

Summary Sheet

Council Report

Full Council
21st October 2015

Title

Rotherham Economic Growth Plan

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes/Yes – Key decision as it covers more than 2 wards

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Strategic Director of Environment & Development Services

Report Author(s)

Simeon Leach
Economic Development Manager
Tel: 01709 823828
Simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

All wards

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with the latest version of the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan, and seeks their agreement for it to be adopted by the Council; becoming a live document and commencing implementation of its actions and priorities.

Recommendations

That Council:-

- 1. Approve the final version of the Economic Growth Plan.**
- 2. Agree the Plan is monitored by the Business Growth Board (BGB) of the LSP on a 2-monthly basis, with an annual report on performance taken through both Partnership and RMBC structures.**
- 3. Agree that a major review of the Plan is undertaken during the 2016/17 financial year, to take on board the vision and priorities coming out of Rotherham's new Community Strategy.**

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – draft copy of the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan

Background Papers**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Yes

Improving Places Select Commission – 14th January 2015

Commissioner Kenny – 8th June 2015

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title (Main Report)

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Approve the final version of the Economic Growth Plan.
- 1.2 Agree the Plan is monitored by the Business Growth Board of the LSP on a 2-monthly basis, with an annual report on performance taken through both Partnership and RMBC structures.
- 1.3 Agree that a major review off the Plan is undertaken during the 2016/17 financial year, to take on board the vision and priorities coming out of Rotherham's new Community Strategy.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Plan primarily contributes to the corporate objective of stimulating the local economy and helping local people into work.
- 2.2 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.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Built on a robust evidence base, clear strategy and challenging economic outcomes, the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan maps out the priorities, objectives and outcomes for the borough, underpinned by a programme of investment in economic infrastructure and activities over the short, medium and long term. The Plan is a result of partnership working between the public, voluntary and private sectors.
- 3.2 The Plan, which covers a 10 year timeframe (2105-25), is broken down into a number of themes, matching closely with the Sheffield City Region's (SCR) priorities to ensure close links between the Economic Growth Plan and the City Region's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). These themes are:-
 - Grow existing and develop new businesses;
 - Skills for employment and progression;
 - Inclusion, well-being and employment;
 - Employment land and business premises;
 - Housing;
 - Town centre; and
 - Transport.
- 3.3 The Plan sets out the challenges and ambitions for each theme, along with high level interventions and targets/impacts/outcomes. Task & Finish Groups, with an 18 month lifetime, are being set up to produce detailed action plans for the delivery of these interventions and outcomes.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1. It has been previously agreed to produce the Plan to ensure it follows a similar layout to the SCR Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which it will link closely with and add local economic value to.

5. Consultation

5.1 Widespread consultation on the Plan has taken place both during its development and of the final draft version. This involved all Directorates in the Council plus a wide range of stakeholders from public, private and voluntary/community sectors.

5.2 There was a 6 weeks open consultation process during which members of the public were invited to comment on the Plan.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 If approved then implementation of the Plan will commence immediately.

6.2 The Business Growth Board of the LSP will have responsibility for the Plan and is setting up sub-groups to oversee its delivery.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 The Plan was developed and written by the Council's RiDO Economic Development Team and as such was of nil cost except for staff time and some minor printing costs of the final document.

7.2 Ekosgen carried out consultancy work on the Plan; this was funded by £7,000 from a successful bid from the Local Government Association for this purpose.

7.3 With most "regeneration funding" now being channelled through the SCR 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" and future devolution deals with central government.

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

- Increased business rate receipts – proposal for 100% to be retained by RMBC by 2020.

- Uplift in New Homes Bonus money.
- Reduced “benefits bill” as people move into employment.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 No legal implications

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 No HR implications

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 The Plan seeks to produce enterprising young people and job seekable to be economically self-sufficient and contribute to the borough’s wealth.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 No human rights implications

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 Partners have been heavily involved in the development of the Plan and will continue to be involved in its delivery and monitoring. This can be through work on the Business Growth Board or through delivery of specific identified actions.

12.2 We will be working closely with landowners and developers who will be fundamental to delivery of the major developments and projects within the Plan

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 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 has a shortage of accessible and “shovel ready” sites for major developments, which are essential to house the new job numbers.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Paul Woodcock – Assistant Director, Planning Regeneration & Culture
Tel: 01709 822971
paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Rob Harrison

Director of Legal Services:- N/A

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- N/A

*Simeon Leach
Economic Development Manager
X 23828
Simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk*

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>