

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report of the West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group: 9 October 2017	
Report No:	CAB/FH/17/051	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	24 October 2017
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Lance Stanbury Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth Tel: 07970 947704 Email: lance.stanbury@forest-heath.gov.uk	
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Lead officer:	Julie Baird Assistant Director (Growth) Tel: 01284 757613 Email: Julie.baird@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 9 October 2017, the West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group considered the following items: (1) Growth Priorities – Evidence Base. (2) Future Housing Delivery Options. (3) Planning Technical Guidance Note: Minimum Space Standards. (4) Response to Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-Submission Version 2017-2031. (<i>The recommendations from this item have been referred for consideration to the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Cabinet only</i>) (5) Work Programme 2017/2018 and Terms of Reference.	

Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report No: CAB/FH/17/051, being the report of the West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group.		
Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Consultation:	See Reports listed under background papers below		
Alternative option(s):	See Reports listed under background papers below		
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	See Reports listed under background papers below
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	See Reports listed under background papers below
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	See Reports listed under background papers below
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	See Reports listed under background papers below
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	See Reports listed under background papers below
Risk/opportunity assessment: <i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>			
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
See Reports listed under background papers below			
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Please see background papers, which are listed at the end of the report	
Documents attached:		None	

1.1 **Growth Priorities – Evidence Base**

1.1.1 The Assistant Director (Growth) provided a presentation to the Steering Group which set out an update on the evidence base to the growth priorities and also set out the proposed elements for the forthcoming West Suffolk Growth and Investment Strategy.

1.1.2 The presentation, particularly centred on the following areas:

- The focus of energies and resources to achieve good growth in West Suffolk
- The Councils' role as an 'Investor'.
- Proposed investment principles.
- Understanding private sector investment and how to attract this.
- Assessment criteria for investment.
- Development of an Expert Developer/Investor Forum

1.1.3 The Assistant Director also explained the Strategy was due to be considered by both Cabinets/Councils during November and December 2017.

1.1.4 Whilst discussing this item, Members supported this proposed framework for growth and investment and also made the following comments/observations:

- Ensuring that there were sufficient internal resources to be able to deliver the principles of the Strategy.
- Ensuring that collaborations with the public/private/third sector were structured to allow for the principles of the Strategy to be delivered.
- Ensuring that internal processes were also in place to ensure the accelerated delivery of appropriate development and growth.
- Consideration to be given to the development of a local adaptability fund which could be used for the updating of commercial buildings.

1.1.5 There being no decision required, the Steering Group **noted** the presentation.

1.2 **Future Housing Delivery Options**

1.2.1 Dale Gagen, Corporate Project Officer, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk was in attendance for this item and provided the Steering Group with a presentation which explained how the Council was addressing the provision of housing within the Borough, particularly on those sites which had been challenging to develop.

1.2.2 The Steering Group asked questions of the Officer, which centred around:

- Percentage levels for the provision of affordable housing and any issues around viability.
- The required working arrangements with other partner organisations (ie highways, utilities providers, developers) to allow for this to be successful.

1.2.3 There being no decision required, the Steering Group **noted** the presentation.

1.3 **Planning Technical Guidance Note: Minimum Space Standards**

1.3.1 The Steering Group were informed that, following on from concerns which had previously been raised by Members with regard to the size of new houses being built, an interim Technical Guidance Note had now been produced which set out the minimum space standards that West Suffolk would seek on all new planning applications for the development of new housing, which was based on the Government's National Space Standards.

1.3.2 It was explained that this was only an interim Technical Guidance Note, at this stage and could not be classed as a material consideration for planning applications, but regard to it would be sought. However, it was the intention for this to become a policy within the new West Suffolk Local Plan, once adopted.

1.3.3 This Technical Guidance Note would also be considered by both Cabinets in November 2017. It was also agreed for this Guidance Note to be circulated to the Steering Group for their information.

1.3.4 There being no decision required, the Steering Group **noted** the verbal update.

1.4 **Work Programme 2017/2018 and Terms of Reference**

1.4.1 The Steering Group received proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Group to become a 'Growth and Innovation Group', who would assist the Cabinet with forming strategy and policy on key issues that would influence the growth agenda within West Suffolk. If these draft Terms of Reference were supported by the Steering Group, then these would be considered by both Cabinets for adoption accordingly.

1.4.2 The Steering Group unanimously **supported** the proposed draft Terms of Reference for a Growth and Innovation Group, for consideration by both Cabinets in due course.

2. Background Papers

2.1.1 Growth and Innovation Group – Proposed Draft Terms of Reference ([Report No: JGG/JT/17/005](#))