

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 8 July 2025

Update on Business Growth Strategy

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Growth

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Natalie Etches – Head of Business Growth Dragonfly Management (Bolsover) Limited

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To update Members of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on the work done to date in revising the strategy and action plan to reflect the new 4-year period 2025 – 2029.
 - To consult with the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on a first iteration of the draft Business Growth Strategy.
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REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 Bolsover District Council's Business Growth Strategy for the period 2020 – 2024 focussed on how the Development Directorate prioritised its own work and its work with internal and external partners to achieve the Council's ambition over the four-year period 2019-2023
- 1.2 To maintain focus on achieving the Council's ambition the strategy was 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

The action plan attached to the Business Growth Plan included specific details of how these priorities will be achieved through various ongoing projects.

- 1.3 In April 2024, the Council launched the new Corporate Plan 'Bolsover District – The Future 2024-2028' which sets out the vision ***“to maximise our influence and opportunities within the East Midlands Combined County Authority to drive the continued delivery of excellent services, maximise local aspirations and drive economic prosperity for Bolsover District”***, underpinned by four main aims: Customers; Economy; Environment; and Housing.
- 1.4 The introduction and formulation of the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority and changes to the funding structure sees more devolved powers in areas including transport, regeneration and investment, housing, and skills to the Elected Mayor. Therefore, the Economy priority to drive growth, promote the district and be business and visitor friendly should be underpinned by a clear strategy of how the Council will boost economic prosperity across the district, work to respond to the challenge of the new County Combined Authority, and maximise on opportunities as and when they present.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The Business Growth Strategy has been refreshed to ensure that the ambitions and priorities are reflective of the new corporate 'Economy' priority as well as recognise the emerging five strategic priorities of the County Combined Authority and the D2 Economic Growth Strategy for Derbyshire to best position the authority to respond to calls for funding and investment.
- 2.2 The five thematic areas of the Growth Strategy have been established, with an ambition under each:
 - Business and Innovation Ambition: we will make Bolsover an even better place to do business.
 - Land and Housing Ambition: we will make Bolsover an even better place to live.
 - Net Zero Ambition: we will take effective climate action for people and places.
 - Transport Ambition: we will make it easier for anyone to get around the District and easier to get to and from other places.
 - Adult Education and Skills ambition: everybody is able to believe in a positive future, be more ambitious about what is possible and go on to **have successful lives** regardless of their background or situation.
- 2.3 A working group involving officers from different departments across the council and Dragonfly (both Management and Development) has worked to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the local economy as well as working to identify and document all the different interventions taking place across the different disciplines, including regeneration, housing, net zero, planning, and business growth.
- 2.4 The draft document addresses the economic, social, and environmental challenges the District faces through innovative and inclusive initiatives, which

break down the barriers and unlock economic growth and social mobility to allow the district to thrive.

- 2.5 The Strategy will include an action plan, setting out the initiatives, measurable objectives, accountable officers / departments, and timescales for delivery. This will enable clear reporting on progress as well as the flexibility to adapt to market conditions and opportunities which support to business goals and grow the local economy.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Business Growth Strategy will set out the ambition and objectives for a 4-year period, aligned to the Corporate Plan and defining a clear action plan to achieve both the departments and corporate priorities for economic growth.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 This report is for consultation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That members of the Scrutiny Committee note the content of the draft document.

Approved by Councillor Tom Munro Portfolio Holder for Growth

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details: There are no financial implications arising directly from this report
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details: There are no legal implication arising from this report
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details: there are no staffing implications arising from this report
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

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: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details: None

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
This report sets out how the Business Growth Strategy will align to and directly contribute to the achievement of the Council's ambition for economic growth.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Draft Business Growth Strategy

Background Papers <i>(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 Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>

