

# **South Derbyshire Partnership**

## **Report to the Board**

Date of Meeting: 8 October 2010

Agenda Item: 11

### **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **Recommendations**

- Note progress on the Infrastructure Development Plan
- Note the capacity of both the Infrastructure Development Group and the Board to facilitate joint projects.

#### **Purpose of Report**

This report provides an update for board members on the work of the Infrastructure Development Group and seeks partners' views on next steps.

#### **Background**

South Derbyshire is a fast-growing District and the South Derbyshire Partnership has previously recognised the need to develop a joined-up approach to both the provision of new infrastructure and investment in partners' capital assets. The Partnership is ideally placed to oversee such an approach.

Board Members will recall that an Infrastructure Development Group (IDG) was therefore established to support the Partnership, following a discussion led by independent consultant Janice Morphet in January 2010. The IDG draws from the LSP partner organisations and is supported by officers in the District Council's Planning and Leisure Services departments.

The Group is looking at two specific inter-linked areas of work:

1. Drawing up an agreed Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and
2. Identifying opportunities for concerted investment in our land and property assets

The Group has met twice since being established in March 2010. Progress is as follows:

#### **Progress and Current Activities:**

##### **1. Drawing up an Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP)**

An IDP is required to support the Council's local plan (known formally as the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy). Its purpose is to identify the social, environmental and green infrastructure needed to service the scale of future housing

growth being planned for. The IDP will need to specify who will pay for new infrastructure, particularly partner organisations and developers, thereby highlighting any shortfalls in funding. This document will, therefore, be essential in providing the justification for seeking developer contributions towards new services and facilities.

The emerging LDF was, until recently, planning for a minimum of 12,000 new homes. However, the Coalition Government has recently abolished regional house building targets and this figure will need to be re-assessed. Nevertheless, whilst there is less certainty over the growth strategy, it is clear that the District will continue to grow.

In terms of progressing the IDP, partners have provided some base information and officers supporting the group are holding one-to-one meetings with individual partners to identify gaps in current or future service provision.

## **2. Opportunities for Concerted Investment**

Partners have been discussing ways in which our respective land and property assets may be shared to achieve the facilities that will be needed to meet the future needs of South Derbyshire's residents. This is becoming increasingly important in the context of the squeeze on public sector resources and the 'Total Place' approach to providing public services.

Through discussions, it appears that there is considerable scope for such opportunities in South Derbyshire, for example the development of purpose-built premises for a range of local services in Swadlincote Town Centre. Both the Infrastructure Development Group and the Board can provide practical forums for disseminating information to partners regarding such joint projects. These forums will also be able to serve as a 'think tank' for potential new schemes. The IDG therefore provides partners with the opportunity to explore new, more efficient ways of working and increases awareness of each other's plans so that opportunities are not missed.

### Next Steps

- 1) Regarding the IDP, one-to-one meetings with partners will need to continue into next year as our revised vision for growth becomes clearer. Important announcements from Government are also awaited on a range of matters affecting this work, including a new approach to levying infrastructure charges on development.
- 2) On joint projects, the IDG and the Board may facilitate sharing information early enough in the planning stage to enable efficiencies through joint working to be achieved. Partners may highlight priorities from their own strategies, for example Sports Strategies, as they arise so that common goals can be identified and realised.