

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 23 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Title of Report	<b>NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN – ACTION PLAN</b>
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community No
Contacts	Councillor Tony Gillard 01530 452930 <a href="mailto:tony.gillard@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">tony.gillard@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>  Chief Executive 01530 454500 <a href="mailto:christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>  Director of Services 01530 454555 <a href="mailto:steve.bambrick@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">steve.bambrick@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>
Purpose of report	To provide Cabinet with the draft NWL Growth Plan action plan and seek authority to undertake consultation
Reason for Decision	To authorise consultation on the Growth Plan action plan
Council Priorities	Business and Jobs Homes and Communities
Implications	
Financial/Staff	There are no direct staffing implications at this stage
Link to relevant CAT	Business CAT.
Risk Management	A local growth plan action plan will contribute to projects in NWL being considered by the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership's (LLEP) Strategic Economic Plan which in turn may benefit the district from capital investment.
Human Rights	No direct implications.
Transformational Government	Partnership working with the LLEP, Leicestershire District Councils, Leicestershire County and Leicester City Councils, National Forest, developers, landowners, public sector estate bodies (including the HCA) local businesses and their representative bodies.

Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory
Consultees	Informally the Business and People Group and various business'/stakeholders
Background papers	<a href="#">Report To Cabinet dated 4 March 2014</a>
Recommendations	<p><b>CABINET ENDORSES THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE GROWTH PLAN ACTION PLAN;</b></p> <p><b>(I) AGREES TO SUBJECT THE ACTION PLAN TO A PERIOD OF CONSULTATION;</b></p> <p><b>(II) DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE ACTION PLAN AS APPROPRIATE IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION; AND</b></p> <p><b>(III) DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO SPEND THE LOCAL GROWTH FUND (£500K) ON DELIVERING THE FINAL GROWTH PLAN ACTION PLAN</b></p>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cabinet will recall considering a report on 4 March 2014 and endorsing the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership's (LLEP) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) as well as endorsing the North West Leicestershire Local Growth Plan. A copy of 4 March Cabinet report is available as a background paper to this report.
- 1.2 At that time it was indicated that once the North West Leicestershire Local Growth Plan was approved by Cabinet, it would be necessary to develop a more detailed action plan related to the priority projects. A draft action plan has now been developed and is the subject of this further report to Cabinet.

## 2. CONTEXT

- 2.1 The LLEP was required by Government to submit a SEP by 31 March 2014. The SEP sought to negotiate a Growth Deal with Government of £252m over the period 2015 to 2020. After a period of negotiation, the Government announced the first

years funding on 7 July and that the LLEP would receive nearly £24million in 2015/6 as part of its Growth Deal.

2.2 Ten projects in the LLEP's Growth Deal will benefit from a share of the £24million in 2015/16. These are:

- **A50 / A6 Leicester North West Major Transport Investment Corridor** (Leicester City Council & Leicestershire County Council) - **£3.5million**
- **MIRA Enterprise Zone Skills Training Centre** (MIRA/North Warwickshire & Hinckley College) - **£5 million**
- **Leicester Waterside Regeneration Area Programme** (Leicester City Council) - **£5.5million**
- **Skills & Innovation Village** (Leicester College) - **£0.64million**
- **Great Central Railway 'Bridging the Gap'** (Great Central Railway Trust)- **£0.5million**
- **Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Hinckley** (Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council) - **£1.54million**
- **Leicester & Leicestershire Accelerated Broadband** (Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council) - **£1.05million**
- **Leicester Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy and River Soar/Grand Union Canal Access Programme** (Environment Agency and Canals and Rivers Trust) - **£1.5million**
- **North City Centre Access Investment Programme** (Leicester City Council) - **£1.96million**
- **M1-Junction 22 / A42-Junction 13** (Leicestershire County Council) **£2.54million**

2.3 Future Growth Deal funding settlements will be driven by those projects contained within the SEP and it is therefore important that the SEP continues to be informed by Local Growth Plans and their action plans.

### 3. NWL GROWTH PLAN AND ACTION PLAN

3.1 The agreed NWL Growth Plan sets out the growth priorities for North West Leicestershire to 2018. The Growth Plan identifies a range of ambitious headline targets including:

- The potential to create over 15,000 new jobs within the District;
- halve youth unemployment by 2019; and
- Increase female participation and wage rates to the regional average.

3.2 The Growth Plan sets out how the District Council and partners, will stimulate growth in the local economy. It sets out the Council's ambitions but it is also realistic as to where the public sector can make a difference and where limited resources will be best applied. The Action Plan outlines which organisations are taking the lead on actions and also the role of the District Council.

3.3 The NWL Growth Plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The Growth Plan contains a draft Action Plan. The Action plan sets out the actions necessary for delivering the Growth Plan by theme and identifies key partners, potential funding streams, indicative timescales and the overall outcome. The Action Plan provides a basis for the Council to engage with partners and funders and agree priorities. It also creates a framework for the Council to determine its own future work

programme so that the greatest impact can be achieved with the resources available.

3.4 Some of the key actions within the plan include:

- Completion and adoption of the District Local Plan to help identify future employment sites;
- Working with East Midlands Airport to deliver the relevant aspirations of the EMA Sustainable Development Plan;
- Lobbying to protect the districts interests in relation to HS2;
- Supporting the development of the Roxhill SRFI to help create upto 7,000 new jobs whilst taking into account the local community impacts;
- Deliver a series of planned highway improvements along the A511 Coalville Growth Corridor; and
- Develop the tourism and cultural offer by working with Donington Park to take advantage of the Formula E offer.

3.5 The Growth Plan Action Plan has been subject to limited informal consultation with Business interests and the local Business Growth Forum. Any comments received so far have, where possible, been incorporated into the draft Action Plan. Subject to Cabinet approval it is now proposed to commence a more formal consultation on the Action Plan, in order to help identify the priority actions for the Council and its partners. Following the consultation, the Growth Plan and Action plan will be used to guide the Council's strategic plans, investment decisions and future bids for external funding. The consultees will include a wider group of business interests and stakeholders aswell as community groups and town and parish councils. The Growth Plan will also be available on the Council website for general comment.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014, as part of the consideration of a report on the provisional financial outturn for 2013/14, Cabinet approved the allocation of £500,000 one-off funding from both the 2014/14 general fund underspending and the Whitwick Business Park reserve to support the delivery of the Growth Plan.

4.2 The funding will be used to support the delivery of the Growth Plan Action Plan and expenditure will authorised by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Business Portfolio Holder.

4.3 The Chief Executive chairs the NWL Business and People Group which includes Business representatives from North West Leicestershire, East Midlands Airport, Stephenson's College, Leicestershire County Council and the LLEP. The Action Plan will be taken to this group for implementation and ongoing reviews.