

Cabinet Member Decision Notice - Public

Part A – to be provisionally completed prior to the meeting and finalised after the meeting following agreement with the decision maker.

1. **Decision Maker:** Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Tim Myatt
2. **Date of the Decision:** Tuesday 30 November 2021
3. **Subject (title and description):** New Settlement Development Plan Document: Technical Support
4. **Did the decision maker declare an interest?** No
5. **Lead Officer:** Planning Manager (Policy), Natasha Durham
6. **Was all or any part of the report exempt?** No

If yes, is there an Exempt Decision Notice? N/A

7. **The Decision:**
That the Cabinet Member approves the release of £60,000 from the Place-shaping & Economic Growth Service Reserve (earmarked for the New Settlement DPD) to commission the following work in support of the development and delivery of the New Settlement DPD:

1. New Settlement Climate Change Strategy
2. Whole DPD Viability Appraisal
3. Critical friend / project support at key stages of DPD preparation and examination

8. **Reasons for the Decision:**
The projects identified are key pieces of work to support the progression of the New Settlement DPD and ensure that the vision to create a thriving and sustainable new community can be met. The New Settlement is crucial to the long term delivery of the growth strategy outlined in the adopted Local Plan 2014-35 and a Council priority.

These projects comprise discreet pieces of work in support of the development and delivery of the DPD which require specialist expertise and capacity not currently available within the Council.

It is also important to note that during the PSEG service review, in order to make the best use of resources, it was always intended that delivery of major projects, in particular master planning projects which require specific expertise, could be supplemented by external commissions rather than including more permanent posts within the staff structure. Therefore, reserves are for this purpose.

In addition, officers believe the work outlined would benefit from bringing in experienced consultants with direct experience of delivering new successful communities as well as technical expertise in the fields of viability and climate change innovation and technology.

9. **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

Not to release £60,000 from PSEG service reserves. This is recommended for rejection as there is funding is earmarked for delivery of the New Settlement DPD, and we do not have the capacity or retained specialist skills in house to carry out the work

Not to undertake the work is recommended for rejection as this work is essential to the expedient delivery of both the DPD and the New Settlement itself. Whilst there is an option to put the onus on the developers to advise on aspects such as viability and feasibility of climate change policy proposals, it is recommended that the Council should remain the driver for this and procure independent specialist advice to ensure quality place-making.

10. **Is this a Key Decision:** No

If yes, please state Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Part B – Key Decisions Only – to be completed by Democratic Services

11. **Is the decision subject to call in:** No

12. **End of the Call-In Period:** N/A