

# ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## Agenda Item 24

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Technology Strategy Board: Future Cities Demonstrator – Brighton &amp; Hove City Council Feasibility Study and Bid</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17 October 2012</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Strategic Director Place</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Emma McDermott</b>	<b>Tel: 29-6805</b>
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>		
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Council has successfully secured £50,000 from the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) to carry out a feasibility study on integrating city systems and producing a bid for £24m of grant funding to be used to fund demonstration projects which show how the integration of different city systems can be used to deliver a strong local economy, improve citizens quality of life, reduce the city's ecological footprint and increase its resilience to environmental change.
- 1.2 The feasibility study and bid must be submitted by 14 November 2012. Brighton and Hove is one of thirty cities competitively bidding to be the sole beneficiary of the £24m funding allocation. If successful, the funding would need to be spent by March 2015.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Environment & Sustainability Committee:

- 2.1 Grant delegated authority to the Strategic Director Place to finalise the feasibility study and, if considered appropriate, submit a bid for grant funding under the large scale Future Cities Demonstrator competition.
- 2.3 Note the progress on this project to date.

#### 3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) is an executive non-departmental public body, established by the Government in 2007 and sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

- 3.2 At the Eco Technology Show in June this year, the TSB approached the city council to submit a proposal for feasibility funding under their Future Cities Large Scale Demonstrator initiative. The council's proposals, set out in Appendix 1, were submitted on 5 July 2012 and an award of feasibility funding was confirmed on 1 August 2012. During August the council canvassed a range of organisations (public, private and third sector) to register their interest in being involved in developing potential projects for inclusion in the feasibility study and bid. At the end of August a briefing session was held with over 30 participants setting out the timescales, project governance and process for delivering the feasibility study and the bid.
- 3.3 Consistent with TSB eligibility criteria, the £50,000 of feasibility funding is being used to:
- Acquire a project manager
  - Appoint a technical consultant to produce the feasibility study and final bid;
  - Support development of work packages.
- 3.4 The initiative is being supported by the Corporate Policy, Economic Development and Sustainability teams, with input from teams across the council, for example, transport and tourism as well as from public health colleagues. An external project manager (Julia Reddaway) has been appointed to provide the required capacity to ensure the council as the accountable and lead body delivers a viable feasibility study and bid in the short timescale set by the TSB. The Real Economy has been appointed as the technical consultant to produce the feasibility study and the bid which includes evaluating and developing the detailed system integration projects required for the bid. A project board with cross party representation and representatives from the key city partnership is being convened although due to tight timescales they are likely to meet only twice to comment on the first draft and the final draft of the study and bid. However, there will be electronic communication through the process with board members.
- 3.5 The council's initial proposal is summarised as:  
'Towards a One Planet Super City: Embracing and stimulating business and community innovation in designing and managing city systems that drive economic prosperity, health and social well being within the principles of an accredited sustainable development methodology - One Planet Living - accessible and visible to a wide range of audiences and with global appeal.'
- 3.6 The city systems the council has initially proposed to integrate are broad ranging and include:
- Engagement system;
  - Creative & digital economy system;
  - Tourism & visitor systems;
  - Infrastructure systems - energy, development, housing & transport systems;
  - Food & public health systems.
- 3.7 The TSB has produced further guidance for the feasibility study and final bid submission. There is clearly a strong emphasis on 'market making' for new

technology for businesses involved in city management. The guidance also requires us to:

- describe the city systems that we propose to integrate and explain how these will help to deliver the city vision;
- show the integration of multiple systems in novel ways;
- tackle specific challenges in the host city;
- describe the approach that we will take to integrating the city systems and explain how the impact of integrating the city systems will be measured and how success will be judged;
- have the potential for a large impact on the economy, quality of life and environmental impact of the city;
- combine recent or current investment in city infrastructure with the demonstrator funding to create a more effective test environment;
- detail how the demonstration project will link to, add value to, and make more effective use of existing projects underway, or recently completed, to effectively leverage the demonstrator funding;
- provide a platform that allows innovative companies, particularly SMEs, to test their ideas;
- offer the potential for innovations in how services are delivered;
- have the potential for further development and use beyond the initial two years of funding;
- explain how we will engage with and involve the people of our city and the business community in the demonstrator;
- Specify how systems integration will help achieve a 'one planet city'.

#### **4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The timescales for the bid are very challenging in terms of the technical submission and the ability to engage the local community. That said, the council has sought to publicise the bid opportunity and has scheduled open briefing sessions, the first of these having taken place on 29 August.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Council was successful in its bid to the Technology Strategy Board to secure funding of £50,000 to carry out a feasibility study on integrating city systems. The council is required to complete the feasibility and failure to do so will require the funding to be repaid to the TSB. The outcome of the feasibility may result in a bid being submitted for grant funding of up to £24.0m to fund demonstration projects throughout the city. The Council is not obliged to submit a final bid, should it be determined that the proposals are not sufficiently robust or manageable in terms of financial or reputational risk to the Council.

The feasibility funding requires no match funding but must meet the following criteria:

- be incurred between the project start and end dates.
- can include Labour Costs, Overheads, Materials Consumed, Capital Equipment, Sub-contracts, Consultancy Fees (including Fees for Trial and Testing).

It is proposed that the £50,000 feasibility funding will be used to appoint a project manager, a technical consultant and support development of the work packages. Preparation of the feasibility will also require officer support.

The Strategic Director of Place will consult with the Acting Chief Executive, the Acting Director of Finance and the Chair of Environment & Sustainability on any potential financial liabilities to the Council arising from proposals for the final bid.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen*

*Date: 27/9/12*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The council is permitted to submit a Future Cities Demonstrator bid using its general power of competence.

The Environment and Sustainability Committee is the appropriate council body to agree the recommendations in this report, exercising its function of co-ordinating the council's role and response to cross-cutting sustainability issues.

*Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon*

*Date: 25/09/12*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equalities impact will be considered as part of the feasibility study when exploring how the integration of city systems will improve the quality of citizens lives.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The feasibility bid headlines the council's commitment to using the One Planet Living framework. This is consistent with the bidding guidance which is seeking to allocate the funding to an initiative which delivers a strong local economy and excellent quality of life, whilst reducing the ecological footprint and increasing resilience to environmental change.

Business impact

- 5.5 The potential of these will be determined in the final bid.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 None specific at this stage.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 The bid must sets out a structured approach to risk management and include an initial risk register.

- 5.8 The chances of success are 1:30. Should the final bid be unsuccessful there is an intention to re-use proposals in other guises including the refresh of the city's economic strategy and other emerging funding opportunities.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.9 An initial expression of interest to work up a proposal has been signalled by the food partnership working in collaboration with the NHS.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.10 The Council has an important facilitating role to play in supporting submission of a bid that offers economic, social and environmental benefits to the city.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 The feasibility process designed by the council, allows for a range of proposals to be submitted from interested parties across the city and beyond and to be evaluated and shortlisted for the final bid.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 To seek the approval of the Committee for the Strategic Director Place to finalise the feasibility study and final bid submissions and to ensure Members of the Committee are able to influence the bid and be informed of the process.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Brighton & Hove Feasibility Funding Submission

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

TSB Bidding Guidance.

**Background Documents**

None.

