

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 7 October 2019

Report Title: Churchfields Business Centre

Report By: Peter Grace
Assistant Director Financial Services & Revenues
(Chief Finance Officer)

Purpose of Report

To put forward a case for agreeing to increase the budget.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To agree to increase the budget from £2.8m to £3.3m subject to receiving £300,000 funding from Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART) Programme – Community led Local Development (CLLD)**

Reasons for Recommendations

As outlined in the body of the report the overall cost of development has increased at detailed design stage.

Introduction

1. At Cabinet on 4 March it was agreed to include Sidney Little Road Business Incubator Hub (now known as Churchfields Business Centre) within the Capital programme with an estimated budget, including fees, of £2.8m. This was subject to Local Growth Funding of £500,000 which has since been granted.

Economic/Financial Implications

2. The consultants have now worked up detailed designs and the estimated costs are now £3.3m.
3. This figure includes £300,000 worth of costs that we have made an application to Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART) Programme – Community led Local Development (CLLD). We hope to have a decision on this funding in October.
4. The increase in overall costs is mainly due to ecology and arboricultural measures which have arisen following detailed surveys and sustainability measures which are works required to achieve BREEAM excellent/very good for the CHART funding in addition to the £300,000.

Risk Management

5. Work is underway to close the funding gap by cost engineering and use of alternative budgets (e.g. solar panels funded by the energy income generation budget).

Environmental Issues

6. As detailed above measures will be included in line with ecology and arboricultural reports
7. Also sustainability measures will need to be included to obtain BREEAM excellent/very good.

Conclusion

- 8.

Timetable of Next Steps

9. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible

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Wards Affected

Hollington.

Implications

Relevant project tools applied? Yes/~~No~~

Have you checked this report for plain English and readability? Yes/~~No~~

Climate change implications considered? Yes/~~No~~

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Report to Cabinet 4 March 2019.

Officer to Contact

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