

28<sup>th</sup> November 2013**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY AND EDUCATION****THE TAMWORTH GROWTH AND REGENERATION PLAN****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

**PURPOSE**

To seek approval for the draft Tamworth Growth and Regeneration Plan; which sets out the economic context we are operating in, identifies the Council's strategic approach to growth and regeneration and brings together a range of key strands - connecting together the varied work streams that are being delivered internally and in some cases externally.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That members approve the Tamworth Growth and Regeneration Plan and that its implementation is managed through the Regeneration Board of CMT in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder Economy and Education and with reports to Cabinet on progress.
2. That Members delegate Authority to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to make minor amendments to the Growth and Regeneration Plan prior to it being finalised and printed in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Tamworth Borough Council's Economic Development Team takes the lead on undertaking activities and policy development to encourage sustainable local economic growth and to coordinate business support and engagement. In addition to this there is a wide range of activity that the Council is involved in that contributes to and impacts on the local economy. However the delivery of the Growth and Regeneration Plan should be seen as a corporate effort and will involve a wide range of services.

The governance structures in Economic Development have changed and continue to evolve since the last general election. In particular we have seen the abolition of regional structures and funding mechanisms and the introduction of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), new funding regimes and devolved funding such as Growing Places Funding, Single Local Growth and Major Scheme Transport Funding. These are potential 'game changers' for the LEPs and so the need to be able to provide the input in terms of Tamworth's priorities has never been more significant, hence the relevance of the Growth and Regeneration plan. Furthermore, the way that Local authorities receive their funding has changed, for example New Homes Bonus and retention of Business Rates, and it is clear that the Borough Council will need to find new ways of funding the projects that enable growth and regeneration and to prioritise and focus our efforts. We also need to be able to articulate clearly to our partners, stakeholders and funding bodies what our priorities are and what impact these projects will have on Tamworth the place. It was decided to collate our activity and articulate our priorities into a single document, the purpose of which would be to communicate our local strategy and local actions on growth, to promote confidence and secure buy in from partners.

Through a series of workshops with council officers and discussions with stakeholders the Growth and Regeneration Plan has been drafted, along with a summary (see appendix A). It

is important to note that this is not identifying new work streams, rather recognising existing ones and articulating what are our priorities.

The Tamworth Growth and Regeneration Plan sets the context of our local economy which has been relatively stable and expected to experience growth over the coming years. This will require further diversification of the economic base from the more traditional low value manufacturing toward high tech manufacturing and higher value added service sectors such as ICT and professional and business services.

The Plan sets out a range of activities across ten programmes within the three building blocks which underpin growth and regeneration - namely business, people and place. Importantly these programmes are not mutually exclusive; in fact every effort is made to continually understand the linkages and to explore ways in which they can support each other. Progress will be monitored through the Council's Corporate Management Team Regeneration Board and Cabinet. The 3 building blocks and the ten programmes are as follows:

Business

Sectors Programme

Business Support and Engagement Programme

People

Growing a Skilled workforce programme

Community Hubs programme

Improving Employability programme

Place

Town Centre programme

Visitor economy programme

Sustainable development programme

Tamworth Business Parks programme

Transport programme

The final draft and summary have been completed and at the time of writing the formatting and desk top publishing are being finalised. If approved by Members, any additional comments from Cabinet will be added, minor typographical errors amended and the final documents produced.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

None arising directly from this report. The Growth and Regeneration Plan will assist in identifying priorities for funding.

**LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

None arising directly from this report. The Growth and Regeneration Plan and the projects contained within it will be overseen by Cabinet and the Regeneration Board.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None arising directly from this report.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

As above

**REPORT AUTHOR**

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**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**APPENDICES**

A) The Growth and Regeneration Plan (Summary)

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