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Report to: Land and Assets Panel

Date: 5 January 2018

Subject: One Public Estate (OPE) Update – Phase 6

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Land and Assets Panel with an update on the results of the partnership bid for Phase 6 funding to the One Public Estate (OPE) Programme.

2 Information

- 2.1 OPE is an established national programme delivered in partnership by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit (GPU) and the Local Government Association (LGA). It provides practical and technical support and funding to councils to deliver ambitious property-focused programmes in collaboration with central government and other public sector partners. OPE partnerships across the country have shown the value of working together across the public sector and taking a strategic approach to asset management. At its heart, the programme is about getting more from collective assets - whether that's catalysing major service transformation such as health and social care integration and benefits reform; unlocking land for new homes and commercial space; or creating new opportunities to save on running costs or generate income.
- 2.2 To date through phases 4 and 5 the partnership covering the west Yorkshire authorities has been successful in attracting £685,000 in grant funding. The Districts of Craven, Harrogate and Selby have now joined the OPE programme and WYCA partnership. Bring the number of districts from the Leeds City region in the partnership to 8, with Barnsley working with the South Yorkshire Partnership.
- 2.3 The Phase 6 OPE Prospectus was delayed due to the June General Election, the opportunity to bid for the OPE phase 6 funding given a closing date for submissions of the 3rd of November 2017. At its meeting on the 13th of October the Land and Asset Panel was provided with an update on the process of submitting the Phase 6 Expression of Interest and business case. It had previously been agreed that the Land and Assets Panel Chair in liaison with the City Region Chief Executive lead for housing and planning and the WYCA Managing Director agree the final submission for endorsement and submission by the WYCA by the submission deadline date.

Phase 6 Expression of interest and Business Case Development

- 2.4 Phase 6 funding allocations will be relatively small in scale given the national nature of the programme, it is expected to be a highly competitive process with a OPE funding pot of only £9m nationally. Of which £7m is grant funding and £2m on the basis of loan funding.
- 2.5 In addition, DCLG have a Land Release fund with a national pot of £24m capital funding in 2017/2018 and a further £21m capital in 2018/2019. This is available to bring forward local authority owned housing sites.
- 2.6 A number of Phase 6 bid workshops have been coordinated by the Combined Authority in order to coordinate the submission. These took place on the 17th of August, 20th of September and finally the 17th of October. This enabled the final draft OPE Phase 6 submission to be ready for sign off by the 1st of November and to be made by the deadline on the 3rd of November 2017. All workshops were well attended by Local Authorities across the City Region and by the Cabinet office and LGA.
- 2.7 Susan Betts of the Cabinet Office and Michael O'Doherty of the Local Government Association have been able to outline, summarise and discuss the Phase 6 funding round priorities at these workshops. The aim has been to provide a more strategic approach across the city region through Phase 6, bringing projects in the programme together into a more strategic package.
- 2.8 The submission developed over the workshops and in separate discussion with the districts was based on three strategic themes:
- Theme 1 - Accelerating the development of new homes – bringing forwards stalled housing developments and a package of small sites via the Land Release Fund.
 - Theme 2 – New uses for vacant spaces, utilising vacant public sector space in towns and cities.
 - Theme 3 – integrated services, delivering public sector transformation.

Phase 6 Submission Summary

- 2.9 The table below summarises the funding requested in the 3rd of November submission to the Cabinet Office and Local Government Association. The request for £1,673,375 from the Land Release Fund is for two discrete phases of the small housing sites project across the City Region and a specific Selby project.
- 2.10 The total OPE request for £558,000 is for projects across 5 districts for Phase 6 and includes 3 new partners – Craven, Harrogate and Selby. All funding is to be spent by March 2019 with a number of our projects seeking funding for 2017/18. A decision is expected on the funding allocations in the week commencing the 11th of December 2017.

2.11 OPE Phase 6 funding requests

Partner	Project	Brief description	OPE request	LRF request
Theme 1 – accelerating new homes				
WYCA	Unlocking housing sites	Programme of remediation and infrastructure work needed to unlock housing sites that are stalled housing sites across our partnership. Our programme approach will generate scale and efficiencies and will attract SMEs to delivery new homes.	£128,000	£1,673,375
Theme 2 – new uses for vacant spaces				
2 projects	Revitalised City and town centres	Options appraisal to find new uses for buildings vacated by the public sector, development of town centres	£65,000	
Theme 3 – integrated services				
4 projects across the City Region	Service Integration, delivering public sector transformation	Creation of a Health & Social Care village, integrated family services, assets mapping and feasibility / options appraisals	£275,000	
Programme management				
WYCA	Programme Management	Overall Programme Management of Phase 6 programme along with development work to expand scale and scope of OPE Group.	£90,000	
TOTAL			£558,000	£1,673,375

Interim Announcement

- 2.12 The interim announcement from the One Public Estate was that funding was in high demand, with bids totalling over £30m. It was confirmed on the 12 December 2017 that OPE Programme Board has awarded the **West Yorkshire Combined Authority Partnership** a total of **£160,000** for the 2017/18 financial year to support the delivery of OPE activity. At this stage there is no information on which elements of the submission this will fund.
- 2.13 A confirmation letter with feedback on the proposals and details of funding breakdown will follow.
- 2.14 A Memorandum of Understanding will be enclosed, which will need to be completed and returned before funding is released.

Applications

- 2.15 The number of applications to the Land Release Fund also exceeded expectations and as a result the assessment process has taken longer to complete than anticipated.
- 2.16 The Department for Communities and Local Government expects to announce LRF awards in the near future but no firm date has been provided.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Land and Asset Panel note the details of the Phase 6 funding submission from the partnership and the interim announcement from the One Public Estate.