

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 2022</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Tony Gillard Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Economic Growth Plan 09.04.19	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
	Economic Recovery Plan 10.11.20	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	The NWL Economic Growth Plan will be delivered within existing council capacity and resources or through collaboration with external partner organisations.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	Where possible, the delivery of the NWL Economic Growth Plan will be delivered through existing service capacity and reported through the relevant team service plans and against the Council Delivery Plan.	
	Delivery will be overseen by the Economic Development Team and updates will be provided through monthly briefings with the Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder and through briefings with the Shadow Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	For Cabinet to approve and sign off the refreshed North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan.	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	For Cabinet to provide feedback and adopt the refreshed North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan ahead of publication.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>THAT CABINET</b></p> <p><b>1. TO REVIEW THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE REFRESHED NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 22-25 AND THE</b></p>	

	<p><b>ASSOCIATED EVIDENCE BASE AND CONSIDER THE COMMENTS OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY.</b></p> <p><b>2. APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REFRESHED NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 22-25.</b></p>
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**1. Background**

- 1.1 In 2019 North West Leicestershire District Council published an Economic Growth Plan that outlined the council’s economic and regeneration objectives for the period between 2019 and 2021. This plan was presented as a three year plan due to the then emerging Local Industrial Strategy which would have provided wider regional economic context and policy at which point officers would have been able to revise and update the Economic Growth Plan.
- 1.2 Since we published our 2019 Economic Growth Plan we have experienced a number of macro-economic changes including Britain’s exit from the European Union and the global coronavirus pandemic. In 2020, the Economic Growth Plan was supplemented by the North West Leicestershire Economic Recovery Plan that outlined the council’s response to the immediate economic needs resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.
- 1.3 Both the Economic Growth Plan 19-21 and the 2020 Economic Recovery Plan resulted in outcomes and project delivery that contributed to economic growth. Some of which were short term responses to an immediate need and others contributed to our long term vision for economic growth. The ongoing work from both of these plans are reflected in this refreshed Economic Growth Plan (Attached as Appendix 1).

**2. Refreshed Economic Growth Plan 2022 - 2025**

- 2.1 Despite the recent economic changes there are still core strengths and opportunities in the district that are as relevant now as there were in 2019. This refresh of the Economic Growth Plan represents a forward plan of activity delivered by the council and our partners that will build upon its predecessor and also reflect upon and continue the ongoing work of the council’s 2020 Economic Recovery Plan.
- 2.2 The refresh uses the same structure as the 2019 Economic Growth Plan based on making the most of the areas’ strongest assets in terms of **‘people’**, **‘place’** and **‘business’** and ensuring that these three gears of the economy function effectively together.
- 2.3 The refreshed growth plan also underpins the Council’s Delivery Plan, individual service plans and the Council’s Zero Carbon Roadmap. The economic growth priorities and objectives from these other strategic documents have been incorporated within the refresh creating a comprehensive plan of activity to support economic recovery and growth.
- 2.4 This growth plan doesn’t stand alone. It has been prepared alongside the governments ‘Build Back Better’ plan for growth and also the emerging Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy to ensure that North West Leicestershire maintains a proactive role in contributing and shaping the economic growth of the region and the country as a whole.

- 2.5 Furthermore, a baseline of the most recent available economic data has been collected in an economic evidence base which informs the refresh of this Growth Plan (Attached as Appendix 2). Latest drafts of this evidence base, along with an updated investor prospectus will be published online as appendices to the growth plan.
- 2.6 The economic evidence base will be reviewed and updated annually to be a measure of the delivery of the Growth Plan and used to indicate what further actions or adjustments are needed to support continued economic growth of the district.
- 2.7 Progress on the delivery of the plan will be overseen by the Economic Development Team and will be reported through monthly briefings with the Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder, through briefings with the Shadow Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder and through the Council's reporting framework.

### **3.0 Engagement**

- 3.1 To help shape the refresh of the Economic Growth Plan officers have also sought input from a series of partner organisations who will have a supporting role in the delivery of the plan. These include local business groups, the National Forest Company, Leicestershire County Council, East Midlands Airport, the Enterprise Partnerships, SMB Group (Formerly Stephenson College) and the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 3.2 A draft of the refreshed Economic Growth Plan was presented to Community Scrutiny Committee in February 2022 for feedback ahead of the draft being published and presented to Cabinet.
- 3.3 Healthy discussion was held around the high levels of economic growth that the district continues to experience and how the wealth generated through commerce needs to mirror the economic growth of our communities too.
- 3.4 Feedback also included an emphasis on the ongoing work to connect residents to employers both physically in terms of transport and the importance of continuing to work with employers to adopt flexible recruitment/operational practices to make roles more accessible for those furthest from the labour market. It was also highlighted that further collaborations between employers and training and education providers to continue to work to bridge the gap from education into employment remains key.
- 3.5 Community Scrutiny also explored the role of the Economic Growth Plan in supporting sustainable growth and driving sustainability and good practice for businesses in terms of their premises and their operations. There was also consensus on the economic and social value of efforts to reinstate rail connections through the former Ivanhoe Line.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The draft Economic Growth Plan was refreshed by the Economic Development Team using existing resources and officer capacity. The production cost associated with the graphic design and print of the documents will be met through existing budgets.
- 4.2 The plan will be delivered through programmed activities and projects budgeted within the existing Economic Development Team plan and the team plans of other business facing Council Services.

- 4.3 The Economic Development Team will continue to monitor the availability of external public and private funding opportunities that the Council could bid into to help further deliver the objectives with the refreshed Economic Growth Plan. Further budgeting requests may be made through the annual budgeting process as required.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town</li> <li>- Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs</li> <li>- Developing a clean and green district</li> <li>- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes</li> <li>- Our communities are safe, healthy and connected</li> </ul>
Policy Considerations:	Council Delivery Plan
Safeguarding:	No safeguarding considerations.
Equalities/Diversity:	No equalities/diversity considerations.
Customer Impact:	The attached refreshed Economic Growth Plan sets out a series of actions to support residents and businesses.
Economic and Social Impact:	The attached refreshed Economic Growth Plan sets out a series of actions to support residents and businesses.
Environment and Climate Change:	The attached refreshed Economic Growth Plan sets out a series of actions that contributes to achieving the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	To help shape the refresh of the Economic Growth Plan officers have also sought initial feedback from a series of partner organisations who will have a supporting role in the delivery of the plan.
Risks:	No safeguarding considerations.
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