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- **Advice:** To **note** progress on the Towcester town centre programme

1. Summary

- 1.1 The partnership of the public and community sector bodies, including the Public Public Partnership (PPP) continue to drive the comprehensive regeneration of Towcester town centre forward.
- 1.2 The procurement process to secure a development partner has been concluded.
- 1.3 Project delivery is being taken forward by South Northamptonshire Council (SNC).
- 1.4 The Co-operation Agreement between WNDC and SNC is still pending.

2. Procurement

- 2.1 To take the regeneration of Towcester Town Centre forward in June 2010 SNC initiated a public procurement process to secure a development partner. The procurement process has now been concluded and Morgan Sindall Investment (MSI) has been chosen as SNC's preferred development partner for the Moat Lane scheme.
- 2.2 On the 23rd March 2012 SNC and MSI signed a Strategic Development Agreement (SDA) which now sets in train unprecedented levels of investment in the town centre. This investment will deliver new community infrastructure including a new library, community meeting space, new offices for SNC and improved offices for Towcester's third sector organisations. It will also deliver new retail, homes and employment opportunities in the heart of the town ensuring that the town centre is "fit for purpose" for the future growth of Towcester.

3. Project Delivery

- 3.1 Project delivery is moving forward well with SNC and MSI having already set up Project Implementation Team (PIT) meetings, stakeholder design workshops and pre-application planning meetings.
- 3.2 WNDC are fully engaged and involved in the PIT and stakeholder design workshops and have also offered SNC further support if required.

4. Co-operation Agreement

4.1 The Board will recall that the principle of entering into a formal co-operation agreement between WNDC and South Northamptonshire Council had been agreed last year. The Co-operation Agreement would ensure that both parties had a clear understanding of the various outputs, financial contributions and outcome targets that have been entered into.

4.2 It was hoped that this agreement would have been agreed and signed before SNC signed their SDA with MSI; this has been delayed as SNC are awaiting information on WNDC's successor vehicle.