

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****PROPOSAL FOR A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to allocate £15,000 to develop a Nottinghamshire Economic Growth Strategy to set out and agree a series of policies designed to support raising skill levels, create better jobs, capture growth opportunities and improve the environment in Nottinghamshire.

**Information**

2. As identified in our Council Plan “Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future”, we want everyone to be part of what we are trying to achieve. To make the most of the opportunities we have in Nottinghamshire, from promoting the county as a great place to visit and supporting our businesses to be cleaner and greener, to ensuring we make the most of our towns and East Midlands Airport, we must continue to help create the conditions for our 31,000 businesses to thrive by working with partners and neighbours. However, not all residents and communities have benefitted from the restructuring of the Nottinghamshire economy and the opportunities it has afforded. Parts of the local population have and do require extra support in improving their wellbeing, their skills and to help reach their full potential.
3. The Nottinghamshire economy is large in terms of value and area, it is also built on a relatively diverse economic base with strengths in manufacturing, health and retail, and typified by a high number of small businesses employing less than 10 employees. The County’s economy is largely performing well but there is scope for improvement in productivity and to address disparities of economic performance across the county. Further, there are opportunities to broaden and “future proof” the business base in order to capture local growth through new and emerging technologies, as a way of facilitating economic resilience and to capture the benefits of growth for the local area. This is likely to include an emphasis on moving away from a carbon-based economy to deliver low carbon, sustainable growth and innovation including the adoption of new methods of construction and associated innovations, digital technology and capitalising on economic, social and environmental investment opportunities.
4. Where Nottinghamshire growth and jobs are at risk of automation and new and disruptive technologies (Artificial Intelligence, autonomous vehicles, 3D Printing etc) the county’s ability to turn a threat into an opportunity and to grow and become more productive will be influenced by its capacity to untap, retain and obtain a skilled workforce. In its favour, Nottinghamshire has very strong educational institutions and public-private initiatives to develop the workforce. We already know which types of projects will make a real difference to people, places, productivity and prosperity. We know that there needs to be increased investment in infrastructure to get schemes moving. We have been relentless in pursuing (and where necessary funding) county-wide high-speed fibre digital networks to support this growth.

5. This is an opportune time to develop this Strategy as the new government consolidates its growth and investment policies around a regional “levelling-up” agenda. Locally we can further develop plans and added value around High Speed 2 (HS2) following the recent announcement confirming the programme, and catalyse the Development Corporation, our Investing in Nottinghamshire Programme, mobile networks and ensure place-based infrastructure reaches all areas. As a key strategic partner in a variety of Towns Fund and Future High Streets programmes, work can also continue to collectively align growth objectives throughout the county, addressing economic disparities and maximising investment opportunities.
6. It is proposed that the five-year Growth Strategy will prioritise our resources to deliver our growth blueprint, with a comprehensive plan of action. The Growth Strategy will be positioned alongside and supportive of a wide range of key strategies such as (but not limited to): The Council Plan (2017-2021), the Place Departmental Strategy (2019-2021), the Nottinghamshire Visitor Economy Strategy (2019-2029), Rights of Way Management Plan (2018-2026), the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Vision 2030 Strategic Economic Plan (2019-2030), the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy: World Class-Locally Driven (2017) and the Midlands Engine Strategy (soon to be ratified). The work will be evidence driven and based on the extensive data that has been collected as part of the work to develop the D2N2 Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).
7. Subject to members giving the greenlight to proceed, there will be full cross-organisational input to avoid duplication of work. Again, the proposed Strategy is timely in also being able to align with the work of the Council’s new Strategic Partner Newton and the Investing in Nottinghamshire programme. The work will be able to contribute to and learn from the emerging work of Newton during its critical analysis and exploration stage.
8. Further, the Growth Strategy will expand upon Nottinghamshire County Council’s (planned) Employment and Health Strategy which focusses on individuals with long term conditions and disabilities and the Corporate Environment Strategy. Additionally, the Growth Strategy will link to the Council’s cultural organisation Inspire, part-owned Futures Group, any emerging plans from the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnerships various advisory boards, the D2N2 LIS, as well as emerging national economic policies and the modern Industrial Strategy for the UK.
9. As we do not have control over all actions and activities that will generate economic growth, the development of the vision will only be achieved by working collaboratively across the public and private sectors and with our communities. A consultation process to capture a wide range of stakeholder feedback will be required. There may be the requirement, especially for the skills element, to purchase supplementary data to articulate the Nottinghamshire specific needs and priorities building out from the D2N2 LIS.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. The proposed strategy is an essential component of the Council’s drive to focus resources effectively, align with key national and regional growth strategies and to adopt evidence-based data to develop current policies and shape future trends and needs. The links to the D2N2 LIS and the Investing in Nottinghamshire work is critical. The do-nothing option was discounted on the basis that a growth-specific set of policies was needed to express the Council’s ambition and provide a clear strategic focus in this area.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

11. Producing a high quality, evidence-based, accessible document which clearly demonstrates how we will deliver the economic and growth outcomes of the Council Plan and other high-level documents will demonstrate we are a strategically focussed, policy-led organisation. The Growth Strategy will make sure that we all work to an agreed set of principles to guide the work of Nottinghamshire County Council.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. 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**

13. It is proposed that £15,000 is allocated from 2020/21 Growth and Economic Development Initiative Budget to cover the costs of any additional datasets and the design and print of the eventual Growth Strategy.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Approves the allocation of up to £15,000 from 2020/21 Growth and Economic Development Initiative Budget to develop a Growth Strategy, to be submitted to a future meeting for approval.

**COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE**  
**Leader of the Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Nicola M<sup>c</sup>Coy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development ext. 72580

## **Constitutional Comments (AK 18/02/2020)**

14. The report falls within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (RWK 20/02/2020)**

15. The report proposes the development of a Growth Strategy at a cost of £15,000 in 2020/21. This cost will be met from the Growth and Economic Development Initiatives budget for which a sum of £515,036 is included in the revenue budget.

## **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.

- Council Plan (2017-2021) available online at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/plans-policies-assessments/council-plans-policies/council-plan>
- Place Departmental Strategy (2019-2021) available online at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/44051/place-departmental-strategy>
- Nottinghamshire Visitor Economy Strategy (2019-2029) available online at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/57133/visitor-economy-strategy-2018-2029>
- Rights of Way Management Plan (2018-2026) available online at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/walking-cycling-and-rights-of-way/rights-of-way/rights-of-way-plan>
- D2N2 Vision 2030 Strategic Economic Plan (2019-2030) available online at: <http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Vision2030.pdf>
- East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy: World Class-Locally Driven (2017) available online at: [https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/write/East\\_Midlands\\_HS2\\_Growth\\_Strategy\\_-\\_September\\_2017.pdf](https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/write/East_Midlands_HS2_Growth_Strategy_-_September_2017.pdf)

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

- All