

17th October 2013

Agenda Item:5

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Purpose of the Report

1. To introduce the County Council's draft Economic Development Strategy and to seek Committee's views on its further development.

Information and Advice

Background

2. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to doing what it can to promote and deliver economic growth and the creation of new jobs for the County's residents. The new administration highlighted economic growth and regeneration as key aspirations in its manifesto, and this is carried through to the new Strategic Plan, with one of the five priorities being 'supporting economic growth and employment'.
3. Alongside the Council's aspirations sits the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan, which was launched in April 2013 as the strategic framework for growth in Nottinghamshire in the coming years. The Growth Plan acts as a prospectus for investment and as the driver for job creation in Nottinghamshire. It outlines how the county will contribute to the core objective of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership of delivering 55,000 new private sector jobs over the next ten years. Facilitated by the County Council, the Growth Plan is owned by Nottinghamshire stakeholders and endorsed by business and civic leaders alike.
4. The proposed Economic Development Strategy underpins the Council's commitment to growth and also acts as the Council's response to the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan. Consultation has been undertaken across the Council's service areas to inform the development of the strategy. It is anticipated that once agreed, Economic Development Committee will then receive regular progress and performance reports from lead service areas as outlined in the strategy.
5. The Strategy covers the period 2013-18, whilst recognising that some of the actions will continue beyond the lifetime of the Strategic Plan.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

6. The Strategy is designed around three main themes, which broadly align with those of the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan. These are:

- Jobs, skills and training
- Enabling business growth
- Infrastructure and assets

Underpinning these themes will be a renewed focus on securing external funds and investment for Nottinghamshire and building stronger relationships with public and private sector partners and stakeholders. In addition, all of the actions highlighted will focus on fairness and equality to ensure that new growth and investment delivers better skilled and better paid jobs.

7. The strategy will also ensure that the Council is able to deliver on the economic growth and employment outcomes outlined in the Strategic Plan. In brief, these are:

- Unlocking employment sites to create jobs
- Improving the visual appearance of towns and increasing economic vibrancy
- Improving infrastructure across the county to minimise barriers to growth
- Paying centrally employed staff the living wage
- Providing training and apprenticeship opportunities for the local workforce that reflect the needs of businesses
- Ensuring that more young people will be in work, education or training through developing young people towards career pathways

8. The draft strategy is appended to this report. Subject to the views of Committee and further consultation with lead service areas identified in the strategy, it is proposed that a final report including performance measures, resource implications and an Equality Impact Assessment will be taken to Policy Committee in December for endorsement. Following that, Economic Development Committee will need to consider annual delivery and resourcing plans for the strategy.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. Committee's views on the draft Economic Development Strategy are required in order to inform the finalisation of the Strategy for Policy Committee in December. The Strategy will also inform Committee's consideration of its budget in future meetings.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and

those using the service and where such implications are material they are described in the report.

Financial Implications

11. The Economic Development Strategy will require leadership and support from a variety of service areas across the Council. Where the lead role rests with the Economic Development service there will be resource implications. These will be factored in to Committee's consideration of activities and projects that it wishes to support through its unallocated budget for 2014-15, and will be the subject of further reports to this Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. That Committee consider and offer feedback on the draft Economic Development Strategy.

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Celia Morris ext 72043

Constitutional Comments (NAB 08.10.13)

The Economic and Development Committee has authority to consider the recommendation set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SEM 07/10/13)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Nottinghamshire Growth Plan

Draft Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan 2014-18

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All