

## Report to Cabinet

20 September 2018

By the Leader of the Council

### KEY DECISION



Not Exempt

## Horsham District Deal (September 2018)– Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council 2018-2023

### Executive Summary

In 2015, West Sussex County Council worked with the Boroughs and Districts of West Sussex to identify the key issues and priorities in relation to planned growth and development within their boundaries over the coming years. A “Place Plan” was produced containing demographic and socio-economic information; details of planned housing and economic growth; and planning/economic priorities. The Place Plans supported prioritisation of investment and lobbying to attempt to secure additional funding for infrastructure.

Cabinet resolved on 28 January 2016 to endorse the “Horsham Place Plan”, which included five key issues and priorities for Horsham District ( 1 - North of Horsham and West of Horsham Infrastructure; 2 - Creation and delivery of a new Town Centre Vision for Horsham; 3 - Rationalisation of the public estate in Hurst Road; 4 - Digital connectivity to support the rural economy and home-based businesses; and 5 -Redevelopment of the former Novartis site in Horsham town).

The “Horsham District Deal” is an agreement between Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council to formalise the priorities identified in the “Horsham Place Plan” and to work together to deliver these key projects, including the provision of new homes, employment floorspace, and new infrastructure. The priority in relation to Digital Connectivity is the delivery of the Gigabit project, as agreed with District and Borough partners. To date, “District & Borough Deals” have been signed between West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Chichester District Council, Arun District Council and Adur & Worthing Councils.

### Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i) Endorse the “Horsham District Deal”, so that it can be signed off by the Leaders of Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council respectively.
- ii) Delegate authority to the Leader of the Council to approve minor editorial changes prior to publication.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- i) For consideration by Members – the agreement between Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council will ensure that both Councils fully understand and support growth priorities for Horsham as identified in the Deal.
- ii) To give the Leader of the Council delegated authority to approve minor changes to the document, without the need for it to be referred back to Cabinet.

## Background Papers:

1. Draft “Horsham District Deal” (September 2018) – Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council (2018-2023) – Appendix 1
2. “Horsham Place Plan” (January 2016)  
<https://horsham.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1143/06dii%20Draft%20Horsham%20Place%20Plan%20v1.8%2015.01.16.pdf>

**Wards affected:** All

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## **Background Information**

### **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The “Horsham District Deal” (August 2018) seeks to formalise the work that was undertaken to produce the “Horsham Place Plan”, and endorsed by Cabinet in January 2016. It takes forward the following four key priorities/projects for Horsham District Council:
- West of Horsham and North of Horsham Infrastructure Provision
  - Horsham Town Centre- Delivery of a new Town Centre Vision
  - Hurst Road – rationalisation of the public estate
  - Former Novartis Site, Horsham Town – redevelopment of the site
- 1.2 The “Horsham District Deal”, once signed by the Leaders of Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council, will be used to secure resources and investment to enable infrastructure priorities to be delivered. Horsham District Council will also work together with West Sussex County Council to produce joint bids for further infrastructure investment.

### **2 Relevant Council policy**

- 2.1 The Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) is the current Local Plan that sets out how growth and development will take place in the District in the period to 2031. A new Local Plan is being prepared. An “Issues & Options – Employment, Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development” document was published for public consultation between 6 April 2018 and 25 May 2018. A report on the responses received to this document is being taken to Cabinet on 20 September 2018. A further “Issues & Options” document, which will include housing, is scheduled for public consultation in September/October 2019.
- 2.2 Horsham Council also published an “Economic Strategy 2017-2027” in 2017. This document sets out an economic overview; an economic strategy “Vision Statement”; and a number of chapters dealing with five economic priorities: inward investment, enterprise, skills and employment, infrastructure, and promoting the District offer.

### **3 Details**

- 3.1 The “Horsham District Deal” sets out the principles of the agreement between Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council. It also sets out details of the proposed governance framework, including an officers’ group; individual project teams and the setting up of a members’ group to oversee the implementation of the work.
- 3.2 Each of the priorities identified in paragraph 1.1 above has a background section, together with a table identifying “Key deliverables and activities”, the “Partnership Lead” and what “Subject Matter Expertise” is required.
- 3.3 For the work on Priority 1) “West of Horsham and North of Horsham infrastructure provision”, the key deliverables/activities have been identified as:

- Delivery of the remaining key elements of the West of Horsham infrastructure package, including the four major highway schemes
- West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council working with the developers, Network Rail and other stakeholders to facilitate the delivery of new rail passenger facilities in and around new developments north of Horsham.
- West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council working together to bring forward the required off-site highways infrastructure works, where possible ahead of schedule, and putting together a bid to enable delivery of the projects ahead of the collection of Section 106 contributions.
- Working with Liberty to ensure the works and contributions securing on-site highways works, affordable housing, health facilities, community infrastructure and employment floorspace are delivered.
- Also, Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council working with education providers (including free school providers) to secure early provision of education infrastructure on-site.

3.4 For the work on Priority 2) “Horsham Town Centre – Delivery of a new Town Centre Vision”, the key deliverables/activities have been identified as:

- An examination of the funding opportunities available to deliver the projects identified in the “Horsham Town Centre Vision Statement.
- Developing a Programme and Investment Strategy identifying key project priorities to be delivered between 2018 and 2023. The Programme and Investment Strategy will include consideration of each of the sites included in the “Town Centre Vision” alongside the benefits of progressing:
  - a town centre public realm strategy;
  - a walking and cycling strategy;
  - a car parking strategy.

3.5 For the work on Priority 3) “Hurst Road – rationalisation of the public estate”, the key deliverables/activities have been identified as:

- Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council to work together following initial One Public Estate funding success (total of £100,000) to develop a business case for i) HDC to lead on producing a detailed options, feasibility and viability study for Hurst Road and ii) West Sussex County Council to lead on project for a new “Combined Blue Light Centre” (relocation of fire and police station from Hurst Road to A24) from feasibility to submission of applications.
- The work will require discussions with the Ministry of Justice and Royal Mail on their relocation options from Hurst Road.

3.6 For the work on Priority 4) “Former Novartis Site, Horsham Town – redevelopment of the site”, the key deliverables/activities have been identified as:

- West Sussex County Council undertaking design work on the site and agreeing a business case before taking a decision to progress the submission of an outline planning application.
- Horsham District Council to provide pre-application advice to West Sussex County Council, on redevelopment proposals for the site.

## 4 Next Steps

- 4.1 Following Cabinet, the final version of the “Horsham District Deal” will be signed by the Leaders of Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council. Work will then commence on setting up the governance framework to oversee future projects. Details of the agreed priorities of the District Deal will be placed on the Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council websites.

## **5 Views of the Policy Development Advisory Group**

- 5.1 N/A

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 The “Horsham Place Plan” was prepared under the guidance of a group of members and officers from West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council.

## **7 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected**

- 7.1 No other course of action was considered. It was decided that by signing the District Deal with West Sussex County Council, Horsham Council could clarify its existing development priorities, and seek to work with West Sussex County Council to bid for further funding where appropriate.

## **8 Resource Consequences**

- 8.1 West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council were successful in bidding for funding from the Government’s “One Public Estate” scheme (Phase 6 (November 2017)). HDC received £60,000 and WSCC received £40,000 to develop a business case (including an appropriate phasing proposal) to progress both elements of the Hurst Road scheme. Horsham District Council has not yet received this funding.
- 8.2 Where the proposed projects involve the District Council’s investment, such as the Hurst Road redevelopment, they will be subject to separate business cases.

## **9 Legal Consequences**

- 9.1 This is an informal agreement between Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council. The priorities identified in going forward will be subject to the usual individual legal considerations and considerations pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

## **10 Risk Assessment**

- 10.1 It is not considered that there any risks associated with this document, other than the risks that have already been identified in the four priority projects outlined in paragraph 1.1 above.

## **11 Other Considerations**

### 11 Equality and Diversity

- 11.1 Attention is drawn to the duty under Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 which provides that a public authority must, in exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Assessment of the equalities impacts of the priorities will be undertaken on an ongoing basis and as part of the statutory processes as the priorities come forward to deliverable project.

## **Appendix 1**

- Draft “Horsham District Deal” (September 2018) Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council (2018-2023)