



Cabinet

Tuesday, 9 July 2019

Local Growth Boards update and review

Report of the Chief Executive

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business and Transformation -
Councillor Andy Edyvean**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the work of the Local Growth Boards since the last Cabinet report in September 2017. At that point, some changes were made to the Growth Boards including separating the Radcliffe on Trent and Bingham Growth Boards and the establishment of the East Leake Growth Board.
- 1.2. As it is two years since the last review, it is timely that the number of Growth Boards in the Borough, their effectiveness, any new priorities, and the capacity available to support the Boards is considered.
- 1.3. The Borough Council is committed to localised working in the Borough and the work of the Growth Boards is complemented by support as required from different teams within the Council.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves:

- a) The establishment of a new Growth Board for Fairham, and extending the existing membership of the Fairham Development Board;
- b) That the Radcliffe on Trent and East Leake Growth Boards meet twice per year; and
- c) A review of the scope of the Shop Front Improvement Grant and funding to be considered by the Strategic Growth Board at its meeting in July.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. It is nearly two years since the last review of the Local Growth Boards and four years since their establishment. It is, therefore, timely that another review takes place to ensure that the Boards remain effective and focus on the priority areas for the Council. Consideration must also be given to the resources available to support the Boards.
- 3.2. At the end of 2018, when the Boards were agreeing dates for 2019, all of the existing Boards agreed to move to three meetings per year, excluding

Bingham, which currently meets four times per year. Much of the work of the Boards takes place between meetings and, therefore, the frequency of meetings does not affect the ability of the Boards to deliver.

- 3.3. The Economic Growth Team have been working with other areas within the Borough who have requested support, most notably Ruddington. These areas would welcome some additional financial support from the Council to further assist them and ensure their high streets are sustainable.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. A report was agreed at Cabinet in September 2017 with the following recommendations:

- Cabinet acknowledge the work of the Boards to date.
- Cabinet notes the new Chairs appointed for each of the Growth Boards.
- Cabinet agrees to the proposal to separate the Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent Growth Board by the end of 2017.

Following the approval of these recommendations, there were, and are still currently, four Local Growth Boards operating in Rushcliffe: Bingham, East Leake, Radcliffe on Trent and West Bridgford.

5. Successes to date

- 5.1. The role of the Growth Boards is as facilitators to bring the right people together to achieve the shared ambitions identified by the Boards. Some of these are longer term and aspirational but there have been some key pieces of work delivered by, or because of, the Boards.

- 5.2. As well as facilitation and direct delivery, the Growth Boards have played a very important role in building relationships between the different organisations that operate in the area. This is across the public and private sector; and bringing these groups together often means more can be achieved in a more coordinated way.

- 5.3. Some of the tangible successes of the Growth Boards include:

- West Bridgford Commissioners' Report;
- West Bridgford Way website and social media channels;
- Tudor Square Masterplan and subsequent consultation in West Bridgford;
- Radcliffe on Trent Economic Masterplan;
- Radcliffe on Trent public realm improvements design work;
- Poacher Line business case for train services and station facilities at Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent;
- Bingham Masterplan;
- Appointment of new Bingham Market Manager who is now working closely with the Bingham Growth Board;
- Severn Trent Water capacity assessment in East Leake completed and further work to follow;
- East Leake T junction proposals and funding for zebra crossing secured from Nottinghamshire County Council;
- Retail reviews across all four Growth Board areas;

- #WDYT campaign and subsequent establishment of high street heroes (which includes areas outside of the growth boards);
 - Shop front improvements grants supported 16 local businesses to date; and
 - Melton Road Christmas lights switch on event.
- 5.4. In addition, there has been important work undertaken facilitating discussions about future provision of health facilities in East Leake and Radcliffe on Trent, identifying leisure needs in areas and working to support local businesses.
- 5.5. Each of the Growth Boards has an action plan in place with short, medium and long-term ambitions. The achievement of some of these is subject to securing funding and many are dependent on the resources (financial and officer) of the different organisations on the Boards. The responsibility for delivery is shared and is not entirely dependent on the Borough Council.

6. Proposed changes

- 6.1. There are no significant changes proposed to the existing Growth Boards as it is acknowledged that each is working effectively and they need a little more time to achieve some of their key ambitions. However, there is a need to consider other areas of the Borough that are now a priority as well as the capacity within the team to support the existing and any new Boards.
- 6.2. Fairham is a key strategic site, which will deliver 3000 homes, 20 ha of employment land and 2000 jobs. The issues affecting delivery of this development have largely been overcome and it is anticipated that planning applications will be received in the summer 2019. Work would then start on site in early 2020 with the first phase of infrastructure, employment and housing. It is critical that momentum is maintained on the delivery of this site by working together with our partners to ensure a high quality development.
- 6.3. There is already a Fairham Development Board in place which is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Business and Transformation and current attendees include Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, CWC (main landowner and commercial developer) and Homes England. It is proposed that this becomes a Growth Board and that the membership is extended to include parish and ward councillors from Barton in Fabis, Thrumpton and Gotham, as well as partner organisations such as the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Highways England.
- 6.4. It is intended to establish operational groups to sit underneath this Board which will focus on the three elements of the project; housing, employment and infrastructure. They will then report into the Board any highlights or barriers to development. This level of governance is right for a site of this scale; however, there will be an impact on the workload of the team to support these different groups.
- 6.5. The West Bridgford Growth Board is a very active Board supporting the main town centre in Rushcliffe and delivering the recommendations of the West Bridgford Commissioners. It is, therefore, not proposed to make any changes to the existing Board, which will continue to meet three times per year.

- 6.6. The Bingham Growth Board is currently working on delivering the actions identified in the Bingham Masterplan. The Masterplan was produced to create a vision for the future of the town which is growing and changing rapidly over the next five to 10 years with the new housing development to the north of the town (1000 houses and 15 ha of employment land) and the plans for leisure and commercial development at Chapel Lane in Bingham. With all the development happening, it is important to maintain focus on Bingham to ensure coordinated delivery with the engagement of all partners. It is proposed that the Board continues to meet four times per year.
- 6.7. The Radcliffe on Trent Board has reviewed the Economic Masterplan and continues to have ambitions for better use of property assets within the village centre as well as improvements to the A52. The Board has overseen some designs to improve the public realm and also continues to liaise with the CCG regarding the future provision of health services to the village. It is proposed that this Growth Board should meet twice a year to keep working on some of the longer term ambitions of the village.
- 6.8. The East Leake Growth Board is the most recently established Board (2017) and its objectives are around managing the consequences of growth rather than being able to proactively plan for it. Therefore, the focus of much of the discussion at the meetings has been on the capacity issues for local services e.g. education. Much of the detailed work has taken place with partners outside of the main Board meetings. This format works well in East Leake and it is proposed that East Leake Growth Board meets twice per year in future.

7. Funding

- 7.1. When the Growth Boards were established an allocation of funding was given to the Strategic Growth Board to help further support and enhance the work of the Strategic and Local Growth Boards. Some of this allocation has been spent on the delivery of some of the work listed above e.g. retail reviews. There is £78,000 remaining in the budget for the Strategic Growth Board; however, it is anticipated that some of this may be allocated to the following:
- Potential joint feasibility work with Bingham Town Council for a long stay car parking scheme (£25,000);
 - Melton Road public realm improvements (£8,000); and
 - Radcliffe on Trent public realm improvement scheme (£9,000).
- 7.2. Funding has also been allocated to provide the Shop Front Improvement Grant. This is match funding for local high street businesses up to a maximum of £5,000 for improvements to their shop fronts. In total £45,000 has been allocated to this budget. There is approximately £15,000 remaining in that budget but approximately £12,000 of this is allocated to businesses subject to them completing the work and invoicing us within the required timeframes. Therefore, there is only £3,000 left in this budget.
- 7.3. The Economic Growth Team has been providing support to other areas of the Borough, most notably Ruddington, in the last few months. These areas are working proactively to ensure that their high streets remain vibrant and it is therefore suggested that the Shop Front Improvement Grant allocation is extended by a further £20,000 from the Strategic Growth Board fund and made available to all high streets in Rushcliffe. This would leave £16,000 in

the Strategic Growth Board budget. This is for review and agreement by the Strategic Growth Board.

- 7.4. The following table provides a summary of the proposals for the finances subject to agreement by the Strategic Growth Board:

	Strategic Growth Board	Shop Front Improvement Grant
Current budget remaining	£78,000	£15,000
Provisional allocations	Bingham Town Council (subject to match) - £25,000 Melton Road - £8,000 Radcliffe on Trent - £9,000	£12,000 split across four businesses
Proposal	£20,000 move to Shop front Improvement Grant	+£20,000 to support extension of budget to whole Borough
Remaining budget	£16,000	£23,000

8. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

- 8.1. The option to add additional Boards in other areas of the Borough was considered; however, these areas are being supported by the Economic Growth Team as required. There is no need for the formal structure of a Growth Board to ensure these areas are supported.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Other areas of the Borough may want Growth Boards establishing; however, support is being provided to them in different ways.

10. Implications

10.1. Financial Implications

The proposed changes to the Strategic Growth Board budget and Shop Front Improvement Grant budgets are covered in Section 7 of the report.

10.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

10.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications.

10.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no crime and disorder implications.

11. Link to Corporate Priorities

Developing a programme of Growth Boards is a strategic task to support the delivery of the corporate priority of delivering economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy.

12. Recommendations

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Background papers available for Inspection:	
List of appendices:	