

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C-050-2009/10
Date of meeting: 1 December 2014



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Planning Policy
Asset and Economic Development

Subject: London Stansted Cambridge Consortium Subscription

Responsible Officer: Glen Chipp (01992 564080).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) That the Council subscribes to the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium for the period 2014 – 2015;**
- (2) That in order to finance the LSCC subscription a virement in the sum of £10,000 from Planning Policy to Economic development is recommended to Council for approval; and**
- (3) That in order to finance the LSCC subscription in 2015/16 a Continuing Services Budget growth bid in the sum of £10,000 is recommended for consideration in the budget setting process.**

Executive Summary:

The Council is currently a member of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Consortium (LSCC). The Consortium consists of a number of public and private sector members with a common interest in promoting economic growth and investment across a corridor stretching from London in the South to Cambridge in the North.

The Consortium works collaboratively to;

- Promote the growth of existing business and encourage new businesses into the area.
- Support diversification of the UK economy focussing on key sectors such as food production, bio-medical, logistics, leisure, IT, media and the growth of low carbon technology.
- Lobby for improved levels of investment, especially in transport, IT and social infrastructure.
- Support innovation and facilitate knowledge transfer to improve productivity.
- Raise skill levels to get more people into work, especially young people through apprenticeships and other work based training.

The Consortium provides a strong voice to lobby for investment in key enabling infrastructure which is critical to the Council's developing economic strategy.

The subscription for 2014-2015 is £10,000 which provides the Council with a seat for an EFDC representative on the LSCC Board.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To retain a seat on the LSCC Board and continue to influence the LSCC agenda in support of the Council's Economic Development Strategy. The LSCC currently lends gravitas to our key transport and technology infrastructure funding requests as well as working with our Higher Educational establishments to promote the development of skills which support people into work.

Other Options for Action:

To resign from the LSCC and allow others to set the LSCC agenda without input would risk key priorities for the council being downgraded or even dropped from the Consortium's agenda.

To lobby in isolation outside of the Consortium would reduce the influence we can bring to bear on potential sources of funding.

Report:

1. The principal objective of the Consortium is to drive economic development and enhance quality of life in the London – Stansted – Cambridge corridor. This involves driving job growth through productivity and investment but more importantly increasing economic activity by enabling local communities to access employment opportunities.

2. There are a number of work streams under way to support these core objectives:

- Advocacy: Supporting the area in Westminster and Whitehall;
- Rail: LSCC has led on ensuring investment into the West Anglia line;
- Stansted: Working with Manchester Airports Group to help the airport realise Stansted's full potential;
- Priority Infrastructure: Shared plan for major pieces of strategic infrastructure needed to drive economic development to form a platform to lobby for funds; and
- Skills: Working with colleagues and business to define the area's strategic skills and labour requirements.

3. Current membership of the consortium is set out in detail in the background papers but can be broadly split into the following groups:

- North London Chamber of Commerce, West Essex Alliance, Hertfordshire Chamber of commerce;
- London Boroughs of Enfield, Hackney, Haringey Islington, Redbridge and Waltham Forest;
- District Councils of Broxbourne, East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford;
- Principal further education Colleges; and

- Lee Valley Regional Park.

4. The Council has been represented on the LSCC board by the Leader and has been successful in making the case for key enabling improvements to the M11 being included on the Consortium's priority infrastructure list.

5. To fund ongoing activities all members have been asked to subscribe £10,000 each for 2014-15. The subscription secures a seat on the LSCC Board. As this amount is not budgeted, a virement from the local plan budget is requested and a CSB growth bid for the 2015-16 budget is required.

6. Membership is renewable annually and continued membership will give the Council a voice in a body that undoubtedly carries more influence with central Government than any individual Council in the area could aspire to.

Resource Implications:

The membership subscription is set at £10,000 per annum. The decision to remain as a member is reviewable on an annual basis.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The prior approval of the Cabinet is required for any virement, of whatever amount, where it is proposed to vire between budgets of different accountable Portfolio Holders.

The objectives of the Consortium fit well with the Economic Development aspirations of the Council and the Consortium has no delegated powers to commit the Council to any expenditure or particular course of action.

Membership can be terminated by discontinuing subscription and notifying the Board.

The subscriptions from members will be held and administered by the London Borough of Haringey on behalf of the consortium.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None identified.

Consultation Undertaken:

No consultation undertaken.

Background Papers:

Further information can be found on the Consortium's website <http://lsc.co>

1. Objectives of the LSCC
2. Members and LSCC protocol
3. Key Facts
 - People – Places Potential
 - Stansted Airport

- Enterprise Zones
 - Life Science
 - IT Digital and Media
4. Priority infrastructure

Risk Management:

There is minimal risk to the Council through membership of the LSCC. The policy position of the Consortium is set by the board and a seat on the board gives the Council a voice in setting policy. The other members are responsible bodies with a common interest in promoting the corridor. Membership is renewable annually.