
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 13
DATE OF MEETING:	19 NOVEMBER 2015 FIRST DRAFT	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	FRANK McARDLE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	SOUTH DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS03, EDS10 & EDS11

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee supports the development of a new South Derbyshire Economic Development Strategy and that Members contribute their views.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To seek Member's support for a new Economic Development Strategy for the District.

3.0 Detail

Background

3.1 In 2013 Members approved the South Derbyshire Economic Development Statement which carried forward the vision and objectives set out in the earlier South Derbyshire Economic Development Strategy (2008-2012). It is now proposed to refresh the Strategy in the light of recent changes in local economic conditions and economic development structures and policies.

3.2 The context for the new Strategy will be guided by a number of existing strategy documents, including the following.

D2N2 Local Economic Partnership

3.3 D2N2's vision is to become a more prosperous, better connected, and increasingly competitive and resilient economy, at the heart of the UK economy, making a leading contribution to the UK's advanced manufacturing and life sciences sectors and generating significant export earnings for UK plc. It will create a D2N2 which provides

a great place to live, work and invest.

3.4 D2N2's Growth Strategy 2013-2023 set out one single target – to support the creation of an additional 55,000 private sector employee jobs in D2N2 by 2023, shifting the balance to more private sector jobs. Every action proposed in the Strategic Economic Plan will help it to move towards this target, by inspiring economic growth and supporting firms to innovate, invest, export, grow and create sustainable jobs.

3.5 The Strategic Economic Plan (2014) states that D2N2 will invest in five strategic priorities:

- Business support and access to finance
- Innovation
- Employment and skills
- Infrastructure for economic growth
- Housing and regeneration

Derbyshire Economic Partnership

3.6 The Derbyshire Economic Strategy Statement (2014) sets out an economic vision for Derbyshire, 'Supporting economic growth in tomorrow's Derbyshire: preserving what makes the County special and promoting activity that is inclusive to all regardless of geography or economic disadvantage'.

3.7 The Statement sets out an analysis of Derbyshire's key strengths, assets, challenges and opportunities together with a framework for growth based upon three Strategic Themes:

- Boosting investment and place-making - particularly in relation to digital connectivity and infrastructure investment, unlocking development potential, attracting inward investment and increasing the vitality of towns.
- Fostering enterprise and business growth - particularly in relation to entrepreneurship, productivity and both the visitor and rural economy.
- Creating the workforce to support growth - particularly in relation to skills, increasing the range and connectivity of opportunities and tackling disadvantage.

National Forest Company

3.8 The National Forest Strategy 2014-2024 states that by 2024, the Forest will be a transformed landscape across 200 square miles of the heart of England: Enjoyed by everyone; Economically vibrant; Celebrated for its quality; and, Sustainable into the future. Key objectives for the Forest (2014-2019) are as follows:

- Forest cover is increasing and, at the same time, forest sites are well-managed for tree health, climate change, people, beauty and biodiversity.
- The woodland economy grows in line with the maturing forest and sustains good management.
- An emerging visitor destination is promoted and nationally recognised.
- The National Forest brand is adopted widely.
- People from all backgrounds enjoy the forest more readily and experience it as a place for their health and well-being.
- It matures as a national exemplar, a centre of excellence, a test bed for research.

Consultation

3.9 Alongside the review of the policy context and analysis of available socio-economic data, a programme of consultation will capture the views of businesses, individuals and organisations, including the following:

- business survey and workshop
- partner organisations, including Sustainable Development Group workshop
- public consultation

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The Economic Development Strategy will contribute directly to the Corporate Plan's vision to 'make South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit' and to the theme of 'Sustainable Growth & Opportunity – strengthening South Derbyshire's economic position within a 'clean' and sustainable environment'.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Economic Development Strategy will contribute directly to the South Derbyshire Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy vision of 'a dynamic South Derbyshire, able to seize opportunities to develop successful communities, whilst respecting and enhancing the varied character of our fast growing district'. 'Sustainable Development' is highlighted as a key theme, with the aim of achieving 'sustainable existing and new communities that meet the population's needs and aspirations.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The previous Economic Development Strategy and Statement set the vision and direction for a successful period in which the number of jobs and businesses has grown and unemployment has fallen in South Derbyshire. With recent changes in economic development structures and policies and local economic conditions, it is now timely to refresh the District's Economic Development Strategy.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 South Derbyshire Economic Development Statement 2013
South Derbyshire Economic Development Strategy 2008-2012