

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

11 September 2017

Growth Strategy

Report of Councillor G Baxter MBE, Leader and Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Building a Better Council

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To present an update on the Growth Strategy 2014-2024
- To approve the production of a revised Growth Strategy, in consultation with stakeholders and agencies.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 On 11 June 2014 Council adopted a Growth Strategy produced following a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review in 2013 and a subsequent successful bid to the LGA for an independent specialist consultant to support the development of the growth strategy. The bid provided 7 days support for the council.
- 1.2 Since the adoption of the strategy the council has achieved a great deal, recognising that further cuts in government grant will make maintaining and building on these achievements more challenging in the future. This strategy has refocused the Councils activity to maximise opportunities and unlocking the potential to deliver growth by maximising income from New Homes Bonus and the Business Rates. The strategy is about maximising opportunities to ensure our long term viability.
- 1.3 However, there has been significant national and international change since the Growth Strategy was approved. The decision to leave the European Union has undoubtedly been the focus for central government with other changes such as the future of Business Rate Retention and New Homes Bonus now uncertain. There has also been the approval of HS2 line as a national infrastructure project, the LEP Growth HUBs are now established, LEP funding is now being realised and a restructured Homes and Communities Agency will be changing to Homes England.
- 1.4 With a backdrop of these wider contextual changes and continuing financial pressures as a result of government spending cuts, it is an appropriate time to acknowledge where progress has been made, reflect on areas which have been more challenging and update the strategy to continue to provide direction to the Council over the coming years.
- 1.5 There are three strategic priorities in the current strategy, and some achievements are outlined below:

Supporting Enterprise: maintaining and growing the business base

- Established a thriving business network in 2 locations
- Ongoing Business Relationship Management support with local businesses
- Promotion of funding and opportunities that become available
- Programme of business support events with Universities
- Promotion of Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships
- Launch of The News for businesses
- Avenue Meet the Buyer Day - 11th May 2017
- Participated on stand on Sheffield City Region (SCR) Expo event in April 2017.
- A partnership approach with the DIT has been agreed and a (three part) support programme of seminars, hosted by NEDDC.
- Inward investment and pitchbook material produced for Coalite as part of Derbyshire County Council delegation to China and Midlands Engine promotion at MPIM

Enabling Housing Growth: increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of a growing population and support economic growth

- Kier to commence building first phase of 269 units on the Avenue end of 2017/early 2018
- St. Modwens planning application lodged, St. Modwens Homes to build first 250 units
- Coalite site approved for 660 homes
- Set up house building joint venture, with Woodheads
- Reclamation of 23 acre of council owned land at Mill Lane/wider Avenue Area

Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites

- Collaborated with DCC to secure A61 Growth Corridor funding of £12.8m from D2N2 to for highway infrastructure improvements; includes funding for the southern roundabout for the Avenue, planning application targeted for December 2017, due to commence 2018
- £5.8m and £2m secured from D2N2 and DCC respectively to contribute to £21m remediation and development scheme for Coalite
- Developer Forum re-launched with regular attendance of 60
- Development team approach established for all major site developments
- Moved main corporate office into the district as part of the wider Avenue Area
- Disposal and acquisitions policy approved to facilitate development
- Successful OPE bid for £85k for Clay Cross town centre
- Successful OPE bid for £50k for master planning for Mill Lane/HCA land

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The strategy sets out our growth ambition, priorities and the approach that we will take to enable the growth of the local economy to create stability and prosperity.
- 2.2 The strategy has been developed in line with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Economic Plans for Sheffield City Region and D2N2 Derby/Derbyshire/Nottingham/Nottinghamshire) to ensure that we support the delivery of the wider regional growth, achieve maximum leverage and improve collaboration. Both LEP's are in the process of reviewing their Economic Plans, which gives a further reason to review the growth strategy, to ensure priorities are aligned for future funding opportunities.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 As part of the process to refresh the growth strategy it is proposed to host a workshop with officers and elected members to shape the strategy.
- 3.2 As part of the process stakeholders and external agencies will be consulted on the draft revised strategy.
- 3.3 Individual transformational projects may require Equality Impact Assessments to be completed as part of the business case and may require further consultation.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 A number of projects have been identified during the development of the strategy. These have been refined as part of the consultation with officers, members and the business community.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 The new growth and transformational projects which form the action plan will require detailed businesses cases which will include the financial implications and identify and risks.
- 5.1.2 The Growth Strategy objective is to improve the economic resilience of the authority. Increasing business rates through the retention scheme and New Homes Bonus are considered as two sources of funding which demonstrate growth. The council has received £600k for 2015/16 to 2016/17 from the Derbyshire wide business rate pool, money which would have otherwise been returned to central government; a further £200k is anticipated for 2017/18. With regards to New Homes Bonus the council received a total of £1,220,430 in 2016/17, an increase of £418,926 from 2015/16.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 Legal implications will be considered as the business cases for the transformational intervention projects are developed.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 Human Resource implications will be considered as the business cases for the inclusive growth and transformational projects which are developed.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Council notes the progress made in achieving the objectives set out in the Growth Strategy.
- 6.2 That Council endorses a review of the Growth Strategy and notes that a revised version will be presented to Cabinet and Council in due course.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Affected	All
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	Organisation – High Performing Council People – Create jobs, build skills and attract investment Place – Increase housing choice

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	

Growth Strategy	
Report Author	Contact Number
Asst Director Economic Growth	217199