

## Appendix B

### Improving the Local Economy – scoping paper

#### Background

This review was identified and agreed as part of the work programme for the Improving Places Select Commission for 2013/14. Due to the changes to Local Government Finance and in particular the business rates, it was agreed that the Council needed to focus on ways to support the local economy to generate an increase in business rates. These efforts also need to focus on generating employment and training opportunities for local residents and stimulating the multiplier effect, retaining as much private sector investment in the local economy as possible. This review will complement the Commissioning review being done by Self Regulation Select Commission which is focusing, amongst other things, on the potential for the public sector to stimulate the local economy via its procurement function.

<b>Subject of the review</b>	Improving the Local Economy
<b>Type of review</b>	Full
<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Emma Wallis
<b>Review group members</b>	Cllrs Dominic Beck, Clive Jepson, Cllr Alan Atkin
<b>Officer contacts</b>	Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager ext: 22769 Simeon Leach, Regeneration Manager ext 23828
<b>Purpose of the review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To analyse the impact of changes to local government finance – particularly business rates</li> <li>• To analyse how the Council can create the right conditions for growth in the private sector</li> <li>• To influence the development of the growth plan for Rotherham, which in turn feeds into the City Region growth plan.</li> <li>• To develop a whole council approach to increase business rates in Rotherham</li> </ul>
<b>Key questions and areas to focus on – based on previous member discussions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the impact of an increase/decrease in business rates on the Council finances?</li> <li>• What is the impact of this on the local economy?</li> <li>• How can the Council support economic development and what should be in the growth plan? What different models can be adopted?</li> <li>• How are supply chains supported?</li> <li>• What incentives can be offered to local businesses?</li> <li>• How do we evaluate success? How have others achieved it?</li> <li>• Impact of funding</li> <li>• What are Rotherham's growth areas?</li> <li>• What specifically is the approach to Tourism?</li> <li>• How can the following services be used to generate business investment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asset Management</li> <li>○ Transport</li> <li>○ Planning</li> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How do we impact on the most deprived areas of Rotherham?</li> </ul>

<b>Anticipated outcome(s)</b>	Recommendations to cabinet and SLT on measures to be implemented to ensure a whole council approach to supporting the local economy An effective growth plan for Rotherham
<b>What is the potential impact of the review on</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents</li> <li>• Equality issues eg access to services, vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Health inequalities</li> <li>• Adding value to the organisation</li> <li>• Partners</li> <li>• Any other key groups?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased employability/employment for local residents</li> <li>• Potential to impact on most deprived communities and therefore long term unemployed and vulnerable groups – the review will specifically look at this</li> <li>• Potential to generate income for the Council via business rates</li> </ul>
<b>Links to the council's corporate plan</b>	○ <i>Supporting the local economy</i>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The review will take place over 4 or 5 meetings, please see timetable below. This will involve presentations of information from key officers and partners, followed by question and answer and discussion.</p> <p>It will look at emerging strategies including the Corporate Land and Property Asset Strategy, Rotherham Growth Plan including housing growth, transportation and spatial planning.</p> <p>Desktop research for performance measurement and benchmarking purposes.</p>
<b>Press &amp; publicity</b>	
<b>Key background papers (to be considered in advance of evidence gathering meeting)</b>	- Report to Improving Places Select Commission
<b>Written evidence to be provided by</b>	Asset Management, Regeneration, Housing, transport
<b>Oral evidence to be provided by</b>	Financial Services Asset Management Planning Transportation Housing Economic Development
<b>Potential partners</b>	Private Sector / Chamber of Commerce
<b>Resources required</b>	Time from Scrutiny and other officers
<b>Timetable</b>	<p><b>15/10/13 – Initial discussion</b></p> <p><b>20/11/13 – meeting to understand finance model and scope review</b></p> <p><b>08/01/14 – update for members and re-scope review</b></p> <p><b>17/01/14 – meeting with CX Chamber of Commerce and Paul Smith, Asset Management</b></p> <p><b>Still to be scheduled – RIDO, Planning, Transport, Housing, Economic Growth Plan</b></p>
<b>Reporting mechanism</b>	OSMB – Cabinet