

**CABINET - 22 JUNE 2021****LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH
STRATEGY****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's comments on the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership's draft Economic Growth Strategy which has been prepared by Cambridge Econometrics on behalf of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP).
2. At the time of circulation of this Cabinet agenda the draft Strategy had only just been made available to the LLEP partners. A supplementary report will be circulated separately, setting out officers' observations on the content of the draft Strategy and a suggested response.

Recommendations

3. Recommendations to the Cabinet will be set out in the supplementary report.

Reasons for Recommendation

4. In the absence of a Strategic Economic Plan or Local Industrial Strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire it is crucial there is a clear vision for the local economy.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. It is intended that the draft Strategy will be considered by the LLEP Board on 24 June, followed by a period of consultation with stakeholders from 28 June to 6 August. The final Strategy would then be submitted to the LLEP Board on 19 August and published shortly thereafter.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. The Council's Strategic Plan (agreed by in December 2017), supported by the Council's Enabling Growth Plan, outlines the Council's long-term vision for the people and place of Leicestershire and sets the Council's five key outcomes for 2018 to 2022, which include building a strong economy, supporting

wellbeing and opportunity, developing greater communities and keeping people safe.

7. In June 2020 the Council's 'Covid-19 Recovery Strategy 2020-2021' was presented to the Cabinet. Key objectives for economic recovery were defined including addressing the significant impact of Covid-19 on the labour market and re-skilling Leicestershire's residents to be able to compete in the changed local economy; including upscaling digital skills and tackling digital isolation, skills for a zero-carbon economy and supporting cohorts most impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown (e.g. those not in employment, education or training, young people and over 50s).
8. In October 2020 the Cabinet considered a report entitled 'Coronavirus (Covid-19) Impact and Response of the County Council – Recovery', regarding the effect on county employment levels and job vacancies and outlining actions already being undertaken to mitigate economic damage including £750,000 of Business Recovery funding. The report recognised that further work would need to be undertaken to support the economy stating that options such as Kickstart, further rural rollout of Broadband and supporting the Council's commitment to a zero-carbon economy would all be explored.
9. On 5 February 2021 the Cabinet considered a report regarding the proposed economic recovery actions to be taken by the Council in response to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on Leicestershire's businesses and workforce. It was agreed the County Council would support the Kickstart Programme and establish a 2 year Work+ project. The Cabinet also noted the Council's support to businesses via the Business Recovery Grant and Community Pub programme and continued support for the roll-out of the Broadband Programme. The Cabinet agreed that the Council should work to deliver a green economic recovery.

Resource Implications

10. There are no resources implications arising from this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

11. None.

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PART B

Background

12. The Strategy has been in development since March 2021 and has been the focus of three LLEP Board workshops to date. It was recently agreed that working title would be changed from the “Economic Recovery Strategy” to “Economic Growth Strategy”, in line with the ambitious tone of the document which is covering the period up to 2030.
13. Comments on the latest draft of the LLEP’s draft Economic Growth Strategy will be set out in the supplementary report.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

14. There are no equality or human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Background Papers

None.

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