

## Agenda Item

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **18 October 2005**

By: **Director of Policy Management and Communications**

Title of report: **Newhaven 10 Year Masterplan**

Purpose of report: **To seek approval of the priorities in the Newhaven Masterplan**

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**Recommendation: The Cabinet is recommended to agree the priorities detailed in the Newhaven Masterplan (Appendix 1).**

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### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 The actions set out in the Newhaven Masterplan (Executive Summary of the Masterplan attached as an Appendix) will require ongoing resource from all the partners engaged in the regeneration of Newhaven. In relation to East Sussex County Council, it is clear that all departments of the County Council contribute directly to a range of related initiatives within Newhaven. The County Council's contributions will be considered through the Reconciling Policy and Resources process.

1.2 The County Council has created for 2005/06 a £300,000 Economic Development Investment Support Fund with one of the specific potential target areas being Newhaven. It is likely that this fund will be able to support a number of the priority actions, as will external funding such as INTERREG and the Area Investment Fund managed by the East Sussex Economic Partnership. In order to realise the full vision significant commitment from all partners will be required together with leveraging in significant external funding.

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 Newhaven is an area of strategic importance identified as a priority for economic development in the Council Plan.

2.2 The Newhaven Strategic Network (NSN) took on the role of co-ordinating the regeneration of Newhaven from the Newhaven Economic Partnership in 2003. The Newhaven Economic Partnership was the delivery vehicle for the Single Regeneration Budget programme which finished in 2002/03 and delivered a number of regeneration projects in the town.

2.3 NSN has representation from all key public, private and community partners and the County Council is represented on NSN by Cllrs. Jones and Rogers. As

evidence of its commitment to the regeneration of Newhaven, ESCC has provided funding to support the operation of NSN and its action groups since 2003 through the Newhaven Regeneration Development Manager and dedicated administrative support.

2.4 In 2004 it was agreed that a Masterplan was needed to articulate clearly the priority issues and actions and to be a mechanism to lever in additional funding. The Masterplan was intended to provide a strategic vision for the future. Funding was secured through both the Area Investment Framework and ESCC. Partners contributed directly to the development of individual elements.

2.5 In recognition of the fact that significant work had already been undertaken, and the wide range of issues involved in Newhaven, a thematic approach was taken. This was underpinned by pieces of additional work being commissioned and incorporated. The work has been compiled into a single report which identifies 21 key actions, which have subsequently been prioritised into an eight point plan within the Executive Summary.

2.6 There has been extensive consultation about the Masterplan including within ESCC. A range of 20 issue and area specific workshop sessions have been held over the past year which have fed into the process with more than 500 people being involved. The principles, objectives and actions of the Masterplan have been agreed by the Newhaven Strategic Network as has the Executive Summary.

### **3. Future Role of the County Council**

3.1 The County Council's major economic development contribution will be focused on achieving the 'successful business' theme of the Masterplan. The intention is to recruit a dedicated post within the Strategic and Economic Development and Europe (SEDE) Team to deliver 2 – 3 key projects which will provide capital and economic catalysts for wider regeneration. We also intend to continue to support the co-ordination of NSN through a post jointly resourced with other partners (Lewes District Council, Newhaven Town Council and the Newhaven Community Development Association).

3.2 Other departments of the County Council will also play a substantial role in the Local Area Transport Strategy, addressing education attainment and leading on the Children's Centre agenda.

### **4. Next Steps**

4.1 The Masterplan is a key tool in the work to explore external funding opportunities.

4.2 NSN will be the body responsible for overall performance management of the Masterplan delivery, with relevant delivery partners responsible for their elements.

Becky Shaw

Director of Policy Management and Communications

Contact Officer: Kieran McNamara, Head of Strategic Economic Development & Europe

Tel. 01273 4812168

Local Member: Councillor Rogers