

MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet Meeting – 9th October 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Infrastructure Investment

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Infrastructure Investment. The pattern of economic growth, impact of the National Planning Policy Framework and the infrastructure needs in general in the Borough were changing rapidly. Principle growth in population had always been around Ingleby Barwick and this continued apace with additional housing approvals and the provision of a free school by the government. Both Eaglescliffe and Yarm had seen a mix of allocated and unallocated housing sites come forward with approvals being granted in the context of NPPG. All of this activity placed strain on the Borough's infrastructure in the broader sense and meeting the needs of the community, which was diverse in the ancient setting of Yarm compared to the new build of Ingleby and traditional layout of Thornaby, required careful planning of infrastructure needs going forward.

By infrastructure the report considered not only roads and transport links but also schools, leisure facilities, green spaces, parks and town centres. It was not only the growth that was driving the need to invest in infrastructure but also analysis of survey information and the observations of Elected Members had been brought together to support the investment proposal in the report.

As part of the Council's 2014-15 budget setting process, Council agreed the allocation of £5.590M to support future investments and regeneration related acquisitions and also £300K to support feasibility work. There were significant new developments coming forward across the Borough. A detailed Infrastructure Strategy in response to such developments, which was particularly relevant to South of the Borough was in production.

The report also highlighted other significant investment and activities planned in the South of the Borough.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The recent investment in primary school capacity in the south of the borough and emerging trend of required primary school places in Ingleby Barwick be noted. Any future investment decisions will be subject to a further report to Cabinet following the review of Children and Young People Select Committee and their work into school organisation and admission arrangements.
2. The principle of developing a pedestrian link between Ingleby Barwick and Preston Park be approved and that £35k be allocated to develop a scheme to allow funding sources to be actively pursued. The funding for the feasibility work to be allocated from the investment fund.
3. The investment of £18.9m into Highway Infrastructure in the schemes outlined in paragraph 31 be noted.

RECOMMENDED to Council:-

4. The investment of £1.2M into Yarm town centre public realm and facilities be noted and the allocation from the investment fund of a further £150k alongside the £60k available to develop the library facilities in Yarm be supported.
5. The principle of the development of additional Leisure facilities in Ingleby Barwick be approved and that further feasibility work be undertaken to determine the most appropriate mix of facilities and location. The funding for this development work of £175K be approved from the feasibility element of the investment fund. In addition £3M from the investment fund be approved in principle towards the scheme, which will be used as the basis to pursue external funding with Sports England and Tees Active. The full costs of the scheme will be considered in the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan.
6. The investment of £800k in additional car parking provision within Preston Park from the allocated investment fund be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The growth in housing allocation and economic activity in the south of the borough requires targeted investment across a range of facilities and infrastructure to ensure the communities affected remain sustainable. The report details the need for investment in highway, leisure and greenspace infrastructure to meet the need of the growing population. Some of the potential investment objectives such as education, leisure facilities and links to Preston Park require further work and therefore feasibility and development funding is required to be allocated and the outcome of this work will be reported to a future Cabinet meeting to enable further investment decisions to be made.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensation

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 17th October 2014 for recommendations 1,2 and 3

Proper Officer

D E Bond

13th October 2014