

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	ECONOMIC AND GREEN GROWTH STRATEGY
DATE OF DECISION:	4 FEBRUARY 2021
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR LEGGETT CABINET MEMBER FOR GREEN CITY AND PLACE

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not applicable	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
<p>Covid 19 has caused a major shock to the city's economy. Whilst the City Council and its partners have been working to support businesses and people economically affected by the pandemic, it is evident that there needs to be a clear approach to economic recovery and stability that supports business and jobs growth and helps ensure that local people can access the jobs created. This requires a strategic approach that has support across the city.</p> <p>There is also considerable economic development and related activity that is ongoing but this lacks strategic focus. Hence this strategy fills a gap in the Council's strategic planning framework.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Committee consider the draft strategy and recommend changes to the document prior to a final version being considered by Cabinet for adoption.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to consider the draft Economic and Green Growth Strategy and recommend changes to the document in advance of its submission to Cabinet.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
	Background

3.	<p>Covid-19, and the interventions required to control the virus, have caused major economic shock nationally and locally. This has been in terms of job losses, business closures and confidence. There is a need to recover and rebuild the city's economy with the Local Resilience Forum setting out an approximate timeline for this as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival 2020/21 • Stability 2021 to 2025 • Growth 2025 to 2030 and beyond.
4.	<p>The City Council currently lacks a strategy on how the city's economy can and should develop, let alone how this can happen in a manner consistent with the corporate objectives of "Fairer, Healthier, Greener".</p>
5.	<p>The draft strategy, attached as Appendix 1, sets out a clear view of how the economy should develop in a manner to achieve these corporate aspirations. Within the strategy there is a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green economic growth and carbon neutral economy • Create a fairer economy that benefits all especially the most disadvantaged • Providing health benefits via a thriving economy.
6.	<p>The strategy aims to build our economy for and with our communities so that everyone benefits from improved opportunities and outcomes. The strategy builds on Southampton's ongoing economic growth and Green City agendas and sets out our plan to restore and renew our economy as a greener, fairer and healthier city.</p>
7.	<p>The strategy puts people at the heart of our approach to economic growth and sets out plans to work with our residents to deliver a community-based approach to economic growth. Building on this basis we will support businesses to grow, increasing job opportunities for our communities. We will also ensure a sustainable physical environment and infrastructures to support that growth, and through this look outwards to embrace opportunities to grow our status as an international city.</p>
8.	<p>The strategy therefore focuses on four key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People, employment and skills • Supporting and growing local businesses • Growth through sustainable place shaping • Growing an International City
Strategy Development	
9.	<p>The draft strategy has been developed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing economic data and intelligence • Reviewing and integrating with other city council and partner strategies • Engagement with partners • Engagement with businesses via the Business Task Force and a number of sector-based roundtables including developers and hospitality. <p>The strategy development has also been overseen by a cross-organisational officer group to ensure a "one council" approach.</p>
10.	<p>A public engagement activity has been undertaken to inform the development of the strategy and gather views from local residents and businesses. The</p>

	exercise has been delivered over 7 weeks, closing on 26 January 2021. At time of writing this report 412 people had responded to the engagement exercise, including 367 local residents and 25 businesses. In addition to this, feedback has been sought from key business forums including Go! Southampton, Chamber of Commerce and Business South. Whilst the online survey will have closed before OSMC consider the document, any feedback from OSMC will be considered when preparing the final version to be submitted for adoption by the council.
11.	The performance management framework for the strategy is under development and will be finalised once the outcomes of the consultation are known and the strategy is finalised. It is envisaged that this will include an annual report.
12.	We are committed to partnership working and know that we cannot achieve economic prosperity without working together as a city and as a community. Partnership working means bringing everyone together, whether they are a strategic partner, a business, an investor, a resident or a visitor to our city, to work towards economic growth and to benefit from economic growth. We propose to develop this by creating a new private/public City Economy Board which will monitor the delivery and success of the strategy that builds on the existing Southampton Connect structures.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
13.	Finance for the delivery of the strategy will be drawn from existing revenue and capital budgets. Spend on specific new interventions within the remit of the strategy will be identified and approved on a case by case basis.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
14.	The delivery of the strategy may influence the use of Council property but this will be determined as interventions are developed on a case by case basis.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
15.	Part One of the Local Government Act 2000 enables local authorities to promote or improve the economic well-being of their areas. This strategy provides a coherent and strategic basis for the council (and its partners) to promote the sustainable growth of the city's economy.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
16.	The delivery of the strategy will make use of a range of other legal powers or duties applicable to the council. These will be assessed on a case by case basis.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
17.	Failure to have a strategy will impact the council's ability to support the economy and help people into work.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
18.	The Economic and Green Growth Strategy is consistent with the council's corporate objectives to create a fairer, greener and healthier city, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2020-2025.

	<p>The strategy will also support the delivery of the objectives set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequalities in health outcomes are reduced • Southampton is a healthy place to live and work with strong, active communities
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KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Draft Economic and Green Growth Strategy

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	Yes
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None