	Options for development of the council owned site, most viable mix of uses

This is excellent news for ADC, as it enables us to evaluate the viability of a new stock of key projects and move more quickly to delivery. ADC has assigned lead officers for each of these projects, which will now be the subject of formal tender procedures through the joint Procurement Unit at Bassetlaw DC. Work on procurement for these feasibility studies will commence after the Cabinet approval process has been completed.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

This report is fully in line with the Corporate Plan, as the projects selected for feasibilities are key priorities.

Legal:

The Legal Service will provide advice and assistance in relation to the completion of the funding agreements which the Council will be required to enter into with the County Council.

Finance:

This report is effective from 19/01/2017 and has the following financial implications:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Income from NCC of £156k is anticipated to fund feasibility studies. Match-funding of £17,250 will be required to support two of the projects accepted:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Kirkby Leisure Review £7,250. This was approved at October 2016 Cabinet and is substantially lower than anticipated further to the successful bid. 2) Housing Delivery Options £10,000. This is one-off budget growth to be funded 50% HRA and 50% General Fund.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None.

Human Resources / Equality and Diversity:

No implications from this report on HR. However, the tender documents for the feasibility studies will require full attention being paid to equality, diversity and access issues.

Other Implications:

Communications: the report provides an opportunity for a press release as there is likely to be public interest in this issue and its outcome. If approved, publicity around this report will provide an opportunity to showcase how the council is progressing its corporate priorities to deliver positive economic outcomes for the district.

Trade Unions: The Trade Union welcomes the opportunity to obtain £156,000 of external funding to assist with the delivery of these important regeneration projects, the officers who have obtained this funding should be congratulated. It is however regrettable that the Public Sector no longer has the capacity to deliver work of this type.

Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):

N/A

Background Papers

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