

1st December 2015**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****2015-16 DELIVERY PLAN REVIEW****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Committee on progress against the 2015-16 delivery plan for the Economic Development service and to highlight areas of strong performance or areas for further focussed work.

Background

2. At its meeting on 31st March 2015, Committee approved its delivery plan and budget allocations for 2015-16. Subsequent budgetary allocations were made at Committee in July to ensure that the entirety of the economic development budget was allocated towards activity that will support the economic growth of the county.
3. Committee's approval of the delivery plan in March included a request for a review of progress to be brought back to Committee in the autumn. This report fulfils that requirement and enables Members to consider whether progress has been sufficient and any mitigating measures, should these be required.

Delivery plan review

4. Appendix A to this report presents Members with a structured review of the economic development delivery plan to the end of October 2015. For the purposes of Committee's discussion and consideration of the review, areas of over- and under-performance are highlighted below. Where there is significant under-performance and / or concern that targets might not be met, mitigation options are also offered for consideration.
5. In addition to the review information presented in the appendix, progress updates on budget allocations for activity approved by Committee in July are offered in paragraphs 7 to 12.

Performance highlights

- 128 apprenticeships supported in Nottinghamshire companies for whom this has been their first apprentice;
- 7 young people with learning difficulties or disabilities started supported internships;

- Continued successful engagement of the Nottinghamshire business community, particularly through business clubs and the Business Engagement Group;
- Strong occupancy performance across the Innovation Centre Network, financial surpluses projected;
- Two LEADER programmes successfully launched;
- 17 awards under the Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund, creating 183 jobs;
- 233 businesses supported through the broadband voucher scheme;
- Increases to broadband take-up rates outstripping the national and commercial averages;
- Nottinghamshire town centre growth programme submitted to Local Growth Fund

Focus Areas

- Access to Growth Hub services by Nottinghamshire businesses is low, although plans are in place to tackle this;
- Proposed capital investment at Worksop Turbine has been subject to a number of delays. Architects now instructed to commission contractors to enable reconfiguration work to be completed by end of financial year;
- Broadband business voucher scheme has ended – demand for this support was strong in Nottinghamshire. Factor in to future European funding bid;
- The BID model was rejected in Beeston, work continues in other locations where the BID model is of interest.

Additional activity approved in July 2015

6. Committee approved support for a number of additional activities at its meeting in July 2015. There has been less time to implement some of these activities given the later approval date; however updates on progress are as follows:
7. Creative Greenhouse. Committee approved the allocation of £25,000 to support the continuation of the Creative Greenhouse programme and a review of its future sustainability. The Economic Development service has commissioned support for the ongoing operation of the Creative Greenhouse until March 2016 which is being delivered by Creative Leicestershire. A formal review of the initiative, particularly looking at options for future delivery of it, is being undertaken by a local consultant.
8. Growth Deal scheme development. Committee allocated £40,000 to support work on capital schemes in Nottinghamshire so that a pipeline of schemes could be ready for the next round of the Growth Deal, which is due to be announced shortly. A separate report on the Growth Deal will be presented to Committee in December. The bulk of the resource allocated here is likely to be expended on work to support the development of the Robin Hood Enterprise Zone proposal and the associated Growth Deal bid for the re-opening of the Robin Hood Line to Ollerton.

9. Match for ESIF Digital Business Support programme. Committee allocated £25,000 to proposals for a Digital Business Support programme that Nottinghamshire County Council is leading on behalf of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire partners. As agreed by Committee, a funding bid was submitted for the ESIF (ERDF) ICT Funding Call with programme activity likely to start from April 2016. Subsequently, in this financial year, a demand stimulation and evidence gathering digital business support pilot project has been designed that will deliver 5 full-day strategic 'action-planning' workshops attracting a target group of 15 businesses to each session. Additional activity focuses on a targeted business marketing and advertising campaign.
10. Place marketing. Committee approved £20,500 to support place marketing activity including a County Council contribution to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire stand at MIPIM UK (the major national inward investment expo), a contribution to enhanced sector profiles for Nottinghamshire and a contribution to a D2N2 Visitor Economy accommodation strategy. All of these activities are progressing to schedule – MIPIM UK took place in London at the end of October.
11. Graduate programme. £25,000 was allocated to activity to support graduate retention in the area. A scheme has been developed with Ashfield and Mansfield District Councils which builds on their successful 'Aim Higher' programme and will offer 3-month placements in local SMEs to 10 graduates. In addition, a small contribution to the #grads4notts2015 campaign will be made.
12. Manufacturing network. £25,000 was allocated to a proposal to explore the expansion of existing networks of manufacturing businesses to better support and engage with those from the County. Conversations have been held with a number of networks and not least the University of Nottingham's Manufacturing Network on delivering this. It is anticipated that this will be concluded by the date of this meeting and will likely see the creation of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Manufacturing Network, with the budget being effectively expended over the remainder of 2015/16.

Reason(s) for Recommendations

13. Committee requested a six-month review of the delivery plan when it approved it in March 2015. Performance to the end of October 2015 is reviewed in this report. Where necessary, amendments to delivery plan proposals and targets are offered for Committee's consideration.

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described within the body of the report.

Financial implications

None at this stage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Economic Development Committee considers and notes the six-month review of its delivery plan.

Tim Gregory
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments
This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments [SES 18.11.2015]
There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers
Economic Development Strategy – delivery plan and budget 2015-16, report to Economic Development Committee, 31st March 2015, approved
Additional proposals for economic development budget 2015-16, report to Economic Development Committee, 7th July 2015, approved

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected
All