

15 September 2020**Agenda Item: 7**

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTION PLAN 2020-2022

Purpose of the Report

1. To approve an ambitious economic recovery action plan, which sets out how the Council and the County can recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information

2. Production of the Economic Recovery Action Plan was agreed at the inaugural meeting of the Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee to highlight the response to the virus, and what the Council and its partners must do in terms of regeneration to emerge from the challenges of COVID-19 and its impact over the next two years.
3. The start-point and phasing of recovery has been influenced by national policy decisions that the Government has made as the health crisis has evolved. The Council reacted quickly with the dual focus of responding to the crisis and keeping critical services running. Members never lost sight of the vital importance of Nottinghamshire starting to plan forwards for recovery, whilst identifying that flexibility will be necessary to respond to changes as lockdown eased. Then, as now, continued engagement with partners across the County remains essential.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council is well represented and works closely with a range of systems partners in line with Government guidance, actively participates in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) multi-agency partnership arrangement (and its various sub-groups), and supports and guides key partners in the region, such as: the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the D2N2 Growth Hub, the Midlands Engine, business support practitioners, membership organisations and with the national Government, to lever wider support for the Council's work.
5. Officers from the Council's performance, intelligence and policy team are guiding the work of the Midlands Engine Observatory and the D2N2 Economic Recovery Analytical Group (which draws from the region's universities, colleges, local authorities and business groups together with colleagues from Government), to undertake research and analysis to support planning and delivery by the LEP and the LRF. The Analytical Group also supports the work of the D2N2 LEP Economic Recovery Board (which the Corporate Director of Place sits on), which is leading the revision of the Local Industrial Strategy to become a Recovery and Growth Strategy. Downloadable reports are available via the following links:
 - The Midland Engine Observatory COVID-19 Economic Impact monitoring reports at: <https://www.midlandengine.org/observatory/>

- The D2N2 Data Centre, which includes a library of the monthly Coronavirus Economic Recovery Reports, is accessible at: <https://d2n2lep.org/data-centre/>
6. The Council can be rightfully proud of its response so far in helping the most vulnerable across the County, as well as supporting businesses and others who have needed assistance. As the lockdown restrictions are eased, more hard work begins to ensure our residents and businesses get the support and services they deserve from this Council.
 7. At the heart of the Economic Recovery Action Plan is a bold aim to help Nottinghamshire's business base recover and transform. This will be achieved by working with partners and businesses and through the right investment to promote all that is great about Nottinghamshire as a place to: bring up your family, fulfil ambition, enjoy later life and start and grow your business.
 8. The Economic Recovery Action Plan, which can be found at **Appendix A** (provided separately in printed agenda packs), covers the five themes of: people, business, the visitor economy, infrastructure and place. There are 11 action points. The intention is to make the success factors measurable by linking to specific key performance indicators and will accompany supporting delivery plans.
 9. In terms of its structure, the Economic Recovery Action Plan contains an overview of the National response from Government and the supplementary immediate emergency response the Council has undertaken (covering the period from mid-March 2020 until the date this report is published). Over 35 immediate packages of support are summarised. Thereafter, follows the significant portfolio of work which the Council will move ahead swiftly with, between now and October 2022, to help businesses to rebuild Nottinghamshire's economy together to emerge as a County moving forward. This includes highlights of the planned new infrastructure across Nottinghamshire such as: roads, digital, schools, housing and other local amenities, all providing opportunities for local businesses, skills development, employment and apprenticeships.
 10. This Economic Recovery Action Plan is intended to cover a transition period for foreseeable service delivery and to capture and communicate the Council's strategic approach to recovery to facilitate more detailed planning in Departments.

Other Options Considered

11. The Council could have chosen not to develop an Economic Recovery Action Plan. However, it was recognised that the current Coronavirus pandemic has both an immediate and a longer-term effect on all the Council's priorities. The need for member involvement in the recovery process is crucial. If the COVID 19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee were not updated in a formal meeting, this would mean that information would not be available to the public and elected members would not be able to question officers or debate relevant matters in relation to the Council's COVID-19 response in a transparent manner. It is for this reason that the 'do nothing' option was discounted.

Reason for Recommendations

12. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council had the Council Plan and Departmental Strategies which reflected the organisations aspirations and priorities. What the Council promised to do, still stands. Nevertheless, an insight led approach to design services, interventions and actions has been undertaken. The Council's Economic Recovery Action Plan is in response to the coronavirus pandemic. It is important that a Council-focused governance structure is implemented to manage the recovery programme. The Council's approach is rooted in strategic intent with a clarity of purpose and desired outcomes.
13. Approval of the Economic Recovery Action Plan is being sought, as it represents the Council's public declaration as to how it will help the local economy recover from this unprecedented situation. The Council plans to do this by being forward thinking, creative and ambitious, and putting in place measures that give real opportunities to all those who live and work in the County to achieve their potential and make them proud to call Nottinghamshire home.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. All costs mentioned in the Recovery Action Plan have been subject to separate Council approval processes. The recommendations themselves have no immediate financial impact. Proposals resulting from the actions will be costed and considered and subject to the usual scrutiny and democratic process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that COVID 19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee:

- 1) Approves the Economic Recovery Action Plan which will be subject to ongoing review in the light of changing circumstances.
- 2) Agrees that supporting delivery plans, aligned with the Council's policy response to COVID-19 and its impacts, be developed, with progress updates submitted to this Committee on a regular basis.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

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Constitutional Comments (SS 26/08/2020)

16. This is an appropriate report to be considered and resolved upon by the COVID-19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee.

Financial Comments (RWK 26/08/2020)

17. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- *Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Economic Recovery Framework* - Report to Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee, published 16 July 2020

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All