

Report of the Corporate Director Economy and Place

Economic Strategy Update

1. This report provides an update for the committee on progress of the key actions outlined in York's Economic Strategy 2016-20.
2. As the strategy is less than a year old, there is not yet data available to monitor the overall outcomes set for this period of time, so the focus here is on the activities outlined. Looking at the latest evidence around specific desired outcomes within the strategy such as average wages, high value sector growth and business space availability could be explored by Scrutiny on a separate occasion, as has already been the case with wage data.

Background

3. The economic strategy 2016-2020 outlines a shared view across York businesses, Higher and Further Education and skills providers, City of York Council, Make it York, and any other relevant parties of (a) the key challenges and opportunities for the future and (b) a prioritised action-based approach for the city to address this.
4. The strategy is intended to be owned by the city as a whole, rather than it being the Council's responsibility alone to deliver, although there are some actions which are specifically the Council's responsibility. It was launched in July 2016.
5. The overall strategy focuses delivery in a number of priority areas:
 - a. Deliver York Central.
 - b. Deliver a Local Plan that supports a high-value economy.
 - c. Take practical steps to develop and retain talent in the city.
 - d. Drive real University and research led growth in high-value sectors.

- e. Lobby for investment in future transport networks.
 - f. Use local business rates freedoms to drive economic growth.
 - g. Make a positive statement of York's cultural identity to drive economic growth.
 - h. Bring businesses together in low cost ways.
6. Economic Development and Transport Policy and Scrutiny Committee was involved in developing the strategy, including participating in prioritisation workshops, taking a particular focus on themes around brownfield sites and creatively using York's heritage, undertaking discussion at meetings and producing a report to Executive.

Update on progress of key actions

- 7. A delivery plan was included as part of the Economic Strategy which identified the key actions under each of the 'essential to dos'. Progress against each action is outlined in Annex 1, and this forms the main substance of the report.
- 8. For further detail about the major projects that the Council is taking a more active lead on, specifically the Local Plan and York Central, please see the major projects report as part of the papers for this meeting.
- 9. As can be seen, the majority of actions within the strategy are on track, with notable completed deliverables in 2017/18 such as a successful Venturefest and York Business Week, funding achieved for York Central and Guildhall, an ambassadors scheme established and inward investment into the National Agri-Food Innovation Campus at Sand Hutton.
- 10. However, there are number of areas where there have been delays against planned milestones around some of the larger projects, most notably the Local Plan. Equally, there are a few areas where slower progress than anticipated has been made due to capacity, such as around transport lobbying and brokerage of graduate opportunities with SMEs.
- 11. All activities are still fundamentally viable, and the action plan remains as the priority actions for this year.
- 12. Given the partnership nature of the Strategy, a wider stakeholder event involving business, education and public sector partners will be held in the summer, taking stock of progress and looking at key activity for the year ahead.

13. From this, the action plan will be updated for the subsequent year.

Council Plan

14. This report supports the following corporate priority for the Council, as set out in the Council Plan:

A Prosperous City for All - where local businesses can thrive and residents have good quality jobs, housing and opportunities

Implications

- **Financial**

There are no implications for this report.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

There are no implications for this report.

- **Equalities**

There are no implications for this report.

- **Legal**

There are no legal implications in this report.

- **Crime and Disorder**

There are no implications for this report.

- **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no implications for this report.

- **Property**

There are no implications for this report.

- **Other**

There are no other known implications for this report.

Risk Management

15. Risk management of major Council projects is carried out through the major

Recommendations

16. The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note the progress, as a city document developed by the York Economic Partnership.
- ii. Identify if there are areas where it feels that greater focus is required that should be highlighted to Executive, or other partners invited to Scrutiny to discuss progress in more detail.

Reason: To enable the delivery of the Economic Strategy, and priority actions and outcomes for the city.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**

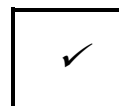


Date
28/4/2017

Specialist Implications Officer(s) - Not applicable

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 – Delivery Plan Update

Background Papers:

Economic Strategy for York, 2016 – 2020, launched in summer 2016