

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

19 July 2022

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor Mike Young (In the Chair)

Councillors: Brown, Clayton, Feeney, Hargreaves, Lindridge and Loynes.

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director
Beverley Bearne, Assistant Director, Development and Growth
Michael Beirne, Principal Economic Growth Officer
Israr Hussain, Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

7. Apologies for Absence

None

8. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hargreaves declared an interest in agenda item 5.1 – runs a business in the town.

9. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2022 were received.

An elected member referred to the discussion at the last meeting regarding the role of the Committee when the Managing Director had agreed to consider how the Committee could have 'more teeth'. In response, the Managing Director confirmed she had discussed the concerns, which had been expressed, with the Assistant Director, Development and Growth. The Committee was assured that further work would be undertaken on the issue.

With reference to minute 5, it was confirmed that due to changes in Ministerial responsibilities, letters had not yet been sent to call for more Government support to be provided to businesses. Following concerns expressed at the meeting, the Managing Director undertook to address the issue.

10. Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022 - Assistant Director (Development and Growth)

Type of decision

Key Decision, test (ii). Forward Plan reference CE 80/22.

Purpose of report

To report to the Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee the details of the proposed Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022-2025 and seek approval prior to publication

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

Further to minute 8 of the meeting held on 28 September 2021, the report updated the Committee that in late 2021 a procurement exercise had been undertaken to identify a consultant to support with the development of a revised Economic Growth Strategy. Economic Research Services (ERS) Ltd had been appointed to assist. Throughout the first quarter of 2022, ERS had conducted extensive discussions and consultation with key stakeholders and businesses to obtain their views on what they perceive to be the challenges facing Hartlepool's economy and how these challenges could be overcome through targeted initiatives.

A draft of the Inclusive Growth Strategy has been circulated to all stakeholders and businesses involved in the initial consultation for comment. ERS had subsequently produced the proposed final draft of Hartlepool's Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022, a copy of which was appended to the report. Also appended to the report was a Poverty Impact Assessment Form. It was highlighted at the meeting that the Form had not been completed. The Committee was assured that a Poverty Impact Assessment had been undertaken.

Following the economic analysis and consultation process, ERS had developed a draft strategy to cover the next three years (2022-25). The proposed strategy is structured around three broad themes which were set out in the report. To deliver the three themes, a ten point delivery plan had been developed, with suggested projects and initiatives to be developed as outlined in the report. The action plan further details the specific interventions and initiatives that will deliver the ten point plan under the three themes of business, people and place.

It was noted that the Economic Growth Team would be responsible for delivering the action plan with support of partners both locally and Tees

Valley-wide. The action plan will be delivered over the next three years and performance assessed against the identified indicators and it was proposed that progress reports will be provided to this Committee annually. At the meeting, it was suggested by a member that it would be more appropriate for progress reports to be submitted biannually.

Elected Members debated issues arising from the report including statistics which highlighted the low base level. Whilst dealing with a number of challenges, there were also considerable opportunities. It was questioned whether the Strategy was ambitious enough to raise aspirations and make an impact. The Chair highlighted that the Strategy should also be realistic. The Committee was reminded of the purpose of the Strategy and that it was evidence based. It was highlighted that the document is aligned to other Plans and Strategies including the Council Plan. The Managing Director added that it may be necessary for the Corporate Management Team to do some work to demonstrate how all the Plans and Strategies were aligned. With regard to the action plan, concerns were expressed that the document could not be approved without a baseline and targets being included. The Managing Director advised that a further report would be submitted to the Committee for elected members to consider a more detailed action plan that sets out the current baseline, proposed targets and outcomes.

Decision

The Committee reviewed, agreed and endorsed the Inclusive Growth Strategy and action plan 2022-2025 and agreed that progress reports be submitted to this Committee biannually.

Authority was delegated to Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair, to sign-off a version of the report which presents the report in a more visual way, including imagery and formatting by a graphic designer. This may also include minor changes to text, spelling and grammar, however the substantive parts of the report will remain the same.

It was agreed that that a further report would be submitted for the Committee to consider a more detailed action plan that sets out the current baseline, proposed targets and outcomes.

11. Presentation – Tall Ships 2023 – Business Work Stream – *Assistant Director (Development and Growth)*

Further to minute 5 of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 June 2022, Members received a presentation which provided an update on Governance Arrangements. The number of different work streams were shown on structure included in presentation. It was noted that updates from all work streams would be reported to the Finance and Policy Committee and Adults and Community Based Services Committee as appropriate and updates would be submitted also to scheduled Members' Seminars. Members

requested that updates from relevant work streams be submitted to this Committee.

The presentation also updated the Committee on the objectives and progress to date on the Business, Economy and Sustainability work stream and on the Sponsors, Corporate and Hospitality work stream. Committee Members sought clarification on the promotion of the various opportunities which are available to local businesses. Members stressed they wanted every opportunity to be used to promote involvement and highlighted benefits arising from schools being involved. The Managing Director undertook to raise the issue of the involvement of schools at the next meeting of the Tall Ships Strategic Management Board.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 a.m.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 28 JULY 2022