

Report to Cabinet

28th January 2016

By the Cabinet Member for Planning and Development

INFORMATION REPORT



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Horsham Place Plan (Part of the West Sussex Growth Plan)

Executive Summary

There is continuing pressure on the budgets of all public bodies to deliver investment in essential infrastructure which is needed to facilitate the new homes and businesses that are also needed. Therefore, it is important that all existing and proposed commitments are brought together in a comprehensive approach amongst stakeholders. For this reason, and to maximise investment, West Sussex County Council is developing a Growth Plan which can be used to prioritise investment and also as a lobbying tool that will hopefully secure additional funding as it becomes available. Within the Growth Plan there will be a section for each local authority called a place plan that identifies and prioritises key issues and a delivery and investment plan for that area. The Horsham Place Plan has been produced in close cooperation with Horsham District Council and brings together existing projects and requirements.

The purpose of this report is to present the proposed Horsham Place Plan, which includes the identified key issues and priorities for Horsham District.

The Horsham Place Plan is presented for endorsement to West Sussex County Council and in due course will be amalgamated with the place plans of all the other authorities in West Sussex, within the West Sussex Growth Plan.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to approve the following recommendations:

- i) To endorse the proposed Horsham Place Plan including the identified key issues and priorities for Horsham District.
- ii) That the Cabinet Member for Planning and Development has delegated authority to agree minor editorial changes.

Reasons for Recommendations

- i) Horsham District Council through the Growth Board has identified the key issues and priorities for Horsham District. The Horsham Place Plan is the result of this joint work.

Background Papers

Horsham Place Plan (and Growth Plan Foreword for context)– attached at Appendix 2

Wards affected: All.

Contact: Dr Chris Lyons, Director of Planning, Economic Development & Property.

Background Information

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Horsham District will support significant growth over the next 15 to 20 years with over 16,000 new homes identified in the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF), 130,000 sqm of employment space and the opportunity to create over 7,900 new jobs by 2031. Ensuring funding and delivery of the infrastructure to support this growth is a key priority and identifying and attracting high value businesses to the identified sites to take up the employment space is crucial to delivering jobs.
- 1.2 Current projections for Horsham District show a decrease in the proportion of school age and working age people and a significant increase in the proportion of over 65's. However, the district generally has a highly skilled workforce and good educational attainment but people often have to travel out of the area for work so attracting high value business to the area to offer good job opportunities for the local workforce is important. One of the biggest challenges to doing this is ensuring that the district has the infrastructure available to facilitate the new homes and businesses.
- 1.3 For these reasons and to maximise investment, West Sussex County Council is developing a Growth Plan which can be used as a lobbying tool that is intended to secure funding. Within the Growth Plan there will be a section for each local authority called a place plan that identifies and prioritises key issues and a delivery and investment plan. The Horsham Place Plan which will form part of the Growth Plan has been produced in close cooperation with Horsham District Council. It is essentially bringing together the existing projects to prioritise them and to illustrate to Government that while we are taking significant new development, there is a need to fund the required infrastructure.

2 Relevant Council policy

- 2.1 Neither the Place Plan nor the Growth Plan will have status as a statutory planning document. However both will, building from the statutory Local Plan, support key investment decision making for WSCC and partners.
- 2.2 The Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) is the relevant plan that sets out how growth and development will take place in the district. The HDPF sets out a settlement hierarchy which has determined the places with the opportunity for the delivery of the most growth. This has identified strategic locations for growth which can offer nearly 6,000 new homes and the opportunity for over 4,000 jobs.

3 Details

- 3.1 Horsham District Council through the Growth Board has identified the key issues and priorities for Horsham District. The Horsham Growth Plan is the result of this joint work.

3.2 Based on the evaluation of all the evidence and engagement the identified top priorities are:-

- North of Horsham and west of Horsham infrastructure
- Creation and delivery of a new Horsham town centre vision
- Rationalisation of the public estate in Hurst Road
- Digital connectivity to support the rural economy.
- Redevelopment of the former Novartis site in Horsham

3.3 The priorities inform a set of proposals for which outline business cases will be developed. Each business case will include a clear investment and delivery plan.

4 Next Steps

4.1 If the Cabinet endorses the Horsham Place Plan, West Sussex County Council will include it the West Sussex Growth Plan. The Growth Plan will amalgamate the Place Plans to develop a clear West Sussex Investment and Delivery Plan and to ensure that cross county issues such as transport and skills are addressed. The Horsham Place Plan which will form part of the Growth Plan has been produced in close cooperation with Horsham District

5 Outcome of Consultations

5.1 The West Sussex Growth Plan has been prepared with engagement of Members from Districts and Boroughs across the County, including an all Member workshop held in Horsham on 18th September 2015 to help establish issues and priorities.

5.2 The preparation of the Place Plan has been steered by the Horsham Growth Board, which includes senior members and officers from West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council. Further consultation on the Place Plan is being programmed and will include engagement with parish councils.

5.3 The Monitoring Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted during the preparation of the Horsham Place Plan.

6 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected

6.1 Not applicable.

7 Financial Consequences

7.1 Delivery of housing and employment space offers the opportunity to raise revenue that can support additional capital investment resulting in improved GVA performance. As current relationships are complex with range of stakeholders and services, sometimes with competing objectives. This may result in access to capital funding that will be insufficient to meet all aspirations. To maximise the value of investment, the County Council, working with partners, is developing Place Plans and a West Sussex Growth Plan.

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- 7.2 The objective of the Horsham Place Plan is to clearly identify the growth in Horsham District. The Plan will identify the key infrastructure requirements; planned and potential investment opportunities; and proposals that will support growth in Horsham District. This will help to develop business cases to support investment proposals, identify a Local Authority Investment Plan and a delivery programme. This will increase the ability to bid for funding for projects in a timely manner.

8 Legal Consequences

- 8.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

9 Staffing Consequences

- 9.1 There are no establishment staffing consequences resulting from this decision.

10 Risk Assessment

- 10.1 There are no risks associated with this proposal.

Appendix 1

Consequences of the Proposed Action

<p>How will the proposal help to reduce Crime and Disorder?</p>	<p>There are no crime and disorder implications as a result of this report.</p>
<p>How will the proposal help to promote Human Rights?</p>	<p>None directly but each of the priorities and associated projects would be considered on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>What is the impact of the proposal on Equality and Diversity?</p>	<p>None directly but each of the priorities and associated projects would be considered on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>How will the proposal help to promote Sustainability?</p>	<p>The Horsham Place Plan is informed by the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) which seeks to ensure that development which takes place in the future meets the needs of current and future residents and those working in the District.</p>