

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Mike Haines

DATE: 16 October 2017

REPORT OF: Neil Blaney, Economy Manager

SUBJECT: Briefing note on the Local Enterprise Partnership White Paper and the Teignbridge Economic Development Plan

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

That Members give consideration to creating an Economic Development focused sub group that can engage with and inform the creation of the new Teignbridge Economic Development Plan, along with any future consultations on economic matters, such as the LEP's White Paper.

BACKGROUND

LEP White Paper

The White Paper has not yet been finalised for formal consultation. This item was included on the Forward Plan as the target date for its publication was September 2017. However this has been delayed and we do not currently have a new date.

The White Paper is a precursor to a 'Productivity Plan' which will set out the vision and objectives of how the productivity levels in the LEP area (Devon & Somerset) will be raised. Originally this Plan was tied to the Devolution deal, to set out to Government how devolved powers, responsibility and funding will be used to help raise productivity levels. However, that process also appears to have stalled somewhat.

Issues in the local economy flagged through this work include:

- High employment, low wages, low skills
- Retention of young people remains challenging, and their awareness of the opportunities available in the area
- Many businesses struggling to recruit applicants with the right skills to meet their needs
- Growth of apprenticeships
- Infrastructure barriers including roads, rail and broadband

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Once the White Paper has been produced for consultation it will be brought to Overview & Scrutiny for discussion before formally responding.

Teignbridge Economic Development Plan

In 2012 the Council adopted an Economic Development Delivery Plan, covering a three year period up to 2015 and setting out a series of actions and objectives to support economic growth in Teignbridge. An appraisal of the plan has now been undertaken, which will be published on the Council's website shortly. A summary leaflet picking out key outcomes and issues is included with this briefing paper.

The Plan had six main objectives:

- Supporting industry and promoting enterprise
- Connecting and supporting business
- Supporting skills and labour market participation
- Reducing worklessness and deprivation
- Supporting the rural economy
- Increasing town centre competitiveness

Each objective had a series of actions, setting out how they would be delivered. The key outcomes of that Plan are:

- Of the 32 actions set out in the Plan 5 have been completed, 12 are ongoing, 8 need revision and 7 are outside of our control;
- A number of significant projects have been delivered in line with the Plan's objectives including the purchase of Market Walk, the development of Pavilions and Estuary Court in Teignmouth, and the facilitation of the South Devon University Technical College.
- The reason more actions haven't been completed were due to some unrealistic expectations on what could be delivered within the resources available. To deliver the Plan would have required a team of 10 full-time officers and a budget of £2million. Other actions were outside of the Council's control or influence.
- The review has allowed us to focus how we will approach the new Economic Development Plan

We have now begun the process of the Plan update, which will be in two phases.

The first phase runs up to Christmas 2017 and is a targeted engagement process, getting out to speak with businesses and representative groups, such as Chambers of Commerce. Attached to this report are also a promotional poster that sets out the support services the Council can provide to businesses, and a Business Charter that sets out the Council's commitments to business. A hard copy will be provided at the meeting.

The second will be a more formal process once we have crystallised the feedback from businesses into achievable actions, which will be included in the draft Economic Development Plan. This will sit alongside the Council's own corporate objectives as

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set out in the Council Strategy, in particular the 'Going to Town' and 'Investing in Prosperity' projects.

The timescale for the second phase will see work commence in the New Year, and a draft document ready for engagement and consultation by April 2018.

We would welcome input from Members in this process, both from a scrutiny perspective but also to be part of the engagement by speaking to businesses within their wards and getting them to engage with this work.



Teignbridge District Council Business Partnership Charter

Purpose of the Charter

The commitment made by this charter is to establish and maintain a new collaborative relationship between Teignbridge District Council, regulators and local businesses. It serves to facilitate a positive, productive and practical environment for business to seek advice and for us to improve our standard of delivery for the business community. Building trustful and resourceful relationships of this nature is key to achieving economic prosperity and laying the foundations for long-term economic growth.

Our commitments:

- ✓ Converse with businesses in an honest and cooperative manner
- ✓ Promote and encourage new and existing businesses in the district
- ✓ Tailor-make our advice and support in an easily accessible fashion
- ✓ Endeavour to deal with potential issues in the business community before they escalate
- ✓ Provide efficient and effective public services that offer value for money
- ✓ Create an environment that allows innovation to flourish
- ✓ Work within a mutually agreed timescale to answer business enquiries
- ✓ Improved signposting between council services
- ✓ Offer fair opportunities for businesses to bid for council procurement
- ✓ Encourage the use of The Growth Hub to advise and support local enterprise
- ✓ Follow the principles of the Better Business For All initiative

| Council service | How we support business | What we ask of businesses |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Business Rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable businesses to pay their business rates easily and effectively • Support those facing difficulty in a fair and understanding manner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact us as quickly as possible before payment difficulties start to take shape • Contact us as quickly as possible when moving in or out of your premises |
| Economy and Assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising business on multiple issues, from procuring investment to securing suitable commercial space • Creating a favourable environment to grow and prosper | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform us of issues preventing growth and expansion • Taking part in council sponsored events and surveys |
| Environmental Health and Licensing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build rapport with the business community to develop a friendly and informative service • Support government initiatives to improve standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively follow the advice and guidance we provide • Taking part in events aimed at delivering a better understanding of the regulation for business |
| Leisure, Tourism and Green Spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing and maintaining clean and desirable public spaces • Promoting our natural environment and supporting our pioneers in the leisure and tourism sectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact us with new ideas on how to advance tourism and our leisure industry • Encourage employees to engage in healthy living/working activities |
| Planning and Building Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer sound advice on planning and building regulations • Guide business through the planning system with a solutions based approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise us of your plans as early as possible • Take part in shaping and supporting plans to develop and regenerate Teignbridge District |

OUR ECONOMY

We're always monitoring economic indicators, to let us know how the economy is doing, and how this affects the lives of local people and businesses

7%

increase in employment
from 2011 to 2016

9%

increase in annual
median wage from 2011
to 2016

11%

increase in the number
of active enterprises
from 2011 to 2016

4%

increase in commercial
floorpace from 2011 to
2016

89%

of businesses have
access to broadband

£3.5
million

of funding achieved for
businesses

the average download
speed is

28

megabits per second



The South Devon
Highway has improved
journey times for residents
and businesses



Good access to major
road and rail networks



Desirable lifestyle
location for businesses
and workers



Strong tradition of
quality engineering and
manufacturing



Higher inflation could
continue to put a
squeeze on wages and
local spending



Brexit could impact
exporters and firms
dependent on foreign
workers



House prices remain
high compared to
incomes

OUR
STRENGTHS

OUR
CHALLENGES

Looking back at the 2012-2015 Economic Development Delivery Plan

OUR PLAN AND OUR RESULTS

Whether it involved providing workspaces, bidding for funding, improvements to local areas, or facilitating links between businesses, we feel that a lot has been achieved to improve the economy and general quality of life.

WHAT WE'VE DONE



Facilitation of new site for South Devon UTC



Delivery of Estuary Court Business Centre



Development of Teignmouth Pavilions



£10,000 Portas High Street grant for Dawlish



Improvements to Collett Way, Newton Abbot



Improvements to Fish Quay, Teignmouth



Purchase of Market Walk, Newton Abbot

FUTURE PROJECTS



Deliver more employment space



Improve broadband coverage and take-up



Develop a Business Partnership Charter

MOVING FORWARD: EDDP 2018



Engage with the business community



Be realistic about what we can achieve



Link with partners to agree on actions and strategies

How's business?



DISTRICT COUNCIL
South Devon

Teignbridge District Council supports local businesses in a variety of ways, depending on their needs

teignbridge.gov.uk/business

twitter.com/TDC_Business

HELP NEEDED?

Here's what we can do for you

Finding work space

TO LET

REGULATORY ADVICE

Links & Networking

signposting & support

resolving issues

If you own, represent, or work for a business in the district, we want to know how you think we should support and improve the local economy, and about your business and needs.