

# Executive Decision Report

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## **Ashton Green – Highway Infrastructure Programme**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 19 December 2018

Lead director: Andrew L Smith

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**City Mayor**

## **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: Beaumont Leys
- Report author: Geoff Mee
- Author contact details: x37 2975
- Report version number: v4 final

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to approve a highway infrastructure programme of works in support of the Ashton Green development, funded through a Housing Infrastructure Fund grant from Homes England.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The City Mayor is asked to;
- a) Approve a £10m programme of highway infrastructure works in support of the Ashton Green development following confirmation of 100% grant funding from Homes England via the Housing Infrastructure (Marginal Viability) Fund.
  - b) Approve the addition of the works to the capital programme, fully funded by Government grant.
  - c) Approve the entering into a Grant Determination Agreement with Homes England for the drawn down of funding on a quarterly basis until the grant expires on 31 March 2021.

## **3. Supporting information including options considered:**

- 3.1 In February 2018, Homes England announced that the Council had been successful in bidding for up to £10m of grant funding from the Marginal Viability Fund of the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). The announcement was part of a first tranche of national funding of £866m to unlock 200,000 homes across 133 council-led projects.
- 3.2 The basis of the £10m of funding bid for Ashton Green is to provide new highway infrastructure of circa 2.8km to unlock and accelerate the delivery of additional 40 ha of residential development land for up 1,080 housing units.
- 3.3 The HIF grant funding will provide for the construction cost (and professional fees) of the main roads to open up development parcels in the village centre and eastern edge of the site .

3.4 The initial highway design process commenced in July 2018. A reserved matters planning application submission is anticipated early in 2019. Construction is due to start later in 2019.

#### **4. Details of Scrutiny**

4.1 The Ashton Green development scheme has previously been considered through the planning process including at Planning Committee and this highway infrastructure programme will be subject to the same process prior to determining the reserved matters planning application.

#### **5. Financial, legal and other implications**

##### 5.1 Financial implications

5.1.1 The report proposes the addition of £10m to the approved capital programme for highway infrastructure works at Ashton Green, funded by Government grant.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

##### 5.2 Legal implications

5.2.1 As the grant is provided by Homes England the Council will be required to comply with the grant conditions including any relating to evidence of spend and clawback, The works will be subject to the appropriate planning and other consents being obtained and complied with. Procurement of works will need to be in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

John McIvor  
Principal Lawyer ext. 37-1409

##### 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

5.3.1 This road forms part of the overall package of transport measures for the Ashton Green development, and will therefore meet the requirements of the

site's Travel Plan, which aims to maximise low-carbon transport usage in the development.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37, 2284

#### 5.4 Equalities Implications

5.4.1 An equality impact assessment was prepared in support of the original outline planning application in 2010.

#### 5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

#### **6. Background information and other papers:**

None.

#### **7. Summary of appendices:**

None.

#### **8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

#### **9. Is this a "key decision"?**

Yes

#### **10. If a key decision please explain reason**

Spending of over £1m capital expenditure is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.