

## Annex A: Joint Working Fund (Expression of Interest Template)

<b>Lead authority</b>	Nottingham City Council on behalf of the <b>Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board</b>	
<b>Partners involved</b>	Ashfield District Council Broxtowe Borough Council Erewash Borough Council Gedling Borough Council Nottingham City Council Rushcliffe Borough Council Derbyshire County Council Nottinghamshire County Council	
<b>Senior sign-off</b>	Paul Seddon, Chief Planner, Nottingham City Council, on behalf of the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board	
<b>Funding being applied for</b>	2017-18	2018-19
	£20,000	£53,000
<b><u>Summary of proposal</u></b>		
<p><b>Area covered:-</b> Nottingham Core Housing Market Area (HMA), including Broxtowe, Erewash, Gedling Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils, with strong links to the Hucknall part of Ashfield District (which is in the Nottingham Outer HMA).</p> <p><b>Nature of Joint Working:-</b> The grant will be used to support a review of the existing Aligned Core Strategies covering the HMA.</p> <p>The first element of support will be to provide evidence to ensure the HMA remains the appropriate geographic area over which to exercise strategic planning. This will enable the partner Councils to develop their growth strategy to take forward in the review of their Core Strategies with the confidence that the area covered can be robustly justified.</p> <p>The second element will be the appointment of a Programme Manager/Planner to support and lead the review of the Core Strategies, including coordinating a review of housing land availability in all the Councils' SHLAAs, and providing expertise and resources to enable the review to be undertaken in a timely manner.</p> <p><b>Strategic Planning Issues:-</b> The key strategic planning issues are the scale and distribution of housing and economic growth up to at least 2035. This will need to take into account significant Green Belt issues, other constraints such as flooding, environmental designations and the fact that Nottingham City cannot meet its housing need within its boundaries, and so will be relying on the wider HMA to ensure all need is met within the area. The HS2 Hub Station at Toton and its impact across both Nottingham and Derby HMAs is a key economic driver.</p> <p><b>Scale of ambition and how the award helps to achieve this:-</b> Preparing Aligned Core Strategies across 5 local authority areas and two County Councils is a</p>		

considerable challenge. The scale of growth is also very high (39,471 homes to 2028, and as yet unquantified beyond that date), and there is a need to consider the growth implications of the HS2 Hub. The review of Aligned Core Strategies will have to be undertaken in the context of extensive Green Belt, which is at its most sensitive between Nottingham and Derby, where demand for growth is expected to be significant due in part to the HS2 Hub. Even allowing for the coordinated review of each SHLAA to maximise delivery of housing on previously developed urban sites, the review of the Core Strategies is likely to entail significant uplift in housing requirements and delivery across the whole HMA.

#### **Specific activities and timetables**

**2017/18:**— commission a study to provide independent verification that the geographic area covered by the partner councils remains the most appropriate strategic planning unit. This will provide the examination of the Core Strategies the reassurance that housing need is being met across the most appropriate geography, thus saving Examination time. (Brief currently in preparation in anticipation of funding announcement).

February 2018 – seek tenders/quotes

February 2018 – appoint consultant (i.e. committed by end of 2017/18)

May/June 2018 – Final report received

Anticipated cost - £20,000

**2018/19:**— recruit a Project Manager Planner on a temporary 12 month contract to lead the preparation of Aligned Core Strategies, including the coordination of an HMA wide SHLAA review. It is anticipated that the post will be rolled forward subject to further support from future PDF rounds or other external funding. Experience from the preparation of the original Aligned Core Strategies demonstrates the importance of a dedicated resource (appointed to the appropriate seniority) to drive the process and liaise between the partner Councils.

Jan/Feb 2018 - Draft JD (version already exists from previous Core Strategy)

Mar/April 2018 - Appoint

May/June 2018 - Post Holder starts on 12 month contract

Ongoing - Seek other funding to enable the post to continue beyond 12 months

Anticipated cost - £53,000

**The total grant sought is therefore £73,000 (seventy three thousand pounds).**

#### **Impacts expected from funding**

The impact of the funding will be to significantly increase the speed at which the HMAs Core Strategies can be reviewed. In 2019 it will be 5 years since their adoption. Securing this funding will allow an accelerated programme to progress the new Aligned Core Strategies and therefore accelerate housing delivery.

The study of HMA boundaries (output) will provide certainty to the Councils and the Examination, thus saving Examination time and other resources (outcome). The measurement will be the publication of the report. The study will also

underpin continuing work on the Duty to Cooperate and the preparation of 'Statements of Common Ground'.

The Project Manager/Planner post (output) will speed up the preparation of Core Strategies (outcome) by ensuring there is a dedicated resource to progress the plan and liaise between the partner Councils, to lead on evidence base commissions, etc. If renewed beyond 12 months, the post will also have responsibility for organising and preparing joint evidence for the Examination. Progress will be measured by the appointment to the post, and by the progress of the Core Strategies against the Councils' Local Development Schemes.

**Assurance that there is strong commitment to joint working , and that any award will be spend in accordance with the award profile**

The HMA is covered by longstanding and effective joint working arrangements. The Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board (JPAB) was established in 2008, and consists of planning and transport lead Councillors from the constituent councils. The JPAB meets at least 4 times a year. It is supported by an officer group consisting of senior officers responsible for the planning functions of the constituent Councils, and its work is undertaken by the planning policy teams. The JPAB's Terms of Reference are appended to this bid as further evidence of our commitment to joint working.

It has a track record of delivery, having overseen the preparation of Aligned Core Strategies, which set out a coherent and consistent strategic planning framework for the area, and which were adopted in 2014, as well as the delivery of the former 'Growth Point' initiative, which had a capital budget in excess of £10,000,000. JPAB currently oversees the implementation of over £800,000 of HCA Capacity Funding. Nottingham City Council is the Accountable Body for JPAB and handles all the associated finances. Each future meeting of JPAB will receive a report on progress with the implementation of the grant, including spend profile and actions to be taken in the event of slippage.

**Assessment of risks to achieving the objectives of the proposal**

**Risk 1**

Given the shortage of planning skills, it is possible that the Project Manager/Planner post will prove difficult to fill.

**Mitigation**

Should there be no suitable applicant, the Councils may choose to fill the post via a secondment from one of the partners, which would enable job security to be provided beyond the term of the contract, and also provide a development opportunity within the HMA to increase strategic planning skills capacity.

**Risk 2**

The Study could conclude that a different strategic planning geography is appropriate, although the risk is considered low.

**Mitigation**

Ensure the Study Brief is appropriate. Greater Nottingham has a long standing and effective strategic planning partnership (JPAB), and established partnerships also already exist in the areas around Greater Nottingham.

**Risk3**

Unable to appoint consultants before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

**Mitigation**

Prepare Brief and seek approvals early. JPAB has control over its own budget which includes provision for carrying forward funding into future financial years.

**Does your bid rely on, or align with, other funding or initiatives from Government?**

JPAB successfully bid for £855,000 of HCA Large Sites and Housing Zones Capacity Fund. The grant is revenue funding, and is being used to support the development of housing on large sites (and clusters of sites) around the HMA, for instance through transport studies or masterplanning. The grant is administered by the City Council as accountable body for the JPAB, which receives regular reports on its implementation.

The area has also submitted a bid for to the HCA for Housing Investment Funding through Nottinghamshire County Council (“HS2 East Midlands: Toton Innovation Campus and a network of garden villages”). The focus of this Expression of Interest is to support the recently published East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy. A key component of this Strategy is the identification of two ‘Growth Zones’ in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The bid centres on delivering transformational levels of new housing in each of these Zones, both areas of high housing demand and preparing sites/supporting infrastructure for development which is linked by the HS2. The bid covers a wider geography, but includes the HMA and focuses on sites associated with the HS2 Hub station at Toton. The total bid is for £99,000,000, and an announcement on HIF funding is anticipated in February 2018.