

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval of the new Terms of Reference for the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC).

Information

2. Senior officers from Nottinghamshire County, Nottingham City, Ashfield District and Rushcliffe Borough Councils met in August 2018 to discuss the future of the EPC, which had last met in March 2018. The officers recognised that the terms of reference (TOR) needed to be updated to adapt to changes in the economic and political environment over the past four years and suggested the following changes to the Terms of Reference:

Purpose

3. The purpose of the EPC is currently:

‘To bring together local authority partners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will drive future investment in growth and jobs in the City and County’.

4. It is proposed that this should be revised to:

‘To bring together local authorities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to agree and promote the key aspects of economic prosperity across the area, with a specific focus on shared priorities and securing investment’.

Remit

5. The remit of the EPC is currently:
 - a. to act as a local public sector decision making body for strategic economic development, and to make recommendations to the D2N2 LEP on its investment and other priorities;
 - b. to prioritise, commission and monitor both investment plans and all European Structural Investment Funds (SIF), and Single Local Growth Fund money that is available to

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire via the D2N2 LEP and the EPC;

- c. to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans and ensure that they contribute to economic growth;
 - d. to actively engage with a range of businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to the EPC's decision making, and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;
 - e. to consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements;
 - f. to ensure that potential benefits stemming from any overlaps with other LEPs are fully maximised.
6. It is proposed that this should be charged to:
- a. to act as the local public sector decision making body for strategic economic growth;
 - b. to act as a conduit to other sub-regional and regional bodies such as the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and the Midlands Engine;
 - c. to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans for economic prosperity;
 - d. to agree shared priorities and bids for funding to existing and new funding sources such as Local Growth Funds, European Funds (until the end of the Brexit transition period) and the Shared Prosperity Fund (at the end of the Brexit transition period);
 - e. to monitor and evaluate projects and programmes of activity commissioned directly by the EPC;
 - f. to agree, monitor and evaluate spending priorities for the Nottinghamshire Business Rates Pool. (Only those constituent authorities that are members of the Pool would participate in this);
 - g. to communicate and, where unanimously agreed, to align activity across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire on a range of other key public priorities that affect citizens.
7. The changes are largely designed to reflect changes in the operating environment (such as the Midlands Engine and the EU Referendum) since the EPC was established in 2014. The main substantive addition is 2.5(g) (above) which will enable discussion at future EPC meetings of issues that cut across local authority boundaries and to agree to align activity where this would benefit the local authorities and local citizens.

Quorum

8. To reduce the quorum from six to five.

Secretariat

9. The Secretary shall be from the same authority as the Chair, rather than held by Nottingham City Council.

Review

10. The TOR should be reviewed every two years to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
11. A full copy of the revised TOR is attached at Appendix A.

Other Options Considered

12. To make no amendments to the TOR. This was rejected as the TOR would not be fit for current purpose, and this would limit the EPC's ability to discuss and take mutually action beneficial to address issues that concern the local authorities and local citizens.
13. The proposed change to the Terms of Reference would enable the EPC to discuss wider issues that cut across local authority boundaries and, where appropriate, align activity. The EPC Terms of Reference state that the Terms of Reference 'can only be amended by resolution of each of the constituent authorities'. This Council therefore needs to formally agree to the proposed amendment to take effect.

Reasons for Recommendation

14. Any changes to the terms of reference for the Committee must be approved by each constituent authority.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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

16. There are no known financial implications resulting from this report.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

17. An Equality Impact Assessment is not required because the report does not contain any changes to policy.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) To agree the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference, as outlined in this report.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 14/03/19)

18. The recommendation is within the remit of Full Council under the Council's Constitution
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Financial Comments (SES 13/03/19)

19. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this 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.

- None

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All