



## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Nottinghamshire County Council's Economic Development Strategy**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks Policy Committee approval for the Council's Economic Development Strategy, which sets out priorities and actions for the Council in terms of driving and enabling economic growth and the creation of jobs in Nottinghamshire between 2014-18. The report also proposes tasking the Economic Development Committee with developing and approving an annual delivery plan to ensure that progress against the strategy can be monitored and measured.

#### **Information and advice**

2. In April 2013, Policy Committee gave its backing to the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan, which had been developed with input from the public and private sectors across the County. The Growth Plan sets out a series of ambitions for Nottinghamshire which will support the sustained economic growth of the area in the context of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and new funding and governance arrangements. Subsequent to this, Economic Development Committee considered a draft Economic Development Strategy for the Council at its October meeting. This is in response to the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan and the Council's stated ambitions for economic growth and jobs, which are key priorities in the draft Strategic Plan.
3. The proposed Economic Development Strategy (2014-18) sets out how the Council will contribute to economic growth, deliver new jobs and reduce unemployment and target inequalities in the County's communities. It includes a series of headline actions that the Council will deliver across its service areas. These will be worked up in to more detail for the delivery plan, which Economic Development Committee will consider in the New Year. The actions are grouped into three themes:
  - § Jobs, skills and training
  - § Enabling business growth
  - § Infrastructure and assets
4. It is important to note that the strategy seeks to harness and build on a wide range of Council services and roles, and not just those directly delivered through the economic development team. Areas such as procurement, adult and community learning and social care commissioning will all feature in the delivery plan which is currently in development. Going forward, it is anticipated that lead

service areas will report back to Economic Development Committee on areas of the strategy that they are responsible for.

5. A copy of the proposed Economic Development Strategy is appended to this report. Economic growth is positioned as key priority and one of five strategic priorities in the Council's draft Strategic Plan 2014-18. This Economic Development Strategy details how the Council will use its own resources and role to facilitate and drive economic growth.
6. The Economic Development Strategy sits alongside the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan which was finalised during the spring of 2013. The Growth Plan sets out a number of high-level priorities for securing sustained investment and growth in the Nottinghamshire economy. These will contribute to the stated aim of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership of creating 55,000 new jobs over the next ten years. This Economic Development Strategy has been written to reflect the ambitions as outlined in the Council's Strategic Plan and also to enable alignment with the key objectives of the D2N2 LEP.
7. As already referenced the Strategy is split into 3 themes – Jobs, Skills and Training; Enabling Business Growth and Infrastructure and Assets. The Strategy outlines the Council's ambitions and priorities in each of these themes and the main drivers for action. The theme priorities in each are detailed below.

Priorities for **Jobs, skills and training** are:

- Ensuring the County's young people have the right skills and aspirations to deliver and benefit from economic growth
- Promoting sustainable growth and good employers
- Tackling the barriers to employment and training faced by people in disadvantaged areas within the County and improving employment and wage rates

Priorities for **enabling business growth** are:

- Creating the conditions for business start-up and sustained growth
- Focussing our work on identified areas of growth that align with the D2N2 LEP's priorities
- Promoting the County's assets and opportunities to potential investors

Our priorities for **Infrastructure and assets** are:

- Releasing Nottinghamshire's investment and growth potential

- Maximising opportunities provided by capital investment in digital infrastructure
- Creating more vibrant and sustainable town and service centres

### **Other Options Considered**

8. The Council may choose not to agree an Economic Development Strategy.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. To enable Economic Development Committee to work up a delivery plan and associated budget proposals for the Economic Development Strategy in line with the Council's budget setting timeframe.

### **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. There are no immediate financial implications associated with the contents of this report. Economic Development Committee will consider its budget proposals alongside the Delivery Plan in the New Year.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. It is recommended that Committee:
  - (a) approve the Council's new Economic Development Strategy 2014-18; and
  - (b) task Economic Development Committee with developing and subsequently monitoring a delivery plan for the Economic Development Strategy.

### **Report of the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee Councillor Diana Meale**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:  
Celia Morris, Group Manager, Corporate Strategy Ext 72043.**

### **Constitutional Comments**

13. [SLB 29/11/13 ]  
Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

## **Financial Comments**

14. [NR 29/11/13 ]

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

## **Background Papers**

Nottinghamshire Growth Plan

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