

Report to the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

23rd October 2017

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MIDLANDS ENGINE VISION FOR GROWTH

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks Economic Prosperity Committee endorsement of the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth.

Background

2. Earlier this year, the Government published its Midlands Engine Strategy. In recent months the Supervisory Board of the Engine has been considering its response to the Strategy.
3. At the request of the Chair of the Midlands Engine (and with consent from the Leader of the Council) the County Council's Chief Executive has been coordinating this work. This work has been wide-ranging and has involved partners from the affected sectors (local government, Local Enterprise Partnership, Higher Education and Further Education and the private sector).
4. This response has culminated in the publication of the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth. This document, along with an accompanying letter from the Chair of the Midlands Engine (Sir John Peace), has been delivered to the Prime Minister's Office with a copy of the same to the Right Honourable Sajid Javid, MP and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Midlands Engine Vision for Growth – Priorities

5. The Partnership's core purpose is to create a Midlands Engine that powers the UK economy and competes on the world stage. The Midlands strategic location, strong sense of identity and reputation as the beating heart of the national economy will ensure the UK's future as a global economic power.
6. The Partnership's ambition is to close the Gross Value Added (GVA – the measure of goods and services produced in an economy) gap to match or exceed the national average and add £54 billion to the Midlands and UK economies by 2030.

7. The vision sets out five priority areas, which will be supported by the development of detailed work plans to accelerate growth and collaboration and leverage match funding across the region. These five packages - shaping the ambition for the Midlands of 2030 - each involve a mixture of immediate and longer-term investment and initiatives, the cumulative impact of which will be a step change in productivity and international competitiveness:

Five main ways to achieve growth, increase prosperity and improve quality of life for all Midlanders	
1	CONNECT THE MIDLANDS: Maximise new technologies to deliver radical transformation of Midlands connectivity
2	INVEST IN STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE: Invest in the most sustainable and advanced technology to deliver the infrastructure to meet future business and residential needs
3	GROW INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT: Grow trade and investment in new markets to create jobs in global economy
4	INCREASE INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE: Create an environment where the Midlands' strengths (identified by the Science and Innovation Audit) can be maximised to benefit the whole region and support successful business growth
5	SHAPE GREAT PLACES: Promote the Midlands as a great place to live, visit, learn and work

8. As a first step, the £4million announced by Government in March 2017 will be used to provide core capacity for the Engine and develop projects.
9. On Tuesday 19 September, the Vision for Growth report was submitted to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. A written response from the Secretary of State is expected imminently.
10. Pending this response from Government, a revised governance structure is being implemented across the Midlands Engine. This revised structure will enable implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Vision for Growth. Specifically, work is underway to develop detailed business cases for projects under each of the five work packages. In addition, there is likely to be separate strands of activity to develop the approach to skills and the economic observatory.
11. The County Council's Chief Executive has agreed to oversee this initial implementation phase, pending the recruitment of a Midlands Engine Chief Executive. It is anticipated that an appointment will be made in the next few weeks.

Reason(s) for Recommendations

12. To provide information on the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth in response to the Government's strategy which expresses the intent to maximise their return on investment for the benefit not just of the Midlands, but the whole of the UK.

RECOMMENDATION/S

13. It is recommended that the Economic Prosperity Committee endorses the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth.

Anthony May

Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Background Papers

- The Midlands Engine Vision for Growth is available online here:
<https://www.midlandsengine.org/wp-content/uploads/Midlands-Engine-Vision-for-Growth.pdf>
- The Midlands Engine Strategy is available online here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/598295/Midlands_Engine_Strategy.pdf