

Agenda Item No. 3(c)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

**31 May 2016**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**THE ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE TRENT VALLEY**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To report the findings of an economic assessment of the Trent Valley Vision Project Area within Derbyshire as part of a landscape-led regeneration strategy and to seek approval to share these findings with key stakeholders including the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP).

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 1 December 2014, it was agreed to appoint a consultant to undertake an economic assessment of the Trent Valley Vision Project Area within Derbyshire (Minute No. 35/14 refers).

It was highlighted at that meeting that the Trent Valley within Derbyshire is becoming an increasingly fragmented landscape facing significant pressures for change as a result of mineral extraction, urban development, transport infrastructure and agricultural practices. Evidence suggests that the Trent Valley is at a pivotal moment with two possible options for the way forwards:

1. continue to follow an uncoordinated approach to the development of the area; effectively a 'do nothing/business as usual' scenario; or
2. adopt a coordinated approach to the areas development, adopting a long-term vision and strategy for landscape change.

Derbyshire County Council commissioned Risk & Policy Analysts Limited (RPA) in association with the Planning Cooperative, to undertake an economic assessment of the Trent Valley study area for each scenario to estimate the economic, social and environmental benefits of moving to a more coordinated approach as opposed to an uncoordinated 'do nothing' one.

The assessment combined a review of existing plans, policies and strategies with engagement with key stakeholders to establish the current economic baseline for the study area, describing these economic benefits in terms of

productivity, outputs and jobs across eight key sectors which included aggregate extraction, agriculture, construction, energy generation, physical infrastructure, manufacturing and research and development, tourism/recreation and water management. In addition, the assessment described the current baseline for nine ecosystem services: biodiversity, air quality, climate regulation, water purification, water regulation (flood risk), educational value, cultural heritage, aesthetics and wellbeing. This allowed the identification of changes for three further sectors: health and wellbeing, heritage, and wildlife and biodiversity.

The economic baseline was then developed and assessed against the two scenarios; the uncoordinated 'do nothing' scenario, based on current plans and policies, and the coordinated scenario and vision developed by the project steering group, including officers from the LEP and LNP. Storylines for each scenario were established and described to provide the basis for developing assumptions used to identify how each sector might change under each approach. The storylines describe what the future would look like for each sector at four time points: 2020, 2025, 2030 and 2050.

Based on recognised economic data sources, RPA has been able to estimate the changes that would be likely under each scenario and value them in monetary terms. This has enabled the study to identify which sectors would benefit, and by how much under, the coordinated scenario at each time point and then compare the difference in economic uplift between the two scenarios. Projecting these figures forward introduces a degree of uncertainty, so the final values are supported by a calculation of the upper and lower range of the economic benefits.

The report concludes that a coordinated approach delivering a long-term vision for the Trent Valley could provide significant economic, social and environmental benefits when compared to the uncoordinated 'do nothing' scenario. In 2050, the coordinated scenario could deliver:

- £16 billion in additional economic benefits (range £6.1 billion to £26 billion);
- £450 million in additional social and environmental benefits (Ecosystem Services) (range £300 million to £750 million); and
- 150,000 additional jobs (range 110,000 to 190,000)

The key sectors contributing the most to this increase in economic uplift of the coordinated approach are manufacturing and research and development, and tourism, recreation, retail and leisure. This is primarily as a result of the vision to develop a more attractive landscape that would attract business and visitors to the area.

The consultants' report goes on to outline how these benefits can be realised and recommends a number of next steps. Central to these recommendations is the need to develop the vision and strategy for the Trent Valley with key stakeholders with an interest in the area.

In this context, this report is seeking approval to engage with and present the findings of this report to key stakeholders. In the first instance, this would include a presentation to the LEP and LNP, as well as the Local Planning Authorities in the study area: Erewash Borough Council, Derby City Council, South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council. It is thought that the best method of delivery would be for the consultants who undertook the commission to come and present the findings to the LEP and LNP Boards, as well as key officers and representatives from the Local Planning Authorities. The cost that they have quoted for doing this is £1,797.50.

It is hoped that a meeting can be facilitated at Toyota Manufacturing Limited where the need for a Trent Valley Vision and the economic findings of the Derbyshire County Council commissioned report can be presented, along with a series of next steps, some of which are highlighted in the report.

(3) **Financial Considerations** A reserve of £25,000 is in place to fund the Economic Assessment Report. The final total contract value was £23,705.20. A balance of £1,294.80 remains of the original reserve. The LNP has agreed to fund balance of the costs, £502.70, for the Consultant to deliver the findings.

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.

(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** Held on file in the Conservation and Design Section within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details - Adam Lathbury, extension 39791.

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

7.1 The information contained in the Trent Valley Economic Assessment be noted.

- 7.2 The findings of the report are shared and promoted with the key stakeholders as identified in the report.
- 7.3 Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd be invited to present the findings of the study to key stakeholders and that this is funded by use of the balance of the reserve, subject to £507.70 being secured from the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities**