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REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	1 JUNE 2006	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	MIKE ROYLANCE (Ext. 5725)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	PROJECT BRIEF: ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: ES10, ES11

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### 1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the project brief for a new Economic Regeneration Strategy for South Derbyshire be agreed.

### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To seek Member's approval for a brief setting out arrangements for the preparation of a new Economic Regeneration Strategy for South Derbyshire.

### 3.0 Detail

#### Strategy Approach

- 3.1 As Members are aware the current 'South Derbyshire Economic Development Strategy 2000-2005' has now expired. Preparing a new Strategy has been identified as a priority in the Council's emerging Corporate Plan. Production of a new Strategy is required to reflect:
- changes in economic regeneration structures and priorities – both organisations and external funding sources - nationally, regionally and locally, including the establishment of the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership; and,
  - changes in the economic circumstances of the District and its residents, such as the rapid growth in population, the development of The National Forest and the emergence of challenges such as the need to raise levels of workforce skills.
- 3.2 The Strategy would examine key issues around business promotion (eg. financial assistance), economic deprivation (eg. household incomes), workforce development (eg. literacy and numeracy) and business

infrastructure (eg. workspace availability). This would encompass a range of inter-related issues, such as, regenerating the town centre, attracting businesses and jobs to the District, supporting coalfield communities, helping the long-term unemployed and other vulnerable groups to enter the workforce, exploiting opportunities to expand tourism, and providing appropriate sites and premises for business development.

3.3 The Strategy would cover a period of five years (2006-2011) and seek to make linkages with other key strategy documents, including the Community Strategy and emerging Local Development Framework.

### Strategy Preparation

3.4 Preparation of the Strategy would involve:

- desk research, exploring the current position of the District and key trends through the review of available statistics and existing studies;
- engagement of members, through presentations and events;
- consultation with partner organisations, from the public, private and, voluntary and community sectors;
- consultation with businesses through a telephone survey of a cross section of enterprises, together with a business workshop; and,
- establishment of the policy context, in particular the priorities of the new Regional Economic Strategy (due to be published in July 2006).

3.5 The outline timetable for the development of the Economic Regeneration Strategy is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Nov-Mar 2006	Preparation of Issues Paper
9 March 2006	Presentation to Members of Environmental and Development Services Committee
March 2006	Questionnaire survey of businesses
23 May 2006	Member Workshop
9 June 2006	Tour of the District for Members
Jun-Jul 2006	Business Workshop
July-Aug 2006	Research into emergent key issues
August 2006	Circulate paper internally and to partners and other interested parties
Sept 2006	Visioning event for all interested parties including Members, partners and businesses
Sept 2006	Strategy development
5 October 2006	Report to Environmental and Development Services Committee

## **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 It is anticipated that it will be possible to meet all costs associated with the preparation of the Strategy from the existing Economic Development Promotions budget for 2006/07.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

- 5.1 Development of a new Economic Regeneration Strategy will:

- improve understanding of local economic and related issues and enhance engagement with local businesses;
- establish a key strategy document, setting out a common vision, objectives and priorities for the District;
- contribute to the development of other key strategies, including the Local Development Framework and Community Strategy.
- help to co-ordinate the activities of the numerous public, private and voluntary and community agencies engaged in economic regeneration activities; and,
- raise awareness of economic regeneration issues in South Derbyshire amongst key agencies, assisting the attraction of external funding and other support.

## **6.0 Background Papers**

- 6.1 Background papers are held on Policy and Economic Regeneration Divisional files.

