

Dear Councillor,

CABINET - THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2013

I am now able to enclose for consideration at the above meeting the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item
No.**

**5. PROCURING A GREEN DEAL PARTNER RELATIONSHIP FOR
CAMBRIDGESHIRE (Pages 1 - 2)**

To consider a report by the Head of Environmental Management on the procurement of a green deal partner relationship for Cambridgeshire.

7. ST NEOTS RAILWAY STATION FOOTBRIDGE (Pages 3 - 4)

In accordance with Section 100B (3) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), the Chairman has agreed to the inclusion of this item on the Agenda as a matter of urgency to ensure the contract for the provision of the footbridge at St Neots Railway Station can proceed.

To receive a report from the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy seeking approval of a capital contribution towards the costs of a footbridge at St Neots Railway Station.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET

14TH FEBRUARY 2013

**PROCURING A GREEN DEAL PARTNER RELATIONSHIP FOR
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 12th February 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered a report by the Head of Environmental Management seeking authority to establish a Green Deal Partnership for Cambridgeshire. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has been acquainted with the events that have led to the development of a Cambridgeshire Green Deal brand. To date, three of the participating authorities have endorsed the proposals. A joint procurement exercise will now be required in order to establish a partner relationship with a fully accredited Green Deal Provider. This will be subject to EU procurement rules but Members have indicated that local assessors and installers should be involved in the scheme.
- 2.2 The Panel's attention has been drawn to the Green Deal investment potential in Huntingdonshire together with the likely leads to be generated which is expected to produce an income of around £30,000-£60,000 per annum for the Council. These projections are based on the findings of a report commissioned by the County Council. The costs of any energy improvement works will be levied upon the property and not homeowners. In the case of private rented properties, permission to carry out works will need to be sought from the landlord. Members have stressed the need for safeguards to be put in place to ensure the scheme does not operate in a way that might damage the Council's reputation.
- 2.3 The Panel has discussed the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), which focuses on hard to treat properties and vulnerable and fuel poor households. Funding to undertake any works to qualifying properties under the ECO will be obtained via the award of grant from the Government's "Green Deal Pioneer Places" fund, regardless of a household's income. The assessment will be based purely on the property itself.
- 2.4 A robust methodology and associated assessment software will be required to support the accreditation and certification of energy improvement assessors and installers. This will guarantee the standard of works undertaken and the probity of the practices employed to sell them and also protect the Council's reputation. They will need to be aligned to established points of contact within the Council and communities to act as "trusted" informants about the scheme.
- 2.5 The Panel is of the view that the Green Deal offer for Cambridgeshire should commence operation as soon as possible. While there is a need to ensure the partnership arrangements with a Green Deal provider and the offer are sound, Members are aware that other providers have started marketing their products and they do not want to miss this opportunity. Adherence to the

timescales for the launch of the scheme specified in the report should ensure this does not happen.

2.6 Members are further of the view that the level of referral fees should not be part of the criteria employed to select the Provider. The Provider should be selected on the basis of their ability to deliver high quality energy saving measures in a responsible way that meets the needs of customers. Having discussed the role of the Environment Team in generating leads and undertaking marketing activity, the Panel has recommended the Cabinet to:

- approve the establishment of a partnership of the Cambridgeshire Districts to deliver the Green Deal work proposal, subject to detailed approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the local authorities involved at Public Service Board;
- approve a procurement exercise and subsequent award of contract(s) to one or more Green Deal Providers to be let on a Countywide basis and in collaboration with Cambridgeshire Local Authorities, and
- authorise the Head of Paid Service and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding governing joint working and to enter into a contract with a chosen Green Deal Provider, subject to consultation with the Executive Councillor for the Environment.

The Panel has also requested an update on progress of the scheme after 12 months of operation.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

Contact Officer: Miss H Ali, Democratic Services Officer
☎ 01480 388006
✉ Habbiba.Ali@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Reports and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 12th February 2013.

CABINET

14TH FEBRUARY 2013

ST NEOTS RAILWAY STATION FOOTBRIDGE

(Report by Head of Planning and Housing Strategy)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that Cabinet approves a capital contribution of £316,069 towards the funding package (total project cost being £6,036,000) for the new St Neots Railway Station Footbridge.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The new St Neots Railway Station Footbridge has been designed by Network Rail to both enhance access to the station and also, most importantly, to provide direct connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between the St Neots Eastern Expansion area, the railway station, and to the rest of the town. The new footbridge has been designed with lifts as well as stairs in order to allow full accessibility for disabled people.
- 2.2 The project was initiated in 2005/6 and it was originally envisaged that it would be totally funded by Section 106 contributions secured from the Loves Farm, St Neots development along with direct Network Rail funding. The Section 106 Agreement provided a total of £2,676,000 towards the project, subject to indexation.
- 2.3 Detailed project development and design work has been undertaken by Network Rail, in consultation with Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. All necessary consents have been obtained and the project is now ready for implementation. The overall project cost is £6,036,000.
- 2.4 Network Rail now intends to implement the project from April 2013 with completion envisaged by March 2014. The project includes works over the operational East Coast Main Line railway, which are anticipated to commence in May 2013.

3. THE PROPOSED FUNDING PACKAGE

- 3.1 The proposed overall project funding profile is as follows:

Network Rail investment	£2,561,300
Public sector investment (S106, CCC, HDC)	£3,474,700
Total	£6,036,000

- 3.2 To enable the project to proceed there is a need for a further capital contribution of £316,069 from this Council. This is needed to cover a combination of increased project costs (at an additional £198,700) and as a result of a reduction in the amount of S106 funding that is now available. The reduction in the S106 funding has been caused by the need to recalculate the original agreed S106

contributions against the BCIS Index. This has unfortunately resulted in a reduction in the value of that contribution that equates to £117,369.

- 3.3 This development is a critical element of the new infrastructure that is required to support the sustainable growth of St Neots. The District Council needs to cover the further capital funding project contribution of £316,069 as the contributions from Network Rail and the County Council are fixed, and it will not be possible to seek further S106 funds from the developer.
- 3.4 The District Council is able to identify existing budgets which can be transferred to fund this shortfall. No specific schemes have been identified to proceed from the Town Centre Developments capital provision of £290,000 and therefore these monies can be transferred with any desired replacement funding being considered in next year's MTP Review. Due to efficiencies elsewhere, the balance can be found from the 2013/14 revenue budget for Planning Services.
- 3.5 Subject to this approval, the breakdown of the proposed overall project funding profile would be as follows:

Network Rail	£2,561,300
S106 Railway Bridge and Station contributions	£2,558,631
CCC Cambridge / St Neots Transport Corridor	£300,000
CCC St Neots MTTs	£300,000
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>£5,719,931</i>
HDC	£316,069
Total	£6,036,000

- 3.6 As the District Council is providing the necessary additional funding in this instance, we will be looking for this to be balanced out by the County Council within other partnership schemes.
- 3.7 The Code of Financial Management allows the Cabinet to approve budget transfers up to £300,000. As the required contribution is slightly in excess of this, the Cabinet will need to recommend that the Council for approves the transfers.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet recommends to Council that approval be given for a capital contribution of £316,069 towards the St Neots Rail Footbridge project which is to be funded by the transfer of £290,000 from the capital provision for Town Centre Developments and £26,000 from the Planning Services revenue budget.

CONTACT OFFICER - Enquiries about this report to Steve Ingram, Head of Planning and Housing Strategy, on 01480 388400