

## **Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 Acceptance of funding from the Office of Government Property (OGP) in the Cabinet Office £0.500m and associated delegated approvals to apply the funding

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve accepting funding from the Office of Government Property (OGP) in the Cabinet Office of £0.500m as outlined in section 4 below.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Communities and Place to allocate the funding in line with the OGP terms of funding, as outlined in section 4 below.
- 2.3 To approve the creation of a specific earmarked reserve and approve the transfer of the £0.500m OGP funding to this reserve.
- 2.4 To approve the use of the OGP earmarked reserve as appropriate in line with the OGP terms of funding.

### **Reasons**

- 3.1 To comply with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules.

### **Supporting information**

#### **4.1 Background**

In 2013 OGP entered a partnership with the LGA (Local Government Association) to deliver efficiencies across the government estate and release land for housing. These projects were administered under the umbrella name of One Public Estate (OPE).

OGP oversees the strategic direction of public sector land and estate across the Government Property Function. It supports the government and wider public sector to manage their estate more efficiently and effectively. The LGA is the national membership body for local authorities, providing them with a voice with national government.

In Autumn 2023, OGP approached the Council and informed Officers that Derby had been identified as one of 5 Place Pilots and asked the Council to work with them to identify opportunities to realise efficiencies across the public sector estate in the city.

## 4.2 Place Pilots

Place Pilots offers an opportunity to build on the strengths of the One Public Estate programme and pilot a place-based approach to strategic asset management. The programme will deliver not only efficiencies across the public estate, but also unlock opportunities to release land held by central and local Government. The focus on Place aligns with the Government's Growth Plan ambitions and supports wider local and central governmental priorities such as Levelling Up, Net Zero, economic recovery and will address the need for housing.

The outcomes of the Derby Place Pilot will be:

- Joint portfolio planning in the context of local needs and ambitions by bringing together multiple public estate owners, under joint local and central government leadership
- A stronger focus on place embedded into strategic asset management planning by mapping future estate demand alongside key growth and opportunity areas
- Efficiency, value, and optimised investment across the public estate and better public services from identifying opportunities for co-location, disposals, relocations, land assembly and other multi-portfolio collaboration
- Developing recommendations that can be replicated and scaled up to drive future uptake of a place-based approach across departmental and public sector estate strategies and different scale of place, by testing new approaches.

The impact of the Place Pilot will be:

- A smaller, greener and more efficient public estate
- Accessible and joined up public services
- An ongoing commitment to collaborate across the public estate

4.3 The Council will receive a grant of **£0.500m** for all Place Pilot activity. This could support a combination of the following, depending on local needs:

- Data analysis and mapping
- Feasibility Studies
- Master planning
- Seed funding to initiate project opportunities
- Programme coordination

The Council's plans for using the grant funding will be subject to the approval of the OGP. All grant monies will need to be spent within 18 months of the grant being made (with any unspent monies returned to OGP).

## Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 A key purpose of the Place Pilot is to bring together multiple public sector estate owners from across the city to work together to explore opportunities and plan strategically. Initially this will be through a series of workshops, facilitated by the OGP, the first of which is due to be held on 20 March 2023.

## Other options

- 6.1 **Not participate in the Place Pilot programme:** this option is not recommended as the Council would miss the opportunity to work in a facilitated way with public sector estate holders across the city to rationalise assets, explore opportunities for leveraging the public sector estate to drive regeneration and improve collaboration.

## Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 A revenue grant of £0.500m has been awarded to the City Council as part of the Place Pilot Programme which brings together multiple public sector estate owners from across the city to work to explore opportunities and plan strategically.

The Council's plans for using the grant funding will be subject to the approval of the OGP. All grant monies will need to be spent within 18 months of the grant being made (with any unspent monies returned to OGP). There are no match funding commitments required from the City Council or its partners.

## Legal implications

- 8.1 Legal advice and support will be obtained as appropriate in considering and agreeing the terms of the MOU (memorandum of understanding) between the OGP, LGA and the Council.
- 8.2 Legal advice will be obtained where required as the Place Pilot programme is developed.

## Climate implications

- 9.1 Climate Change implications will be reviewed as appropriate in each circumstance, as new opportunities are developed.

## Socio-Economic implications

- 10.1 Socio-economic implications will be reviewed as appropriate in each circumstance, as new opportunities are developed.

## Other significant implications

- 11.1 Not applicable

This report has been approved by the following people:

<b>Legal</b>	Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	13/02/2023
<b>Finance</b>	Alison Parkin, Director of Financial Services	13/02/2023
<b>Service Director(s):</b>		
<b>Report sponsor</b>		
<b>Other(s)</b>	Toni Nash, Head of Finance	14/02/2023

**Background papers:** n/a  
**List of appendices:** n/a