

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

MIDLANDS ENGINE VISION FOR GROWTH

Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update to Policy Committee on the development of the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth.

Information and Advice

As reported to [Policy Committee on 13 September 2017](#), the Supervisory Board of the Midlands Engine has been developing a response to the Government's Midlands Engine Strategy.

At the request of the Chair of the Midlands Engine (and with consent from the Leader of the Council) the County Council's Chief Executive has been coordinating this work. This work has been wide-ranging and has involved partners from the affected sectors (local government, LEP, Higher Education and Further Education and the private sector).

This response has culminated in the publication of the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth (**Appendix A**). This document, along with an accompanying letter from the Chair of the Midlands Engine (Sir John Peace), have been delivered to the Prime Minister's Office with a copy of the same to the Right Honourable Sajid Javid, MP and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Midlands Engine Vision for Growth – Priorities

The Partnership's core purpose is to create a Midlands Engine that powers the UK economy and competes on the world stage. The Midlands' strategic location, strong sense of identity and reputation as the beating heart of the national economy will ensure the UK's future as a global economic power.

The Partnership's ambition is to close the Gross Value Added gap to match or exceed the national average and add £54 billion to the Midlands and UK economies by 2030.

The vision sets out five investment priorities, which will be supported by the development of detailed work plans to accelerate productivity and leverage match funding across the region.

These are to:

- a. **Connect the Midlands:** through maximising new technologies to deliver radical transformation of Midlands connectivity
- b. **Invest in strategic infrastructure:** through investing in the most sustainable and advanced technology to deliver the infrastructure to meet future business and residential needs
- c. **Grow international trade and investment:** through working across new markets to create jobs in global economy
- d. **Increase innovation and enterprise:** through creating an environment where the Midlands' strengths (identified by the Science and Innovation Audit) can be maximised to benefit the whole region and support successful business growth
- e. **Shape great places:** through promoting the Midlands as a great place to live, visit, learn and work

As a first step, the £4million announced by Government in March will be used to provide core capacity for the Engine and develop projects.

On Tuesday 19 September, the Vision for Growth report was submitted to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. A written response from the Secretary of State is expected imminently. Pending this response from Government, a revised governance structure is being implemented across the Midlands Engine. This revised structure will enable implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Vision for Growth. Specifically, work is underway to develop detailed business cases for projects under each of the five work packages. In addition, there are likely to be separate strands of activity to develop the approach to skills and the economic observatory. The County Council's Chief Executive has agreed to oversee this initial implementation phase, pending the recruitment of a Midlands Engine Chief Executive. It is anticipated that an appointment will be made in the next few weeks.

Other Options Considered

None considered as this is an update report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

To provide information on the development of the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth, as requested by Policy Committee on 13 September 2017.

Statutory and Policy Implications

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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that Policy Committee receives an update on the outcome of the submission of the Vision for Growth to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Anthony May
Chief Executive Officer

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 04/10/2017)

Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. If Committee resolved that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SES 04/10/17)

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.

- The Midlands Engine Vision for Growth is available here:
<https://www.midlandengine.org/wp-content/uploads/Midlands-Engine-Vision-for-Growth.pdf>
- The Midlands Engine Strategy is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/598295/Midlands_Engine_Strategy.pdf

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All