

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Economic & Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	
TITLE:	B&NES Economic Strategy Review : Update Report	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Appendix 1 : Economic Strategy Review Framework Appendix 2 : Cross Cutting Core Values – Equity & Sustainability Appendix 3 : Project Programme		

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 At its January meeting the Panel received a report on the Review being undertaken of the Economic Strategy for B&NES, originally published in 2010. The review feeds into the work of the Public Services Board which is supporting the closer integration of key strategies to deliver sustainable communities.
- 1.2 The review also provides an opportunity to take into account major changes in the economy over the past 3 years and the way public and private sector services are now provided. The aim is to broaden the scope of the Strategy to reflect these changes and in particular to include objectives that deliver wellbeing and reduce inequalities as well as growth in key employment sectors.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on the current position in relation to the Review and the timetable for its completion and report to Cabinet.

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to :

- 2.1 Note the current position in relation to the Review of the Economic Strategy and the timetable for its report to Cabinet
- 2.2 Note the overall framework for Economic Strategy Review and provide feedback on the proposed priorities and objectives.

## 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 It is currently proposed to manage the review of the Economic Strategy within existing Council resources.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

4.1 The Economic Strategy is not a statutory function of the Council. However it is a key document which :

- Supports the Council's vision of an area with lively active communities, unique places and beautiful surroundings, where everyone fulfils their potential.
- Supports the objectives underpinning this vision, which are to promote independence and positive lives for everyone, create neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and building a stronger economy.
- Provides a context & rationale for bids to lever in external funding

## **5 THE REPORT**

5.1 The present B&NES Economic Strategy was produced in 2010 and contained a commitment to carry out a Review in 2013/14. The context for the Review is the work of the Public Services Board in promoting a co-ordinated approach to local services, and supporting the closer integration of key strategies to deliver sustainable communities.

5.2 Whilst the overall aims of the Strategy remain valid there is a need as part of the Review to :

- Widen its scope to embrace the whole economy and ensure that the impact and potential of the wider Visitor and Cultural sectors and their contribution to the quality of "place" are fully understood.
- Put wellbeing at the heart of the outcomes it seeks to deliver
- Take into account significant changes both locally and nationally including :
  - The socio economic impacts of the 2008 recession, changes to the Welfare System and Universal Credit, the increase in the age of retirement and the raising of participation age.
  - The changes to external partnership relations with the demise of the Regional Development Agencies and Business Links and the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's).

5.3 Since the report to the Panel in March further work has been carried out in conjunction with a cross-service Officer Group and an external Economic Partnership Group. This work has established an overall framework for the Review which has :

- Three key Themes
- Two cross-cutting Core Values
- Nine Priorities underpinning a number of objectives

5.4 The framework has sought to address points raised by the Panel at previous meetings including :

- Addressing sustainability and health & wellbeing issues and the potential for growth in the Low Carbon sector
- The inclusion of housing as well as employment delivery

- The need to increase employment in N. E. Somerset
- Developing a dialogue with business to understand their needs with a focus on supporting SME's
- Ensuring that the contribution of Arts & Culture to the local economy and the need to collaborate with the areas two Universities were incorporated

5.5 The Panel will be provided with a presentation on the latest position on progress with the Economic Strategy Review. As background to this the attached appendices set out :

- Appendix 1 : the framework for the Economic Strategy Review
- Appendix 2 : the aims and priorities under the two cross-cutting Core Values
- Appendix 3 : the programme for reporting to Cabinet on the Strategy Review

## 6 RATIONALE

6.1 It is accepted that the present Economic Strategy now needs to be reviewed to address the whole economy, the present socio economic and social inequalities / disparities and overall health and wellbeing as part of a “place” based approach.

## 7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

## 8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The review of the B&NES Economic Strategy is being undertaken in conjunction with a cross service officer team from the Council and is being guided by an external Economic Partnership Group.

8.2 The Review has been reported to the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Environmental Sustainability Partnership, the Somer Valley Partnership, the Keynsham Development Advisory Group and the Public Services Board.

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 Not applicable

<b>Contact person</b>	John Wilkinson 01225 396593
<b>Background papers</b>	B&NES Economic Strategy 2010 – 2026 <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Business/EconomicEnterpriseandBusinessDevelopment/economic_strategy1.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Business/EconomicEnterpriseandBusinessDevelopment/economic_strategy1.pdf</a>
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