

RURAL ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

8 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF HEAD OF SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH 2011 – 2014 PRIORITY ACTIONS - CONSULTATION

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For members to note the Strategic Commissioning Framework for Economic Growth 2011 – 2014 (Leicester & Leicestershire) and its Priority Actions and to make comments in response to the formal consultation associated with the Framework.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members delegate to the Head of Social and Economic Development in consultation with the Chair of REEA the response to the framework questionnaire.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Leicester & Leicestershire prepared a joint Economic Assessment (EA) which provides a comprehensive evidence base about our sub-regional economy. The EA has informed the preparation of the sub-regional economic strategy – The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategy for Economic Growth 2010 – 2020.
- 3.2 The Strategy was brought to REEA in March 2010 for comments which were fed back to the MAA Support Unit at Leicester City Council.
- 3.3 Further to the Strategy for Economic Growth 2010 – 2020 being completed a draft Strategic Commissioning Framework for 2011 – 2014 has been developed. This document identifies the MAA Partnership's strategic priorities and outcomes for the next three years.
- 3.4 During May 2010, the MAA Support Unit arranged a series of workshops to identify and agree priority actions for each outcome within the Partnership's performance framework. Representatives from MBC attended the three out of five workshops where there were spaces available.
- 3.5 The priority actions identified at each workshop form a key part of the MAA strategic commissioning plans. They were collectively agreed and prioritised in terms of primary and secondary actions. These are summarised in the Priority Actions document (Appendix A)
- 3.6 The performance framework in this Strategic Commissioning Framework differs from that included in the Strategy for Economic Growth in a number of ways. Those differences that are relevant to Melton and need to be brought to the Committees attention are as follows:
- Under Priority 1, (A productive economy with high performing businesses), MBC had identified as a sub-priority 1.6 (The area is regarded as the centre of excellence for food and drink). This priority no longer exists.
 - Under priority 2, (A highly qualified, skilled and motivated workforce in high value jobs), MBC had identified sub-priority 2.2 (Everyone aspires to gaining a qualification at NVQ level 1). This priority still exists but is now 2.3.

- Under priority 3 (Improved opportunities for vulnerable people and communities) MBC identified sub-priority 3.5 (reduced economic and financial exclusion in deprived neighborhoods). This priority still exists but is now 3.4.
- Under priority 4 (a highly sustainable environment with excellent infrastructure) MBC identified sub-priority 4.1 (availability of suitable employment land and premises) which still exists with the same reference number.

3.7 The Leicester & Leicestershire MAA Partnership has launched a consultation on the Priority Actions and the Leadership Board has invited us to respond by:

- Prioritising the actions set out in the Priority Actions document (Appendix A)
- Completing the consultation questions (Appendix B)

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Leicester & Leicestershire Strategy for Economic Growth 2010-2020 and the emerging performance framework highlights a number of outcomes/sub-outcomes that relate to this council's corporate priorities, especially:

- **Helping people and businesses through the economic downturn**
- **Help provide a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community, including the need for affordable housing**
- **Supporting economic recovery**
- **Enhance the vitality and viability of Melton Mowbray Town centre**

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct implications resulting from recommendations in this report and any projects/initiatives emerging from delivery of the strategy will include their own financial implications.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 No direct implications have been identified.

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There is documented evidence suggesting that a lack of skills, employment and financial exclusion impact on offending and the risk of re-offending.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 The strategy does not directly or indirectly discriminate on the grounds of equalities, and in fact highlights and seeks to tackle issues affecting the different groups within Leicester & Leicestershire. Any project/initiatives developed as part of delivering this strategy will be, where applicable, subject to an initial Equalities Impact assessment.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks associated with this report are shown in the table below:

Probability

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Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D				
Very Low E			1	
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→
Impact

Risk No.	Description
1	Performance framework does not capture key economic issues.
2	
3	
4	
5	

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are sub – outcomes contained in the performance framework that relate to Climate Change, specifically:

- Availability of high quality designed housing of all types and tenures
- Low carbon and resource efficient physical development

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The Leicester & Leicestershire Strategy for Economic Growth 2010-2020 is undergoing a formal consultation which ends on Monday, 15th March 2010.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected by the content of this report

Contact Officer: Harrinder Rai
 Date: 20 August 2010
 Appendices: Appendix A - Strategic commissioning framework priority actions
 Appendix B - Consultation Questions on Priority Actions
 Background Papers: Leicester & Leicestershire joint Economic Assessment
 Leicester and Leicestershire Strategy for Economic Growth 2010 - 2020
 Reference: X : Committees/REEA/10.03.10 – Strategy for Economic Growth.