

Report to:	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader's Portfolio		
Date of meeting:	23rd September 2019		
Report of:	Director of Place	Report number:	ECMDL/667
Contact officer:	Jas Hundal Assistant Director of Economic Development & Regeneration	Telephone number	01204331017
Report title:	Allocation of Funds to Horwich Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group		
Not confidential			
This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.			
PDG reports – Not for wider circulation			
Purpose:	Seek approval to the allocation of £100,000 to Horwich Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group from the sale of land at Singleton Avenue.		
Recommendations:	The Executive Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the recommendations of the report.		
Decision:			
Background documents:	None		
Signed:	Leader/Executive Cabinet Member	Monitoring Officer	
Date:			

Consultation with other officers		
Finance	Yes/No	Insert name
Legal	Yes/No	Insert name
HR	Yes/No	Insert name
Equality Impact Assessment required?	Yes/No	
(a) Pre-consultation reports Is there a need to consult on the proposals?		Yes/No
(b) Post consultation reports Please confirm that the consultation response has been taken into consideration in making the recommendations.		Yes/No
Vision outcomes Please identify the appropriate Vision outcome(s) that this report relates or contributes to by putting a cross in the relevant box.	1. Start Well	
	2. Live Well	X
	3. Age Well	
	4. Prosperous	X
	5. Clean and Green	
	6. Strong and Distinctive	

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Town centres across the UK are facing challenges to their future prosperity and viability.
- 1.2 In response to the challenges facing Bolton's town centres, the Council has approved a funding package of £16 million in the large town centres, specifically to target investment in Farnworth, Horwich, Westhoughton and Little Lever. In addition, the Council is seeking additional funds from the Government through initiatives such as Future High Streets Fund to sustain the future of town centres for the prosperity of the borough and its residents.
- 1.3 In addition to the above, the Council is committed to securing suitable development sites to meet the housing needs of its communities in order to ensure there is a good supply of affordable and quality homes across the borough.
- 1.4 Invariably housing developments cause concerns amongst communities on matters such as traffic, environment and loss of public amenities. This was evidenced in the recent proposal to dispose of the land at Singleton Avenue. Many representations were made based on loss of green/recreational space, over development of Horwich for housing, traffic, environmental concerns and detrimental impact on health and wellbeing.
- 1.5 Elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting is the decision to dispose of the land in question following referral the Cabinet, in order to provide much needed housing and capital receipts.

2. ISSUES

- 2.1 It is recognised that loss of publicly owned land for housing developments in some cases causes local concerns even though the wider needs of the Council may prevail in the final decision.

3. MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 If the report on the sale of Singleton Avenue land is approved, in recognition of the representations made in this case, it is proposed to allocate a sum of £100,000 to alleviate some of the concerns expressed by local people. This measure will offer some mitigation and benefits to local communities from the sale. Similar policy approach may be used in future on a case by case basis.
- 3.2 This sum will be available to the Horwich Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group as a part of the masterplan for the area.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 There are not realistic alternative options if the concerns of local communities arising from loss of publicly owned land are to be mitigated in a meaningful way.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial

5.1 Allocating the sum of £100,000, as proposed, will reduce the net capital receipt due to be receive from the sale of Singleton Avenue. To meet their budgetary targets, an equivalent sum will need to be recouped from further asset sales or, alternatively, capital expenditure will need to be reduced by an equivalent amount.

5.2 Legal: None

5.3 HR: None

5.4 Other : None

6. EIA - None

7. CONSULTATION

None

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader' Portfolio is recommended to approve the allocation of £100,000 form the sales proceeds from Singleton Avenue as set out in the report.