

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Strategic Director of Policy &amp; Place</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Owen Howell</b> ☎ 282518
<b>Title</b>	<b>Draft Interim Business Plan of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	All		

## **1. Executive Summary**

The Scrutiny Panel has resolved to conduct pre-scrutiny of the draft Interim Business Plan for North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) Ltd, prior to it being considered for approval by Cabinet. This report presents the report and draft Interim Business Plan which are due to be considered by Cabinet on 4 September 2019.

## **2. Action Required**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Panel is invited to scrutinise the draft Interim Business Plan and consider whether to make any recommendations to Cabinet.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Panel may wish to consider to what extent the draft Interim Business Plan addresses the recommendation made by the Panel on 11 June 2019 to Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources. This recommended that the Interim Business Plan should seek to address negative perceptions of the Project and include information on why this project was being proposed, and the current problems it aimed to mitigate.

## **3. Reason for Scrutiny**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Panel has resolved to conduct pre-scrutiny of the draft Interim Business Plan for North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) Ltd, prior to it being considered for approval by Cabinet.

## **4. Background Information**

- 4.1 On 11 June 2019, Richard Bayley, Group Managing Director of NEGC Ltd. and Ian Vipond, Strategic Director of Policy and Place at Colchester Borough Council, presented the Scrutiny Panel with an update on progress made within the NEGC Project. At that meeting the Panel recommended that the NEGC Ltd Business Plan included information on why this project was being proposed, and the current problems it aimed to mitigate.
- 4.2 On 6 August, the Scrutiny Panel formally resolved to conduct pre-scrutiny of the NEGC Ltd draft Interim Business Plan, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 4 September, and agreed an additional meeting on 29 August 2019 for this purpose.

- 4.3 For further background information on this item, please see the 'Background Information' section of the Cabinet report, appended as Appendix A to this report.

## **5. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 5.1 There are no particular references to equality, diversity or human rights implications.

## **6. Standard References**

- 6.1 There are no particular references to consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety or health and safety implications.

## **7. Strategic Plan References**

- 7.1 Scrutiny and challenge are integral to the delivery of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 priorities and direction for the Borough as set out under the four themes of growth, responsibility, opportunity and wellbeing.
- 7.2 The Council recognises that effective local government relies on establishing and maintaining the public's confidence, and that setting high standards of self-governance provides a clear and demonstrable lead. Effective governance underpins the implementation and application of all aspects of the Council's work, including those elements provided by arm's-length bodies or commercial entities.

## **8. Risk Management Implications**

- 8.1 Although there are no direct risk management implications for this item, the Scrutiny Panel may wish to scrutinise any risk management implications and mitigations relating to the Cabinet decision on whether to approve the draft Interim Business Plan of NEGC Ltd, as may be found described in Section 10 of Appendix A to this report. Should risks not be appropriately considered and mitigations put in place, progress towards the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-21 priorities may be impeded.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Report to Cabinet regarding the draft Interim Business Plan of NEGC Ltd

Appendix B – Draft Interim Business Plan of NEGC Ltd