

Bolsover District Council

Growth Scrutiny Committee

15th March 2021

Business Growth Strategy

Report of the Assistant Director of Development

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To seek adoption of the draft Business Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 This working draft of Bolsover District Council's Business Growth Strategy and the associated Action Plan are attached to this report as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Ambition

- 1.2 The two documents focus on how the Development Directorate will prioritise its own work and its work with internal and external partners to achieve the Council's ambition:

To become a dynamic, self-sufficient and flexible Council that delivers excellent services, whilst adapting to local aspirations and acting as the economic and environmental driver for Bolsover District.

Priorities

- 1.3 To maintain focus on achieving the Council's ambition, the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan are both organised around the Council's economic priorities:
- i. Making the best use of our assets;
 - ii. Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams;
 - iii. Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites;
 - iv. Enabling Housing Growth: increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of the growing population and support economic growth;

- v. Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills; and
- vi. Promoting the District and working with partners to increase tourism

Building Back Better

- 1.4 The Strategy is also aligned with a shared ambition to 'build back better' and support cleaner and more inclusive growth following recovery from the pandemic. Therefore, this Strategy also takes into account the Council's priorities for its customers and the environment including:
- Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same;
 - Enhancing biodiversity and developing attractive neighbourhoods that residents feel proud of and take responsibility for;
 - Actively engaging with partners to benefit our communities;
 - Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people;
 - Providing good quality council housing where people choose to live; and
 - Improving health, wellbeing and increasing participation in sport and leisure activities.
- 1.5 Alongside meeting the Council's ambitions and its priorities, the Strategy and the Action Plan will help officers meet the following corporate targets:
- | | |
|--------|---|
| ECO.02 | Optimise business growth (as measured by gross Business Rates) by £2m by March 2023. |
| ECO.03 | Working with partners to bring forward employment and development opportunities at Coalite and Clowne Garden Village strategic sites by 2023. |
| ECO.05 | Annually review housing delivery in the district and facilitate delivery to meet the annual target of 272 new homes |
| ECO.07 | Deliver 150 new homes through the Bolsover Homes Programme by March 2024 |
| ECO.10 | Working with partners to grow the visitor economy, the number of tourists and the amount of tourism spending in the District by 2023. |
- 1.6 In addition, the actions set out in this Strategy have already contributed to generating income in excess of £1.5million the Council would not have normally achieved.
- 1.7 The actions set out in Action Plan are projected to earn an additional £10million of additional income for the Council if they were all to be successfully achieved.

- 1.8 Therefore, the Strategy and the actions designed to promote growth are also closely linked to the future sustainability of the Council and its ability to deliver quality services to people who live and work in the District.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 In conclusion, the Business Growth Strategy and the actions set out in the accompanying Action Plan will support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills and makes the best use of our assets whilst supporting clean and inclusive economic growth.
- 2.2 Therefore, adoption of the Business Growth Strategy by the Council will help to achieve the Council's ambitions and its priorities and various activities in the accompanying Action Plan will continue to generate additional income for the Council over time.
- 2.3 In these respects, the Business Growth Strategy is designed to help the Council move towards self-sufficiency in uncertain times so it can continue to deliver the services the people who live and work in the District need in the future.
- 2.4 It is therefore recommended that the Business Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan are adopted by the Council.
- 2.5 However, the Strategy has been presented as a "working draft" because many of the actions are current and the Strategy and Action Plan need to be flexible to allow the Council to take emerging opportunities and to adapt to new challenges promptly.
- 2.6 Therefore, it is also recommended that authority is delegated to officers to make changes to the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development as required and to complete the final design and layout of the Strategy document prior to publication.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 No formal public consultation has been undertaken on the Strategy or Action Plan but both have been considered by Growth Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 However, a number of projects in the Action Plan have been discussed with various key stakeholders and other interested parties and many of these projects will have been subject of public consultation or will need to be consulted on as they go forward.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There is not a 'do less' or 'do nothing' option in this case because the adoption of a Strategy is a corporate target and required to achieved the Councils ambitions.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 There are no direct costs attached to adopting this Strategy but further revenue and capital expenditure may be required to achieve a number of objectives in the associated Action Plan.
- 5.1.2 There are also no direct costs attached to adopting this Strategy but the activities set out in the associated Action Plan will need to be subject to their own individual risk assessments and cost benefit analysis.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 There are no legal implications around adopting the Business Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan. The work streams set out in Action Plan will need to be carried out in compliance within the relevant legal framework.
- 5.2.2 Similarly, there are no data protection issues around publishing the Business Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan but the associated actions will need to be carried out in compliance with the GDPR and with regard to the Council's privacy statements.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 Adoption of the Strategy does not give rise to any specific human resources implications but the speed of delivery of a number of projects will be dependent on officer capacity.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that
 - i. the Business Growth Strategy and associated Action Plan are adopted by the Council;
 - ii. officers are granted delegated authority to amend the final appearance and layout for the Business Growth Strategy in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development prior to publication; and
 - iii. officers are authorised to make amendments to the Strategy and Action Plan in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development as appropriate or required.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies</p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	All
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	All

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Business Growth Strategy
2	Action Plan
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
nil	
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