

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Nick Gowrley Leader and Cabinet Member for Assets and Investment	Report Number: CMU3
To: Council	Date of meeting: 21 December 2017

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ASSETS AND INVESTMENT

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 Property investment to generate income and regenerate local areas
- 1.2 Making best use of land and buildings across the Suffolk system
- 1.3 Manage our corporate assets effectively

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Regeneration of the Needham Market Headquarters Site

- 3.1 The proposals for the regeneration of the Hurstlea Road headquarters site are progressing. In October the design team presented early options to the Sounding Board (Ward Members, County Councillor, Leader of the Council and Needham Market Mayor). Comments and views from the Sounding Board were taken forward to the next stage of work.
- 3.2 In January, the design team will be presenting the recommended option for regeneration to all Members and Needham Market Town Council for comments and views. Engagement events with residents and other groups of interested people will follow in late January/early February.
- 3.2 The final recommended option will be presented to Council in February for debate and Cabinet for approval in early March. A planning application will be submitted following Cabinet approval in March.

4. Affordable Housing Development Programme

- 4.1 The Councils have appointed Icen Homes as their development partner. Icen Homes have considerable experience in delivering affordable housing programmes in partnership.
- 4.2 Icen are working with officers to bring forward an ambitious programme of housing development. Early focus is on the sites acquired from Suffolk County Council, these are; Needham Market Middle School, Stowmarket Middle School and Paddock House Eye.
- 4.3 Early feasibility work, including financial appraisals, planning appraisal and surveys are nearing completion. This will enable the team to consider the options for the sites.

These developments will be undertaken through the Affordable Housing Development Strategy which seeks to maximise affordable housing provision within a set of approved, delegated financial, investment and development parameters.

- 4.4 It is proposed that following a period of engagement with Members, Town Councils, residents and other interested groups of people, planning applications will be submitted in the spring 2018 with start on sites anticipated late summer 2018.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The essential, behind the scenes work, which is required to support the development of options for regeneration of the headquarters and housing development sites has been significant. With this work nearing completion officers will begin a period of engagement during which options and designs will be shared.

Authorship: Councillor Nick Gowrley