

CABINET

18 April 2017

RUTLAND ONE PUBLIC ESTATE

Report of the Chief Executive

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| Strategic Aim: | All | |
| Key Decision: Yes | Forward Plan Reference: FP/170317/05 | |
| Exempt Information | No | |
| Cabinet Member(s) Responsible: | Mr T Mathias, Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Places (Highways, Transport and Market Towns) | |
| Contact Officer(s): | Helen Briggs, Chief Executive | 01572 758201 hbriggs@rutland.gov.uk |
| Ward Councillors | Relevant to All Ward Members | |

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Formally records its support for the ROPE project and the opportunities that it presents.
2. Authorises the submission of a further bid of up to £500,000, should the opportunity arise, the final details and amount to be approved by the Chief Executive and Leader.
3. Delegates the acceptance of the terms and conditions of any funding awarded from the One Public Estate Team in respect of this project, to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.
4. Approves the allocation of £50,000 from the Invest to Save Reserve and £50,000 from Section 106 monies for the ROPE project

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet in relation to a new project - Rutland – One Public Estate (ROPE).
- 1.2 To outline the initial funding arrangements for the project and to seek the necessary approvals in line with the Council's Constitution.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is keen to continually explore the most effective ways going forward to manage our property estate, explore options for service integration and ensure

that we are able to work effectively with our Public Sector Partners to achieve the best outcomes for Rutland and the Rutland community.

- 2.2 In April a further round of funding and other support is anticipated to be launched by the Cabinet Office jointly with the Local Government Association through the One Public Estate Team. This funding has been used effectively by over 150 Councils across the Country to explore options and the feasibility for a rationalisation of the public estate. The Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive have met with representatives from the Cabinet Office and are keen to pursue support. **Appendix A** to this report provides background to the One Public Estate Initiative and examples from across the Country of where this has been used to good effect.
- 2.3 It is proposed that RCC submit a bid for funding to support a piece of work that will allow us to explore the options in Rutland for Public Sector partners to review their assets and test the feasibility of the creation of alternative arrangements that will :
- Promote a better use of the Public Estate in Rutland;
 - Enable delivery of better services, more efficiently and effectively supported by integration and co-location;
 - Allow us to future proof future service delivery; and
 - Support sustainable growth within our community
- 2.4 The One Public Estate funding will potentially provide funding of £50,000 to support feasibility work.
- 2.5 Initially the project will focus on two projects:
- a) the potential future for St George's Barracks (due for closure in 2020/21) and this will build on the on-going dialog we have been having with the MOD since the closure was announced in December 2016
 - b) the concept of an Oakham Hub – which builds on the concept of the Health and Social Care Hub which has been the subject of discussions around the Better Care Project and the emerging Sustainability and Transformation Plan
- 2.6 The feasibility study will be used to explore opportunities and to test with our partners what might be the best options going forward.
- 2.7 Following the feasibility study there is likely to be an option to apply for further funding up to £500,000 to support the delivery of a project.
- 2.8 In order to support the initial stages of the project a Programme Board has been established. This is Chaired by the Leader. Cabinet are also represented by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care. The Board also has representatives from the Cabinet Office OPE Team, our Local Enterprise Partnership, the Local Government Association and the MOD. The Chief Executive is the Project Sponsor.
- 2.9 Regular progress reports on the projects will be prepared and circulated to Council members.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Cabinet and Strategic Management Team. In addition our Public Sector agencies have been contacted and agreed in principle to participate in the project.
- 3.2 The first meeting with stakeholder organisations is planned for 7th April 2017 and an update from that meeting will be provided at Cabinet on 18th April 2017.
- 3.3 In addition to meetings with stakeholder organisations a series of meetings with affected Town (Oakham Town Council and Uppingham Town Council) and Parish Councils (Edith Weston and North Luffenham) have also been arranged so they are aware of the project.
- 3.4 The Leader has arranged an informal briefing for all Council Members which will take place on 10th April 2017 and again an update from this briefing will be provided at the Cabinet on 18th April 2017.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 At this stage the alternative is to simply take no action. This is not recommended as it is considered important that we explore the options and take advantage of the financial and other support available to support this piece of work.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A bid for feasibility funding of £50,000 is being written and will be submitted following approval by the Chief Executive, Assistant Director (Finance) and the Leader.
- 5.2 In addition, £100,000 of Council resources is being sought (£50,000 from the Invest to Save Reserve and £50,000 from Section 106 monies), to ensure that the project can be sufficiently and appropriately resourced to progress over the coming months.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Section 6 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (FRPs), sets out the requirements in respect of Grants and Other External Funding.
- 6.2 Bids for funding of up to £50,000 require approval of the relevant Chief Officer, the Assistant Director (Finance) and Portfolio Holder. Bids above this level require the approval of Cabinet.
- 6.3 The acceptance of terms and conditions in respect of grant funding requires Cabinet approval.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 No action is required at this stage

8 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None identified at this stage.

9 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The project provides an opportunity to explore the options for the provision of a Health and Social Care Hub for Rutland.

10 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The project will allow us to explore options and to test the feasibility of proposals for a more effective and efficient use of the Public Estate in Rutland. The recommendations made within this report will enable the project to progress and to bid for external funding.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 There are no additional papers to the report

12 APPENDICES

12.1 **Appendix A** – One Public Estate – unlocking the value in public sector assets

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.