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Land North East of Junction 10 M42 Community Fund – ‘A Catalyst for Change’

INFORMATION SHEET

Background to the Community Fund

Whilst not required by law, under the proposals the developer is seeking to set up the Community Fund as a **catalyst for change** to **benefit local communities** affected by the development with funding for projects within their communities. Under the proposals a **Community Panel** made up of interested stakeholders will be set up with input from local communities (including but not limited to Parish Councillors, Local Councillors, and other leaders of community organisations) **to advise on where funding is best allocated**. The Community Fund would run for a number of years and be administered by the Heart of England Community Foundation, who have **established links** and ongoing projects within the local communities already.

The Community Fund is being volunteered by the developer and will be capitalised through a developer contribution, aligning with their vision for **ESG-RI and Social Value priorities**.

More information on the Heart of England Community Foundation can be found at their website at the following link www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk.

Definitions of ESG-RI & Social Value

ESG-RI (Environmental, Social, Governance and Responsible Investment) is the consideration of environmental, social, and governance factors alongside financial factors in the investment decision making process. This includes consideration of carbon emissions, natural habitats, having a positive impact on communities, and meeting the needs of stakeholders.

Social Value is the consideration of corporate actions and projects holistically, taking account of the wider economic, social and environmental effects and making a conscious effort to ensure that these effects are positive and can be seen as contributing to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of individuals, communities and society in general.

The Aspirations for the Community Fund

It is currently envisaged that the Community Fund will focus on the following aspirations although we welcome community input on this:

Aspiration 1: To help strengthen local communities (particularly their quality of life and life chances)

Examples of funding projects may include:

- Funding to assist with improvements to playgrounds and existing green spaces; and
- Funding to improve existing facilities and to broaden their outreach; and

- Funding for social enterprises and education programmes to encourage sustainable modes of transport; and
- Improvement or establishment of community organisations and groups focused on improving health and wellbeing such as sports and recreation clubs.

Aspiration 2: To help communities and individuals within those communities achieve their full potential through assistance with education, qualifications provision, re-training provision, and improving employability prospects.

Examples of funding projects may include:

- Creation or improvement of groups assisting after work retraining provision for older generations looking to change their careers; and
- Funding for social enterprises working in schools and colleges to improve knowledge of post-education employment opportunities.

Applying for Grants

Once established, applications will be welcomed from a broad range of locally based and community focused entities, including but not limited to:

- Registered Charities
- Constituted Community or Voluntary Groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Social Enterprises
- Friends Organisations
- Parish Councils (undertaking projects which are not related with their statutory authority responsibilities)

Applicants will be supported by the Heart of England Community Foundation to ensure they are achieving the most successful outcome from the process including the ability to match fund for larger community projects.