



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# A573

## Cabinet 17 March 2010

### Recommendations from St Edmundsbury Growth Area Partnership Board: 8 March 2010 (Mar10/01)

*Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry  
Clements*

*Chairman of the Board: Cllr Terry  
Clements*

**1. Growth Area Major Development Projects: Progress Report  
(Report A539)**

***RECOMMENDED:- That***

- (1) the following provisional Growth Area Funding commitments be approved in principle, as outlined in Section 3 of Report A539, subject to more detailed feasibility investigation, financial appraisal and approval of claw-back arrangements:-***
  - (a) £2 million be provisionally committed for forward funding for infrastructure, namely, North-West Haverhill relief road in Haverhill; and***
  - (b) the remainder of the expected allocation of Growth Area Fund up to a maximum of £2.5 million be provisionally committed for forward funding for infrastructure, namely, delivery of the eastern relief road and associated works at Suffolk Business Park, Bury St Edmunds.***

There is a current capital commitment of £5,064,955 within the Growth Area Fund for St Edmundsbury. At the previous meeting of the Board held on 17 December 2009, the officers were asked to progress investigations with landowners on developing a number of the sites contained in the Refreshed St Edmundsbury Programme of Development submitted to the Government in October 2008. This document had identified several capital projects and developments that would make a major contribution to the delivery of growth in the Borough. Two projects had been identified where Growth Area Funding could be committed before the end of 2010/2011 namely, allocating forward funding to deliver the North-West Haverhill relief road, and to the eastern relief road and associated works at Suffolk Business Park, Bury St Edmunds.

At the meeting on 8 March 2010, the Board considered that it was important to commit the full amount of the expected Growth Area Fund allocation. It had already been agreed by the Board at the previous meeting to allocate ten percent of the Fund to Green Infrastructure projects, which amounted to approximately

£500,000. A balance of approximately £4.5 million would remain and, as an amendment to the officers' recommendation contained in the report, it was agreed to commit an additional £500,000 forward funding to deliver the eastern relief road project at Suffolk Business Park as the total construction costs were significantly higher than the North-West Haverhill relief road project.

## **2. Green Infrastructure Development Projects: Proposals (Report A540)**

### ***RECOMMENDED:-***

***That the development of the two projects identified in Section 2.2 of Report A540 be approved , namely:-***

#### **(1) Bury St Edmunds Local Green Links**

***£30,000 of revenue funding be allocated from the Growth Area Fund to investigate the feasibility of achieving the delivery of the Bury St Edmunds Local Green Links project, with a further £220,000 capital funding being set aside for the implementation of this initial phase of the project between Nowton Park and Ickworth Park and along the Linnet Valley from Ickworth Park to Bury St Edmunds; and***

#### **(2) Advance Planting for Development**

***subject to arrangements being put in place for the grant awarded from the Growth Area Fund to be repaid at agreed timescales, up to £220,000 capital funding be made available to enable advance strategic planting at development sites to be undertaken, initially to be earmarked for development at North-West Haverhill.***

At the previous meeting of the Board on 17 December 2009, consideration was given to Report A415, which outlined progress on the delivery of major Growth Area projects. The report noted that there was some expectation from the Government that an element of the Growth Area Funding should be used for green infrastructure projects. The Board had noted that a Green Infrastructure Strategy had been completed for the Borough and agreed that ten percent of the Growth Area Funds settlement should be used to fund green infrastructure projects. This would amount to around £500,000 of the total revised grant of £5,064,955. Of this, £440,000 would be for capital projects and £32,000 for revenue projects.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy identified a shortlist of twelve projects that would be suitable for delivery before 2021. Of these, a limited number have the potential for early delivery with support from the Growth Area Fund while others were likely to be delivered as part of a development or would not be suitable for funding by such a source. Two projects have been identified to be taken forward for further investigation, namely, Bury St Edmunds Local Green Links, and Advance Planting for Development, as detailed in Section 2.2 of Report A540.

Whilst the majority of Board members supported the officers' recommendations, it wished to inform the Cabinet that it was in favour of all twelve Green Infrastructure projects, but recognised that the two projects identified above could be delivered in the relatively short term. The Board also wished to inform the Cabinet that County Councillor Mrs Spicer particularly recognised the merit in

committing funding to Project 1, as detailed in Section 2.2 of Report A540, '*Lark Valley path improvements*', as this project would improve access to the countryside in a less affluent area of Bury St Edmunds thereby promoting the health benefits of cycling and walking to a specific group of Bury St Edmunds' population.

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