

SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL JOINT COMMITTEE

26 NOVEMBER 2009

SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL BUSINESS PLAN 2010/2011

Report from: Tony Van Veghel, Director, South Thames Gateway
Building Control Partnership

Summary

The report sets out revised proposals for the South Thames Gateway Building Control Draft Business Plan and seeks approval for the Business Plan to be sent to Partner authorities for approval.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Following presentation of the draft Business Plan at Joint Committee on 15 September 2009 the Plan has now been circulated for comments and Joint Committee is required to agree any revisions.

2. Background

2.1 The Joint Committee's Constitution sets out the process for approval of the Partnership's Business Plan each year and the timing required to ensure that each Partner Authority is able to incorporate associated budget requirements into the financial planning process for the subsequent year. The stages to this process are as follows:

- Before 1 October each year the Joint Committee is required to approve and send its draft Business Plan for the following year to each Partner Authority for comments
- Each Council has 35 days (from receipt) to provide comments to the Secretary of the Joint Committee on the draft Business Plan
- The Joint Committee is then required to meet to consider any comments received and agree any revisions to the draft Business Plan.
- By no later than 5 January the Joint Committee has to send a revised draft to each Partner Authority for their final approval.

- Each Partner Authority must advise the Secretary to the Joint Committee whether it approves or rejects the revised draft Business Plan by no later than 10 days before the Annual Meeting of the Joint Committee (The Joint Committee will formally adopt the Business Plan at its Annual meeting).

2.2 There are also provisions in the Constitution of the Joint Committee stipulating the process and timescales for agreeing amendments to the Business Plan during the course of each year.

3. Director's comments

3.1 A number of revisions have taken place to add clarity and explanation within the context of the Plan:

- A version number and last update has been included on the front cover as a number of draft copies have been in circulation and this will ensure that the most up to date version is being viewed.
- Paragraph 3.5 has been amended to reflect the funding requirements necessary in delivering the consultancy as a Local Authority Company.
- The opportunity has been taken to update the data and statistics to reflect the half yearly figures rather than the first quarter as shown in the previous version.
- Where necessary the text has also been amended to reflect conclusions derived from the new data.
- A reduction in staff and an increase in non fee earning work has had an impact on some of the performance statistics and this has been described in the text.
- Details of the savings and gross costs have been included in paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8 so as to illustrate the value for money of forming the Partnership.
- The development of the consultancy into a Local Authority Company and reference to the Delivery Plan has now been included in paragraph 5.9.
- In September the Implementation Plan for The Future of Building Control was published and many of its impacts are now discussed in paragraph 7.1.
- Objective 4 within the Delivery Plan has now been amended to reflect the formation of a Consultancy and the dates for

implementation and milestones have been amended in order to deliver the project by October 2010.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Section 3 of the Business Plan details the budget for 2010/11 and targets a fee income of just below £1.17 million.
- 4.2 In addition to this the constituent authorities are required to make contributions totalling £432,276 to fund non-fee earning activities. These contributions are for Medway £229,106, Gravesham £86,455 and Swale £116,715 and will be ratified by their acceptance of the Business Plan.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Where appropriate these are set out in the report and in the Business Plan. The Business Plan makes provision for partnership working with private architects. This will be done under the recognised Local Authority Building Control Partnership scheme.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the third version of the Business Plan, now incorporating any comments received, and to refer it back to the cabinet of each partner authority to approve the final draft Business Plan.