

Report to Stronger Place Select Committee



SCRUTINY

Date of meeting: 17 September 2019

Subject: Economic Development Strategy Consultation



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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Select Committee notes the new timeframe for further consultation on the Council's Economic Development Strategy.

Report:

1. The 'Nurturing Growth' Economic Strategy Consultation Paper was initially circulated to a wide range of stakeholders in April/May this year, to meet with the timeframe for the Local Plan Inspection.
2. Around 30 consultation responses were received within the given timeframe of around 6 weeks, with a number of stakeholders suggesting that more time was needed for them to respond fully.
3. A report was presented to Cabinet Committee in June outlining the process of the consultation and potential staff resources required to develop and implement an Economic Development Action Plan, but Cabinet members were keen for further consultation to be undertaken with partners and stakeholders, before committing to any financial proposals. Therefore, it was agreed that a further consultation exercise would be undertaken following the summer holiday period to enable additional stakeholders to make representations.
4. To allow potential respondents time to fully consider the Draft Economic Strategy proposals, a period of 8 weeks from the end of the school holidays was allocated for this, with invitations and copies of the draft Economic Strategy circulated to all stakeholders including local businesses and Elected Members, in early September. Included in the pack was a covering letter, which confirmed the date of a consultation event to be held in November and a statement clarifying that any proposals arising from the consultation would be subject to resourcing and potential partnership delivery.
5. The Stakeholder Consultation event is being held on Weds 13 November at Theydon Bois Village Hall, from 09:30 to 13:00 and as previously advised, Elected Members are very welcome to attend.
6. Following the event, a report will be produced outlining the key proposals arising from the event and associated funding and resource implications. This will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in December.

Reason for decision:

Cabinet Committee requested further consultation on the Draft Economic Strategy 'Nurturing Growth'.

Options considered and rejected: None.

Consultation undertaken: As contained within the report.

Resource implications: To be identified following the consultation event in November.

Legal and Governance Implications: There are none arising directly from this report. Delivery of the strategy will be managed through AMED and Cabinet. However, as a key council plan formal approval for this strategy should be given by Council.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: A core element of the strategy is the need to generate economic growth and prosperity while protecting the green and unique character of the district. It also aims to increase prosperity and challenge some of the economic determinants of health inequality.