

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO COMMISSIONER KENNY

1.	Meeting:	Commissioner Kenny's meeting
2.	Date:	8th June 2015
3.	Title:	Rotherham Growth Plan
4.	Directorate:	Environment & Development Services
5.	Advisory Cabinet Member	Councillor Lelliott

6. Summary

6.1 The purpose of this report is to seek consideration by Commissioner Kenny for adoption by the Council of the final version of the Rotherham Growth Plan.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the report is considered by Commissioner Kenny, who is asked to agree:
- 7.2 That the Growth Plan is adopted by RMBC, with a copy of the final document put on the Council website.
- 7.3 That officers from the Economic Development Team progress the delivery of activity within the Plan.

8. Background

- 8.1 The Rotherham Growth Plan maps out a programme of investment in economic infrastructure and activities over the short, medium and long term. The Plan, which has a 10 year lifetime, is a partnership between the public, voluntary and private sectors.
- 8.2 It sets out how Rotherham will contribute to the economic growth of the Sheffield City Region, including our share of the 70,000 net new jobs and 6,000 new businesses that they are seeking to deliver over the next 10 years via their Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). It also identifies and proposes action on those areas where we can add local economic value to the borough, a prime example of this being the regeneration of the town centre.
- 8.3 The Plan is split into a number of themes, matching closely with the SEP to ensure strong links between the two. These themes are:-
- Grow existing and develop new businesses
 - Skills for employment and progression
 - Inclusion, well-being and employment
 - Employment land and business premises
 - Transport
 - Town centre
 - Housing
- 8.4 The Plan also identifies a list of Priority projects and programmes that will drive the major economic and job growth we require. These include:-
- The **Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District**, based around the Sheffield-Rotherham economic corridor and building on the AMP
 - **Tram-Train** Pilot – funded by DfT and linking Sheffield, Rotherham town centre and Parkgate.
 - **HS2 Station** at Meadowhall and the opportunities this brings
 - Redeveloping **Rotherham Markets**
 - Provision of **cinema and hotel** for town centre
 - Rotherham College to build a **Higher Education Campus** in the town centre
 - Leisure development at **Pithouse West**
 - Development on **Forge Island** – Public Sector Hub
- 8.5 **Consultation**
A wide range of partners have been involved in the development and writing of the Growth Plan, including the business led Economy Board. The Plan went out to consultation in December/January, being sent to a wide range of identified stakeholders and interested parties. The results of this consultation, and any issues raised, have been taken into account in this version of the Plan.
- 8.6 **Governance**
The Plan is jointly owned by RMBC and the LSP and will be subject to approval by both. At its meeting on 5th March the LSP Chief Executive's Group tasked the Economy Board to provide the final sign off for the LSP, which they did at their meeting on 21st April 2015.
- 8.7 The Economic Development team of the Council have day to day responsibility for ownership of the Plan. They will report progress and issues back to the Economy

Board at their meetings, with a proposal that “sub-groups” are set up to lead on this work. These groups, which will be chaired by a Board Member but include other relevant stakeholders, will cover the following areas:-

- Business Growth
- Skills and employment
- Town Centre

8.8 Details of group memberships and how they fit within the overall LSP structure will be dependent on the final outcome of the review of the LSP, including the Economy Board, which will be taking place over the summer.

8.9 An annual report and review of progress on the Plan will be taken to the relevant RMBC Boards/meetings and to the LSP Board.

8.10 A major review of the Plan will be undertaken in April 2016 to take on board relevant findings of the Corporate Governance Inspection, plus the revised Health & Well-being and Community Strategies which will be published later in 2015. Subsequent to that reviews will be carried out every 3 years.

9. Finance

9.1 The Plan has been developed and written by the Council’s Economic Development Team and as such has been of nil cost except for staff time and some printing costs of the final document.

9.2 Ekosgen carried out consultancy work on the Plan; this was funded by money (£7,000) we successfully bid for from the Local Government Association for this purpose.

9.3 With most “regeneration funding” now being channelled through the LEP, and/or Combined Authority in the case of South Yorkshire, the Growth Plan will also act as a policy bidding document for these funds. Potential funding sources include ERDF/ESF programmes 2014-2020, Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund (SCRIF), Regional Growth Fund (or its successor) and other funding through the Growth Deal with central government. To maximise our chances of securing these funds it is essential with have bids worked up and ready to submit when any call for projects is made.

9.4 The implementation of the Plan will drive growth of the economy leading to a number of new sources of income, or savings, to the borough. These include:

- Increased business rate receipts
- Uplift in New Homes Bonus money
- Reduced “benefits bill” as people move into employment

10. Risks and Uncertainties

10.1 There are a range of risks associated with implementing the Growth Plan, although the monitoring and management of the completed Plan will take account of these and seek to remove or mitigate them.

- Rotherham’s economy is susceptible to wider impacts at national and international level, over which we have little control
- Levels of available funding are low compared to prior to the recession. Gap funding for developments in the town centre being a particular issue
- Dependent on the outcome of the Local Plan; Rotherham no longer has a large supply of accessible and “shovel ready” sites for major developments

11. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

11.1 The Plan primarily contributes to the corporate objective of **stimulating the local economy and helping local people into work**

11.2 It will also contribute to the LEP's targets, as set out in their Strategic Economic Plan, of the City Region creating 70,000 net new private sector jobs and 6,000 new businesses over the next 10 years

12. Background Papers and Consultation

12.1 There has been widespread consultation on the Growth Plan during its development, including a 6 week public consultation period.

12.2 Approval of the Plan has been in conjunction with the LSP, with it being considered by the LSP Board on 5th March 2015. They delegated final approval to the Partnership's Economy Board and this was obtained on 21st April 2015.

12.3 Colleagues from Finance have been consulted on this report

12.4 A copy of the draft Growth Plan is attached to this report. A copy of the final designed version of the Plan, after work by the Design Studio, will be available on the day

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