

Priority three

Supporting economic growth and employment

Economic prosperity has a crucial impact on people's quality of life, health and wellbeing. The County's economy has experienced major restructuring over the last 20 years presenting challenges to businesses, communities and individuals alike. Economic performance is now broadly comparable to the East Midlands and United Kingdom however there are significant differentials in economic performance in parts of the county and issues that require attention. Income levels across the county are lower than the UK average; business failures recently have been higher than business start ups; low skill levels remain a significant concern in some areas and access to training and employment is a particular challenge for young people.

We want to see a county where jobs are created, skills are developed, young people have a better chance of employment and wage levels are lifted. As one of the largest employers in the county we will pay the Living Wage and encourage other employers, including our suppliers, to adopt good working practices. In areas where councils have implemented the Living Wage it has provided an important boost to the local economy. It increases the spending power of people and as lower paid workers tend to spend a greater proportion of their income on necessities locally, this all helps our economy.

Whilst economic growth is largely generated through business creation and expansion the County Council will work with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (D2N2 and Sheffield City Region) to create the right conditions for growth. We will provide improved road and broadband infrastructure; unlock physical redevelopment such as new employment and housing sites; encourage investment opportunities; support local businesses to take advantage of the support and finance available to grow and create an environment for new business start ups. We will ensure Nottinghamshire receives its fair share of government and European funding to support economic growth.

Youth unemployment has been growing since 2005 and the transition from learning to work has become increasingly difficult. Ensuring our young people have the right skills and are prepared for the world of work is a key priority and we will create more apprenticeships and training opportunities and work with schools to ensure young people are 'work ready' and can make the right career choices for them.



What we will deliver

outcome

how we will measure progress

role of the Council

Economic growth is stimulated by unlocking employment sites

Increase the number of employment sites

To lead on securing additional investment from the government, D2N2 and Europe to unlock physical redevelopment and invest council resources in key capital investments that deliver growth

We have attractive and economically vibrant towns

The number of new physical redevelopment schemes in town centres

To identify relevant towns and work in partnership with town centre groups to co-ordinate activities

Barriers to growth are minimised by improving countywide infrastructure

Increase the % of people with access to high speed broadband

The number of major local transport schemes

Champion for growth in the county – influencing the government, business community and partners to create the best conditions for sustainable growth

To ensure all council employees are paid a fair rate of pay and increase the spending power of local communities

All centrally employed staff to be paid the living wage with effect from April 2014

To be a good employer and encourage other employers in the county to adopt good employment practices including payment of the living wage

Training and apprenticeship opportunities for the local workforce are provided that reflect the needs of businesses

An increase in the number of apprenticeships and training opportunities

The council will use its procurement of goods and services to drive sustainable business, improved local supply chains and more opportunities for a skilled workforce

More young people will be in work, education or training.

Reduce the % of children not in education, employment or training (NEET)

We will work with partners to increase the competitiveness of Nottinghamshire by creating the conditions to grow an increasingly skilled and productive workforce. We will provide additional apprenticeship places for young people.

Closer working between schools, higher education, further education and employers to develop young people for early identifiable career pathways