

## Commissioner Julie Kenny

Report to Commissioners' Public Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

---

As Commissioner I am responsible for the following Mission outcomes:

- *Productive working with others. Ensuring the Council has purposeful relationships with other councils; the voluntary sector and other agencies and bodies that can contribute to the Borough's ambitions as expressed in the Rotherham Growth Plan, the Housing Growth Plan 2015 – 2020 and the Local Plan (Mission outcome 8)*
- *A growing local economy. Ensuring the Borough's own efforts and work with others increases the number of good jobs and housing opportunities (Mission outcome 10)*

To support a focused approach to building partnerships and growing the economy I have provided updates against key areas. The report illustrates the progress made by the Council so far.

### **1. Productive working with others. Ensuring the Council has purposeful relationships with other councils; the voluntary sector and other agencies and bodies that can contribute to the Borough's ambitions as expressed in the Rotherham Growth Plan, the Housing Growth Plan 2015 – 2020 and the Local Plan (Mission outcome 8)**

- 1.1 I have continued to forge strong and purposeful relationships with others, including Councils, Voluntary Sector and Other Agencies.

#### **LEP Combined Authority Meetings**

- 1.2 I have attended these meetings and briefings with the Leader of the Council. The position that Rotherham has within the LEP network is one of purpose and growing strength and one which can be built upon to influence the growth of the Rotherham Advanced Manufacturing Park. I believe this has led to effective working with neighbouring authorities and partners.
- 1.3 I have held meetings with the Business Sector via the Chamber of Commerce, met many in the Voluntary Sector, Town Centre retailers and held a business dinner with the larger businesses and influencers within Rotherham. All of these meetings have had the aim to listen to the voice of business and strengthening that voice within Rotherham - be it Small, Medium or Large businesses, social or voluntary businesses - they all contribute to the success of Rotherham and their voice deserves to be heard. I have attended the Rotherham Economy Board where the RMBC Growth Plan was discussed and accepted.
- 1.4 We now proceed to the implementation of the Growth Plan. The Growth Plan is very ambitious and set out challenging targets.

We want to:

- Grow existing and developing new business
- Develop skills for employment and progression
- Ensure we have inclusion, well-being and employment
- Create employment land and business premises
- Create Housing to support a growing workforce population
- Create a vibrant and diverse Town Centre
- Ensure maximum benefit from our Transport infrastructure

We will:

- Create 10,000 net new private sector jobs in the next 10 years
- Help create 750 additional new businesses over the next 5 years
- Increase GVA through starting, growing and attracting businesses

1.5 I have been working on how we can go about achieving what is included within the plan.

1.6 I have held meetings regarding significant milestones within the Growth Plan including meetings to discuss:

- Forge Island
- HE Campus
- Town Centre regeneration including meeting with the Police on town centre Tactical Plan
- Land availability for redevelopment in both Housing and Industry
- Director responsible for finance to discuss available Capital Budget for major projects

1.7 I have already made some decisions upon the Local Plan, and the Sites and Policies document element of this plan is now entering an extensive reporting period before a statutory six week consultation at the end of September.

### **Rotherham Partnership**

1.8 RMBC has been criticised for its poor partnership arrangements, but has received praise for the relationship between the CEOs of the partners. We need to improve this position and have a partnership that represents all parties in the community, allows all their voices to be heard and who work together for the future of Rotherham, its people and businesses. We need successful businesses to provide jobs, interview experience, working placements, internships, apprenticeships, mentoring etc. The future of our businesses relies on our workforce.

1.9 I have attended several meetings on the refreshed Local Strategic Partnership including the existing CEOs meetings. We propose that the refreshed partnership be known as the Rotherham Together Partnership and the draft model, terms of reference for the Partnership Group and the CEO's support

group be agreed together with the membership of the Group. This will now be presented to the Council for final approval and a potential launch in September 2015.

**2. A growing local economy. Ensuring the Borough's own efforts and work with others increases the number of good jobs and housing opportunities. (Mission outcome 10).**

2.1 I have highlighted much of my work in the Mission Outcome 8, and as the Growth Plan has been accepted it is important for us to make sure that the barriers to success are removed. We must ensure we have the Capital Investment Strategy necessary to support the regeneration of our Town and that we have good relationships with our partners to deliver on our objectives.

2.2 To make sure we can deliver our Growth Plan, in the next few months I intend to:

- Review the role and function of the Economy Board
- Review the deprived neighbourhoods work
- Review the Council's regeneration function, including funding
- Review the skills agenda
- Review existing arrangements for with the voluntary sector, in particular the council contracts and outputs delivered
- Review how the voluntary sector can help us to deliver the council and boroughs ambitions
- Consider how to encourage the voice of young people in the continuing work of the Council

2.3 Following these reviews and the feedback from the Roadshows we will be able to ensure that RMBC can launch a new Community Strategy at the start of 2016.

I am grateful for the support and hard work from my fellow Commissioners, Members and Council officers to enable RMBC to have achieved the progress to date.

Julie Kenny  
Commissioner  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2015