

REPORT TO: STRATEGY AND RESOURCES

Date: 5.8.19

TOPIC: BARNSTAPLE VISION

REPORT BY: MICHAEL TICHFORD

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lavigne Lonsdale have been appointed to prepare a Vision for Barnstaple, and have completed Phase 1 of the work, involving a benchmarking exercise pulling together the existing work within the town and their immediate thoughts.
- 1.2 This initial piece of work is attached to this report for ease of reference and for any comments.
- 1.3 Procurement of Phase 2/3 will now start, to cover consultation and engagement with stakeholders and with the wider community.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note progress on the preparation of a future Vision for Barnstaple.
- 2.2 That members approve a budget of up to £40,000 to be funded from the Economic Development earmarked reserve.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 A Vision for Barnstaple is needed to ensure that the projects currently underway and those being brought forward in future are co-ordinated and that a cohesive approach is taken to regeneration initiatives within the town.
- 3.2 Community engagement is essential to this process to understand how the local community want their town to develop and grow in future, and what their priorities are. Without their support the regeneration initiatives will not succeed.

4 REPORT

- 4.1 The first phase of work on a Vision for Barnstaple has been completed by Lavigne Lonsdale. This report brings together existing work and provides a benchmark and some initial ideas from the consultants as to the way forward and the issues faced. A copy of the report is attached for comment.

4.2 Phase 2 will involve stakeholder consultation, including partner organisations represented on the Strategic Programme Board, and Phase 3 will encompass wider consultation with the community. As a sub-regional centre the success of Barnstaple has an impact across North Devon and the approach to consultation and engagement will need to reflect this.

4.3 Lavigne Lonsdale were selected for the initial work partly because of the strength of their community engagement in similar work they have carried out across the South West, including in Truro. They will be invited to bid for Stage 2/3 but because of the likely fees involved an open tender will be required.

4.4 There is an opportunity for Barnstaple Town Council to join in on Phase 3, to include consultation on their proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Discussions with the Town Council on this point are ongoing.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Economic Development will provide resource to manage the project, working with partner organisations, including the County and Town Councils and others represented on the Strategic Programme Board. Resource will also be needed from NDC Estates, Finance and Legal.

5.2 An internal Project Board will be established to ensure that work is delivered efficiently, and that the various teams involved are kept informed of progress. Further update reports will be provided as the project progresses.

5.3 A fee in the region of £40,000 is anticipated for phases 2/3 of the Vision work.

6 EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1 There are/are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report.

7 CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Article or Appendix and paragraph	Referred or delegated power?

8 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1 This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Barnstaple Vision document (Phase 1)

The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

10 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

10.1 The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.

Author: Sally Nelson
Reference: Document5

Date: 11.7.2019