

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER MEETING - JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**10 September 2013**

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To update Cabinet Members on progress in respect of the Derbyshire Economic Strategy and to seek approval to commission external consultancy support to develop the strategy to completion.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The development of a Derbyshire Economic Strategy (DES) has emerged from the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP) restructure review, undertaken during 2012. As a result of this review, the key role for DEP going forward is three-fold:

- Co-ordinate and agree joint strategic priorities for Derbyshire to ensure a clarity of purpose for all partners.
- Communicate a coherent voice for Derbyshire to enable positive and constructive dialogue with key players, most notably Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), European Union (EU) etc.
- Maximise investment and external funding into Derbyshire through targeted service delivery, aligning resources, initiating and supporting funding bids and providing project management resources.

At the heart of this new role is the proposed DES, the key document that will establish collective focus, agree joint priorities and desired outcomes, agree action and responsibility for delivery, and provide direction to DEP and individual partner service delivery. To this end, the DES has a number of functions:

- Provide the key framework for all economic stakeholders/partners to work collectively.
- Review evidence to identify need and opportunities for growth.
- Focus on delivering growth through attracting investment/funding by setting out key actions and responsibilities.

## Public

- Define Derbyshire's economic priorities in a complex strategic environment
- Present a "We can do" not "We need" approach.

To summarise, the DES must communicate what Derbyshire needs to be economically prosperous (the ask) **but** also set out what Derbyshire can do to promote and deliver growth (the offer)

The emerging DEP approach complements and will help to deliver a key manifesto pledge for the County Council and ensure Derbyshire is well positioned to influence the LEP agenda for both Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) and Sheffield City Region (SCR).

### Current Position

Partners, led by the County Council, have been developing the strategy outline which was presented to the DEP Board on 28 July 2013. The Board endorsed the "direction of travel" and agreed that further detailed work should be undertaken. The current proposal is for the DES to be published by the end of 2013 following appropriate consultation.

The strategy outline provides a positive framework for full development of the DES but it is recognised that the final strategy will need to incorporate and reflect the geography of the County, key economic linkages, its unique characteristics, land use development, and environmental factors. The strategy will also need to dovetail and provide context for district level Local Plans and the County Infrastructure Plan, as well as the evolving LEP agendas to ensure it is fit for purpose. To this end, it is proposed that the County Council commissions specialist external consultants to support officers and partners in the preparation of the full DES including appropriate consultation.

(3) **Financial Considerations** It is proposed that a budget allocation of up to £25,000 is provided to commission external consultancy support. The final budget will be subject to procurement through competitive tender. The tender brief will be prepared by the Head of Economic Regeneration and Head of Planning Policy. The commission will be managed by the Head of Economic Regeneration supported by an appropriate steering group, including relevant County Council officers, as well as partners via the DEP Partnership Coordination Group (PCG). This sum can be met from 2012/13 departmental underspends approved by Cabinet on 30 July.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

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(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** All relevant documents are held by the Economic Regeneration Service. Officer contact details – Frank Horsley, extension 38348.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet Member:

- 7.1 Endorses the progress made to date on developing an Economic Strategy for Derbyshire in conjunction with Derbyshire Economic Partnership and relevant stakeholders
- 7.2 Approves the commissioning of external consultancy support, up to a maximum of £25,000, to develop and finalise the Derbyshire Economic Strategy.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services**