

To: City Executive Board

Date: 23rd July 2008

Item No:

Report of: Head of Community Housing and Community Development

Title of Report: Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook - Development Issues

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To advise the City Executive Board of the recommendation from the South East Area Committee that a Steering Group be created to take forward the work required to regenerate Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook.

Executive lead member: Councillor Bob Price

Report Approved by:

Finance: Andy Collett

Legal: Lindsay Cane

Policy Framework:

Improve the local environment, economy and quality of life

Recommendation: The City Executive Board is recommended to approve the creation of a Steering Group to take forward the regeneration of Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook, and to delegate to the Executive Director for Regeneration the approval of appropriate levels of staff and budgetary support.

1. BACKGROUND

In May 2008 the South East Area Committee agreed to recommend to City Executive Board (CEB) the following:

That CEB should be asked to create structures to progress regeneration initiatives with appropriate partners in Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys.

2. Blackbird Leys Regeneration

Officers have been considering the possibilities for the regeneration of Blackbird Leys taking in to account the following:

- The South East Plan and the possibility of an urban extension of 4,000 dwellings on the southern edge of Oxford off Grenoble Road
- The Core Strategy which looks at how Oxford should plan for and manage growth and development over a 20 year period to 2026
- The need to review community and leisure facilities in the area, and to develop football provision
- The need to develop Blackbird Leys as a neighbourhood shopping centre
- The need to review options for the redevelopment of the tower blocks
- The need to tackle deprivation in the area
- Options for partnership working with Registered Social Landlords and others, perhaps to include Cherwell Valley College, Peers Academy and the County Council

There is now a need to set up a Steering Group with appropriate terms of reference to take forward this work, and to commission feasibility studies in to development options. Such a group will need a budget to enable it to operate effectively, and officer support.

Further discussions are necessary to establish exactly which organisations are to be represented on the Group, the name of the Group, and the frequency of meetings. If the City Executive Board can agree the principle, the operational details can be worked out later by the Group itself, with authority delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration to agree appropriate budgetary and staff support.

Recommendations from the Steering Group can then be considered by the South East Area Committee or City Executive Board as appropriate.

Any implications for risk, climate change and equalities can be reviewed as the work of the group progresses.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Executive Board is recommended to approve the creation of a Steering Group to take forward the regeneration of Blackbird Leys and

Northfield Brook, and to delegate to the Executive Director for Regeneration the approval of appropriate levels of staff and budgetary support

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Background papers: None

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