

CABINET

Agenda Item: 6

Ward: District Wide

Portfolio: Economic Growth

Report Author(s): Portfolio Holder – Economic Growth – Cllr Tom Killen **Meeting Date:** 10/07/2017

SUBJECT: Somerset Growth Plan 2017-2030

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Report Sign off	Seen by:	Name	Date
	Chief Executive/ Deputy Chief Executive(s)	Tracy Aarons	27/06/17
	Legal	N/A	
	Finance	N/A	
	Group Manager	Ian Bowen	27/06/17
	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Tom Killen	28/06/17
	Ward Member(s)	N/A	
	Summary:	<p>The Somerset Growth Plan sets the vision for economic growth between 2017 and 2030; it will attract and guide investment, to overcome barriers and maximise sustainable growth from local opportunities, benefiting Somerset’s communities, businesses and residents. The Growth Plan has been developed in partnership with Somerset Local Authorities, business representative organisations and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>It is a refresh of the initial plan that was published in February 2014 and takes into account various influencers such as the Somerset County Plan and the vision projects; the Heart of the South West Productivity Plan consultation and the Government Industrial Strategy consultation.</p>	
Recommendation:	Members of Cabinet are asked to endorse the Somerset Growth Plan 2017-2030.		
Direct and/or indirect impact on service delivery to our customers and communities:	<p>The Somerset Growth Plan will support the priorities and vision set out in the County Plan as well as the County Council’s Economic Development Service and Commissioning Plans.</p> <p>The Growth Plan will help to deliver economic growth services to Mendip’s business and communities in conjunction with the Mendip Economic Development Strategy 2017-2020.</p>		
Contribution to Corporate Priorities:	The Somerset Growth Plan will notably support Mendip District Council’s corporate priorities, Council’s Corporate Priority for Growth, as outlined in the new Corporate Plan ‘Shaping the District.’		

	Encouraging new business growth and economic development has a positive effect on our communities and will, increasingly, become a key driver of income generation to ensure a sustainable financial future and ability to further invest in public services and realise wider corporate ambitions.
Legal Implications:	There are no direct legal implications for the Somerset Growth Plan.
Financial Implications:	There are no direct financial implications for the endorsement of the Somerset Growth Plan.
Impact on Service Plans:	Consultation on the Somerset Growth Plan has helped to inform and feed into the development of the draft Mendip Economic Development Strategy 2017-20. This will be reflected in the future reporting and progress against strategic actions for both the Plan and the Strategy, where appropriate, to streamline the ED Operational Plan and align performance reporting.
Value for Money:	The Somerset Growth Plan seeks to maximise resources and leverage external funding to help deliver value for money by prioritising key economic activities and programmes. The Plan also seeks to increase business rate income to help deliver public services through increased investment, and to improve economic prospects for local residents.
Equalities Implications:	<p>An impact assessment has been undertaken by the County Council for this decision. A number of issues have been identified as a result of the assessment including the ageing population; access of opportunity and underemployment of disabled people, those that have taken time away from work to look after children; and high levels of women in part-time work.</p> <p>Development of projects to support the delivery of the Growth Plan will consider how these issues can be addressed.</p>
Risk Assessment and Adverse Impact on Corporate Actions:	<p>If Somerset does not develop and agree a collaborative set of local priorities it will not be able to effectively influence the LEPs strategic economic plan and will therefore be at risk of not being able to attract its fair share of funding through the Growth Deal and any future national LEP funding negotiations.</p> <p>By agreeing to collaborate with Somerset local authorities, Mendip can seek to benefit from wider County and LEP initiatives to help improve the chances of stronger economic outcomes for businesses and local communities.</p>
Scrutiny Recommendation (if any)	The Somerset Growth Plan was noted and endorsed by Scrutiny Board on 26 th June 2017.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Somerset Growth Plan sets the vision for economic growth between now and 2030; it will attract and guide investment, to overcome barriers and maximise sustainable growth from local opportunities, benefiting Somerset's communities, businesses and residents. It is a refresh of the initial plan that was published in February 2014 and takes into account various influencers such as the Somerset County Plan and the vision projects; the Heart of the South West Productivity Plan consultation and the Government Industrial Strategy consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Growth Plan has been developed in partnership with Somerset Local Authorities, business representative organisations and other key stakeholders. It has a focus on improving productivity in Somerset and aims to:
- Create a shared ambition and vision for growth and progression across enterprises, residents and the public sector
 - Support the delivery of infrastructure to enable growth to take place
 - Increase the scale, quality and sustainability of economic opportunity in Somerset
 - Ensure participation and access to these opportunities for local residents
- 2.2 The Growth Plan is owned by the Somerset Growth Board; the Board recommended in March 2017, that Somerset stakeholders endorse the Plan through their own governance processes. The Somerset Growth Plan is attached at appendix A.
- 2.3 Over 40 individual consultations were undertaken with strategic stakeholders including public sector organisations, businesses and business representative organisations throughout Somerset and neighbouring areas.
- 2.4 The Growth Plan has been developed and agreed by the Regeneration Directors; the emerging Plan was also presented to the Leaders and Chief Executives. The Somerset Growth Board has agreed the final draft of the Plan, subject to some minor narrative amendments that will be made prior to publication.
- 2.5 In summary, these minor amendments are to further reference aerospace and rotor craft, and alter some wording to reflect that objectives are aspirations. Some further detail may also be added in respect of our key strengths and world class businesses.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 It is imperative that Somerset has a clear understanding of its local priorities to be able to effectively influence the LEP priorities within its new Productivity Plan, which is due to be published later in 2017. This will help to ensure Somerset receives its fair share of any future funding allocations.
- 3.2 Not only will the LEP be competing on a national scale for funds, but there will be competition within the Heart of the South West LEP area (Somerset, Devon,

Plymouth and Torbay). Somerset local authorities therefore agreed that it was vital to work together to deliver a consistent and clear message of the County priorities. Therefore no alternative options were considered.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members of Cabinet are asked to endorse the Somerset Growth Plan 2017-2030.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Somerset Growth Plan sets out a vision and key priorities to strengthen the county's economic prospects in the future. By endorsing this Plan, the Council will be able to collaborate and influence future outcomes on programmes and projects, both within, and those which go beyond the scope of the local district, while seeking to maximise economic outcomes and shared prosperity locally.

5.2 By endorsing the Somerset Growth Plan, Mendip will strengthen its ability to deliver one of the Council's key Corporate Priorities.

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List of background Papers:

'Somerset Growth Plan 2014 – 2020': Somerset County Council, [online]
<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-andplans/plans/somerset-growth-plan/>