
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 9 NOVEMBER 2022

PORTFOLIO: HOUSING, ASSETS & LEISURE

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF ASSETS & INVESTMENTS

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES & PROPOSALS

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 That the Community Investment Plan (CIP) objectives set out within section 5 of this report be approved.
- 1.2 That the CIP proposals set out within section 6 of this report be approved.
- 1.3 That delegated Authority be given to the S151 Officer and the Director of Assets and Investments, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing, Assets and Leisure, to drawdown funds from the CIP ringfenced reserve to support the proposals.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The creation of a plan, and the allocation of funding to deliver key programmes, projects and activities, will assist the Council in delivering further on its key role as a place shaper and maker for the district.
- 2.2 The drawdown of ringfenced funds from the CIP will support the Council in delivering on its strategic regeneration ambition and the delivery of its priorities within its Business Plan (2020-2023).

3 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN

- 3.1 On 25 March 2022 Rochford District Council (RDC) agreed to enter a new Deed of Variation with Sanctuary Housing Association (SHA).
- 3.2 To support the ongoing place shaping work across the district, and with the New Deed of Variation, SHA provided £1,000,000 of funding. This fund was provided to the Council to use in relation to the community investment programmes, projects and initiatives.
- 3.3 This money is being held by the Council in a ring-fenced reserve, to be spent in accordance with the Community Investment Plan (CIP) objectives. The CIP is being presented to the Executive for agreement.

4 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The allocation of funding for the CIP will be prioritised based on the three key objectives that originate from the partnership with SHA and the Deed of Variation. These three objectives will assist RDC and SHA in their

complementary roles as important place shapers and makers within the district.

- 4.2 The funding will be allocated by ensuring the agreed projects, programmes or activities proposed meet at least one of the CIP key objectives. The three objectives are:-

- To promote and deliver regeneration opportunities that support our residents, businesses, and visitors and provide a positive impact on their lives.
- To support the development of sustainable homes and communities while prioritising those residents with the greatest needs.
- To promote and support opportunities that focus on improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.

5 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Executive seeks to allocate the following funds from the CIP ring fenced reserve:-

- £75k in developing and delivering a comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement strategy.
- £300k for capital investment in Community Assets.
- £350k to support the work of the Regeneration Strategy to continue place shaping the district.

Proposal 1 Community Engagement Strategy (£75k)

- 5.2 The Council will commission professional expertise to lead a community engagement strategy, engaging with the community and stakeholders and ensuring a clarity and consistency of message on regeneration proposals. This would ensure that the Regeneration Strategy is community driven and delivers positive outcomes for the Community Investment Plan. The Regeneration Strategy will inform future regeneration opportunities within the district.

Proposal 2 Community Asset Development Investment (£300k)

- 5.3 Leading on from Proposal 1. To provide funding for capital investment for community assets that will be identified to support longer term operational plans and the development of a fully functioning Community hub. The aim of the hub is planned to act as a key community building that will bring together a range of services from different organisations under one roof such as Essex Police, community safety partners, health, and other key organisations.

Proposal 3 Regeneration Strategy (£350k)

- 5.4 To complete the technical work to bring forward sites to deliver the objectives of the emerging Regeneration Strategy. The strategy looks to support the Council's strategic regeneration ambition and delivery of the Business Plan objectives. The primary objective of the Council's Regeneration Strategy is to support delivery of the Council's social purpose and strategic ambitions. This proposal looks to bring forward high quality leisure and community spaces as well as produce projects that deliver new homes and economic growth to the district, place shaping the district for its future community.
- 5.5 It is proposed that when these funds are required the S151 Officer and the Director of Assets and Investments will consult with the Leader and Portfolio Holder before any funds are committed against the proposals.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 There are no alternative options as the Community Investment Plan is required to enable the drawdown of funding to generate enhancements of existing assets and regeneration opportunities within the district.

7 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Regeneration activity can deliver community benefits; however, specific schemes will carry inherent risk. This will be mitigated via the creation of a risk register to identify and manage risk.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The strategy would have due regard to the Council's environmental strategy ensuring that the Council's regeneration objectives support delivery of the Council's environmental objectives.

9 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 As set out to the Executive in March 2022, Sanctuary Housing Association has provided £1,000,000 of funding to support ongoing place shaping work across the district, through a new Deed of Variation. This fund is provided to the Council to use in relation to the community investment programmes, projects and initiatives and is being held by the Council in a ring-fenced reserve, to be spent in accordance with the Community Investment Plan (CIP) objectives.
- 9.2 It is the intention that any funding drawn down will look to deliver opportunities for self-financing regeneration. Any income streams achieved from these projects will be returned to the Council to support and fund other regeneration projects.

10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There is a legal requirement that the proper procurement process under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 is followed as and when required.

11 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Parish and Town Councils will be included within the engagement process to develop the strategy to ensure local ambition can be captured and considered.

12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 An equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impacts on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.



LT Lead Officer Signature: _____

DIRECTOR OF ASSETS & INVESTMENTS

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Phoebe Barnes (on:-

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