

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Executive to be held on 6 March 2018.

BH

Subject:

Bradford District's Economic Strategy

Summary statement:

This report updates Executive Members on work to progress the District's Economic Strategy and changes to partnership arrangements. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for joint activity, across a range of partners, to drive economic growth across Bradford District that everyone can contribute to and benefit from.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Economy

1. SUMMARY

- This report updates the Council's Executive Committee on work undertaken to develop a new economic strategy for Bradford district. The Executive have previously received a detailed report on progress and development of the strategy and agreed the overall approach, revised partnership arrangements, core principles and priority themes (10 Oct 2017).
- The purpose of the strategy is to support inclusive economic growth across the Bradford District and provide a focus for joint activity across a range of partners.
- Delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the Bradford Economic Partnership
- Executive is asked to endorse the Strategy in advance of its launch and formally acknowledge the future oversight role of the Economic Partnership.

2. BACKGROUND

- The strategy is based on robust economic intelligence and research and substantial input from local and city region partners. These include the Chambers of Commerce, the University of Bradford, Bradford College, the Voluntary and Community Sector and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Additional input on direction of travel has been provided by Civil Servants from the Cities and Local Growth Unit.
- It has been drafted to reflect the changing nature of both the local and national economic context, particularly in response to the inclusive growth agenda, the Government's Industrial Strategy and the results of the Brexit referendum. All of which provide opportunities and challenges for local economic growth.
- The Economic Strategy offers a framework for delivery to maximise the growth potential identified in our four key opportunities.

Our young and enterprising population: ensure all our people are equipped with the skills and confidence to succeed.

Our distinctive offer: use our unique architecture, heritage and cultural assets to create compelling investment propositions and an environment for growth.

Our growth potential: build on our business and sector strengths to drive innovation, increase productivity and create wealth.

Our globally connected district: Improve our transport infrastructure and digital connectivity to strengthen our trading links and access to new markets.

- We have identified these areas of growth potential through detailed economic analysis and through substantial input from businesses and other local and regional partners to understand what is important to them.
- These opportunities, in conjunction with an inclusive growth agenda, will accelerate growth and boost the economic output of the District to the national average, generating an additional £4bn for the economy and bringing an additional 20,000

people into employment.

- This will require an emphasis on co-ordinating and aligning delivery across a range of partner organisations, which has resulted in a review of existing arrangements and the creation of a new economic partnership, with responsibility for overseeing delivery.
- The development of the strategy and appointment of a new Chair to the Producer City Board has also provided an opportunity to review current delivery and partnership arrangements. Therefore, to support delivery of the new economic strategy it is also proposed that the Producer City Board is realigned to the aims and objectives of the new strategy and is renamed the Bradford District Economic Partnership.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Launch events for the Economic Growth Strategy have been scheduled for 6th (local) and 21st (National) of March.
- The 6th March date will see the launch of the Bradford District Economic Partnership, under the chair of David Baldwin, as the primary oversight body for the economic strategy. This event will focus on the impact of local delivery and how partners can contribute.
- The 21st March date is focused on re-positioning Bradford as an ambitious and confident place to invest and conduct business. This event is aimed at key national influencers and policy makers, as well as funders and investors.
- Both events provide an opportunity to showcase the district and the growth strategy and will be supported by aligned social media and communications activity.
- It is intended that a series of workshops, focussing on delivery, will be scheduled at locations across the district for late Summer.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- Budget support for development has come from internal Economy and Development resources with staffing support from the Office of the Chief Executive and Economy and Development
- Design of the strategy and associated collateral is being handled externally due to capacity and time constraints.
- Resources for the launch events are also coming from Economy and Development.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- Risk management processes have been put in place during the development and drafting of the strategy, with oversight remaining with the current Producer City Board.
- Appropriate delivery and partnership arrangements have been put in place for the next phase of the strategy.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- The Bradford District Economic Strategy has been prepared under the Local Authority's General Power of Competence as provided in the Localism Act 2011, Section 1.
- While there is no statutory duty on Local Authorities to produce an economic strategy they are free to determine the breadth and depth of assessments of the economic condition of their area, ensuring a reflection of local priorities.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- Inclusive growth is one of the major principles of the Economic Strategy. If required, equality impact assessments will be considered as part of the delivery framework.
- The strategy will drive actions that specifically target under-represented groups (e.g. BME women) and specific areas of deprivation. Delivery of this nature will be underpinned by the principles of inclusive growth, ensuring greater economic participation and opportunity.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- The main driver of the Economic Strategy is to achieve sustainable and long term economic growth through relevant interventions and investment. This includes consideration of sustainable use of resources, innovation approaches to best use of assets and resources and a commitment to inclusive growth, ensuring an economy that everyone can contribute to and benefit from.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- The goal of the strategy is to create inclusive economic growth that has a positive impact on the environment. Actions and implications to support energy infrastructure and emissions will be reviewed as part of the delivery of the strategy.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- No implications identified

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- No implications identified

7.6 TRADE UNION

- No implications identified

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- This is a district wide economic strategy which focuses on understanding and

supporting the economic role of all communities and wards across Bradford. .

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

- Not applicable

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

- None

9. OPTIONS

- Members recognise the changes in partnership arrangements
- Members acknowledge the oversight role of the Bradford District Economic Partnership in delivering the Economic Strategy.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that:
- Members recognise the changes in partnership arrangements
- Members acknowledge the oversight role of the Bradford District Economic Partnership in delivering the Economic Strategy.

11. APPENDICES

- None

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- None