

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Town Centres , Growth & Economic Prosperity
2.	Date:	20th February 2012
3.	Title:	RERF - Sheffield – Rotherham Don Valley Masterplan
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. **Summary**

This report seeks approval of an allocation of £10,000 RERF towards funding of a Masterplan for the Sheffield – Rotherham Don Valley area, in conjunction with Sheffield City Council.

6. **Recommendations**

That £10,000 of RERF revenue is approved towards the development of a Masterplan for the Sheffield - Rotherham Don Valley.

7. Proposals and Details

There is now a requirement for a new Masterplan for the Sheffield-Rotherham Don Valley (SRDV) which brings together the development plans and aspirations of all key stakeholders and communities and enables the Local Authorities and their partners to:

- Specify more precisely what strategic infrastructure investments are needed to enable the right developments to come forward in the most sustainable way.
- Identify opportunities for a new level of integration between public agencies, development partners and existing businesses/ landowners in the planning, funding and construction of infrastructure.
- Establish strong, co-ordinated and well developed, costed and feasible proposals to external funding bodies.
- Examine and provide a basis for alternative vehicles for delivering long-term investment e.g. Enterprise Zone, JESSICA Fund or Tax Incentive Finance etc.
- Capitalise on the new fiscal mechanisms afforded in the Comprehensive Spending Review of October 2010, such as the Green Investment Bank, FIT, RHI and Green Deal.

The Masterplan will establish a strategic vision for the Lower Don Valley area; it will present a programme of projects to deliver against this vision, building on strong stakeholder interest, good sub-regional working with Sheffield CC, available public funding and current Government initiatives designed to incentivise enterprise. The Masterplan will achieve this by:

- Engaging with businesses in order to lay the basis for a long term partnership with major stakeholders including Yorkshire Water, SYPTE, British Land, Eon, Veolia, etc.
- Articulating a vision for the SRDV area which encompasses the aspirations of stakeholders.
- Identifying a number of existing and new initiatives, which can be effectively integrated in order to achieve value for money and added value benefits.
- Establishing the feasibility and affordability of proposed developments and the opportunities for their integration.
- Presenting the findings in an accessible report.
- Developing a comprehensive action plan and delivery programme for the proposed interventions which will direct future implementation and give the Councils a basis on which to continue to engage and coordinate public and private stakeholders and their investment proposals to achieve maximum efficiencies and benefits in the future.

The bid has been appraised by the RMBC Regeneration Team and has been judged eligible to receive RERF support.

8. Finance

Funding	Status of funding. Approved/ Awaiting Approval	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	Total
RERF					
Capital					-
Revenue			10,000		10,000
TOTAL RERF		-	10,000	-	10,000
Other Funding Sources					
Sheffield CC	Approved	5,000			5,000
Sheffield CC	Awaiting		50,000		50,000
					-
					-
TOTAL OTHER FUNDING		5,000	50,000	-	55,000
Grand Total		5,000	60,000	-	65,000

There is currently £125,461 of revenue money available under the RERF programme. This is sufficient to fund this project and the town centre development project (£50,000)

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Further funding will be required to deliver the activities proposed in the completed Masterplan. Although the document will attempt to identify funding sources they made be difficult to secure in the current financial climate.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Masterplan will contribute to the following strategic priorities under the Achieving Theme of the Community Strategy:-

- Promote business start ups, growth and inward investment
- Improve access and remove barriers to employment

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation has so far been undertaken with a range of RMBC officers through team leaders and subsequently through a cross boundary meeting of officers from both Rotherham and Sheffield to determine the relevance of the masterplan proposal and any resulting priorities. Senior officer consultation has resulted in approval for Rotherham MBC's participation in this exercise.

The Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Economic Growth and Prosperity now sits on a cross border community group which will help oversee the preparation and subsequent implementation of the masterplan. The group meets every six weeks to review progress.

Local businesses have been consulted on priorities for the masterplan through a stakeholder event and subsequent business survey. Follow up meetings with business stakeholders will take place throughout 2012.

Local community bodies have been made aware of this exercise through Community Involvement Officers reporting to local area assemblies.

A copy of the full RERF application form for this project is available on request.

RMBC Finance have been consulted on the report.

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