

THE SHAPLEY HEATH GARDEN COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY BOARD



DATE OF MEETING: 8 MARCH 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 6

TITLE OF REPORT: UPDATE ON THE EVIDENCE BASE

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present an update on the progress of the baseline studies and strategic reports, which will contribute to the evidence base required in order to explore the opportunity for a new garden community.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Board notes the update on the evidence base.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 To explore the opportunity for a new garden community at Shapley Heath, a rich and comprehensive evidence base is required. This evidence base will inform both the first and second stage of this project (Concept Phase and Design Phase – See **Agenda Item 1**).
- 3.2 This evidence can be split into two types: baseline surveys and strategy reports. Baseline surveys record existing conditions. Strategy reports consider and may recommend options.
- 3.3 In accordance with the approval of this Board (February 2020), the promoters/developers with significant land interest, Lightwood Strategic and L&Q Estates, have now procured and funded the majority of the baseline surveys.
- 3.4 The Council, with assistance from the newly formed Stakeholder Thematic Groups, will now investigate the scope and procure the strategy reports.

4 EVIDENCE BASE – PROGRESS UPDATE

- 4.1 In accordance with the procedure outlined in the last board meeting, the Council provided detailed briefs for each of the baseline surveys and the appointed consultants have been liaising with the Council to ensure that the requirements and standards stated in the briefs are fulfilled.
- 4.2 **Appendix 1** documents the progress of each of the baseline surveys and strategic reports. The majority of surveys are making good progress and are on track to be presented at the next Opportunity Board meeting. The noticeable

exceptions are the topographical, transport, water cycle/management and noise surveys.

- 4.3 The promoters have raised concerns regarding the costs of providing a full topographical survey at this stage of the project and alternative options are currently being considered. The transport survey procurement needs to be undertaken in partnership with HCC as the Highways Authority. The pandemic was meant that HCC officers were diverted to COVID related projects for much of 2020 but they are now able to provide more resource toward this project. As a team, we are currently reviewing the brief for the transport survey. Given the focus on modal shift, the brief will be bespoke with consideration to Hart's Green Grid project, which aims to create routes between all major settlements to encourage walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable healthy transport. deliver sustainable
- 4.4 The scope of the water cycle/management study is currently under review as the team are looking at the opportunity to provide an update to the Council's existing water cycle/management study given the broad nature of the study. Factors that affect the sound environment, due to Covid-19, such as the reduced use of the M3 motorway and rail network, resulted in a delay to the noise survey, which will recommence in the spring.
- 4.5 The Council, with assistance from the newly formed Stakeholder Thematic Groups, will now investigate the scope and procure the strategy reports.
- 4.6 The Board will continue to receive regular updates regarding the status of each of the baseline surveys and strategy reports. When the baseline surveys/strategy reports are signed off by the Council, the conclusions will be reported to the next Board meeting.
- 4.7 It is anticipated that the evidence gathering process will be completed by January 2022.

5 ACTION

- 5.1 The Council will continue to work with the promoters/developers to progress the baseline studies. The Council will start work associated with the procurement of the strategy reports.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Update on the Evidence Base for the Shapley Heath Prospectus

Appendix 1

Update on the Evidence Base for the Shapley Heath Prospectus

Type of Evidence	Evidence	Drafted Brief	Consultant Procured	Survey/Report Underway	Survey/Report Finalised	Report to SHGCOB
Baseline Surveys	Topographical Survey and Ground Survey					
	Transport	x				
	Landscape	x	x	x		
	Agricultural Land Classification	x	x	x		
	Heritage	x	x	x		
	Flooding	x	x	x	x	
	Drainage	x	x	x	x	
	Water Cycle/Management					
	Utilities	x	x			
	Air Quality	x	x	x	x	
	Noise	x	x	ON HOLD		
	Contamination	x	x	x		
	Ecology/Biodiversity	x	x	x		
	Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows	x	x	x	x	
Strategy Reports	Homes	x				
	Economy and employment					
	Retail					
	Education					
	Green Infrastructure (including Community Facilities/Sports/Leisure/Play Space)	x				
	Health Needs	x				
	Health Impact					
	Active Lifestyles					
	Climate Change Mitigation					
	Renewable Energy					
	Innovation/Future Proofing - Transport					
	Innovation/Future Proofing – Technology and Lifestyle					
	Urban Design					
	Place Stories and Branding	x	x	x		