



Report to: Cabinet

Subject : Growth Point Update

Date: 6th September 2007

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Introduction

In March 2006 the Borough Council supported an application by the City and County Councils for Nottingham, Leicester and Derby for the 3 Cities Sub-region to be designated as a Growth Point. This application was successful and the sub-region is now the largest of 29 Growth Points designated.

Growth Point designation allows the partnership to bid for funding to bring forward housing development. The 3 Cities indicative programme is for £111.21m capital and £9.56m revenue over three years 2008 – 2011. The Nottingham Housing Market Area (HMA) element totals £32.13m over the same timescale.

As part of the Growth Point process, a Delivery Programme is required to be submitted by the end of September.

Update

As the submitting authorities, the City and County Councils are proposing that their Joint Committee on Strategic Planning and Transport endorse the Delivery Programme in the middle of September. A decision on the Programme will then be announced by CLG in December 2007, with the 3 Cities and 3 Counties Leadership Group deciding on the city specific allocations in January 2008. It is proposed that the Nottingham Delivery Programme would then be allocated by a Nottingham Core HMA Programme Board with a view to delivery commencing in April 2008. A copy of the proposed governance structure is attached.

This process would require the Joint Committee to extend its membership and terms of reference. It is not clear at this stage whether this would enable District Council membership as principal partners. It is important that this be considered to allow the District Councils, as the Local Planning Authorities ultimately responsible for delivering the housing growth, the opportunity to influence decisions. Alternatively,

the governance function could be undertaken by other existing or potential partnerships. The emerging Greater Nottingham Executive is one possible partnership, although there is likely to be opposition to this.

The Joint Committee will also have to consider the establishment of the Growth Point Programme Board with member representation from all the HMA partner authorities, including Erewash District Council.

CLG are keen that all partners formally sign up to the delivery plan. This would indicate continued support for the Growth Point but not commit the authority to anything, including site specific housing allocations or governance arrangements.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet authorise continued support for the Growth Point and the Delivery Programme, whilst encouraging that suitable governance arrangements, with full representation for all partner organisations, are put in place as soon as possible.