

Single Conversation Project - Local Investment Plan

Author: John Hoad (CDC) / M Jaggard (O City C)

Tel: 0129 5227980 / 01865 252161

Email: john.hoad@cherwell-dc.gov.uk / mjaggard@oxford.gov.uk

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SPIP Administration Contact:

Vicki Bowen

PA to Strategic Director, Cherwell District Council

Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA

Email: Victoria.bowen@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Tel: 01295 221581

1. Purpose of Report:

To update the Partnership on continuing work on the Homes and Communities Agency “Single Conversation” pilot project for Oxfordshire, in particular the Local Investment Plan (LIP).

To agree additional elements of the emerging LIP document.

To decide on the next steps in work required to complete and approve the LIP before 31 March.

1. Background

At its December meeting the Partnership agreed the outline content of the LIP document and instructed local authority officers to undertake further work with HCA, particularly on the detail of smaller scale projects to be included in the Plan.

Substantial progress has been made on the outstanding work as follows:

- Section 7 - Criteria for Prioritisation of Projects
- Appendix 1 - Detailed Programme Priority Projects
- Appendices 2-6 - 20 Year Development Programmes for Each District
- Appendix 7 - 20 Year County Council Infrastructure Plan

(Section / Appendix references above are to the structure of the LIP as presented and endorsed at the last meeting)

Draft papers for these parts of the LIP are being circulated with this report (or will follow / be tabled if necessary).

The prioritisation work (Section 7 and Appendix 1) has been informed by a significant HCA contribution to detailed assessment of the projects. Detailed assessments are underway using a standard format. This is still work in progress and it will need to continue beyond the confirmation of the LIP. This is because more information will become available as projects are developed. Also more analysis will be needed to inform final decisions on funding and support offered by HCA and other agencies /bodies. Some examples of the assessment sheets are circulated with this report for illustrative purposes only. The assessments will be regarded as working papers rather than part of the final LIP document.

Since the last meeting there has been an important development in the Single Conversation pilot process / timetable. HCA have advised that the target remains to complete the LIP by the end of March. However more time is now available to complete the associated Local Investment Agreement. It is recognised that it will be desirable to allow for step by step negotiation of the agreement.

It was agreed that the Chairman, in consultation with the other local authority leaders should have delegated authority to “sign off” a LIP that would then be presented to the March meeting of the partnership for formal endorsement. It was also agreed that this arrangement should be linked to an additional waypoint meeting of the Partnership in February. This is that meeting.

To complete the LIP by the end of March it will be necessary to finally endorse all of the substantive content at the 1 March meeting. The material presented at this and the December meeting provides most of the content. If the recommendations set out below are agreed, then it will only remain to check and finalise the priority projects list. It is suggested that this is done by e mail exchange under the delegation to the Chairman. This informal process will be undertaken with the intent that a draft of the full LIP document can be presented to and endorsed by the Partnership at its 1 March meeting. Officers will then be able to finalise full write up and presentation for submission to HCA by the end of March.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To endorse the completed 20 year Development Programmes for the Districts

2.2 To endorse the completed 20 year County Council Infrastructure Plan

2.3 To endorse the suggested Criteria for Prioritisation of Projects

2.4 To note the emerging Priority Projects and ask all partners agree to check and provide feed back on these by 13 February. (That feedback will be used to inform a final draft of the full LIP document for presentation to the next Partnership meeting on 1 March).