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Chairman: Councillor D.J. Lloyd
Vice-Chairman: Councillor K. Girling

Members of the Committee:

Councillor M.G. Cope
Councillor Mrs R. Crowe
Councillor Mrs G.E. Dawn
Councillor P.C. Duncan
Councillor N. Mitchell

Councillor P. Peacock*
Councillor A.C. Roberts
Councillor F. Taylor
Councillor T. Wendels
Councillor Mrs Y. Woodhead

Substitutes

Councillor J. Lee
Councillor Mrs M. Dobson
Councillor D. Staples
Councillor D. Thompson
Councillor K. Walker

AGENDA

MEETING: Economic Development Committee

DATE: Wednesday, 21 June 2017 at 6.00pm

VENUE: Room G21, Kelham Hall

**You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place
and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the
business on the Agenda as overleaf.**

If you have any queries please contact Helen Brandham on 01636 655248.

AGENDA

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1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest by Members and Officers and as to the Party Whip
3. Declaration of Any Intentions to Record the Meeting
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2017

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PART 1 – ITEMS FOR DECISION

5. Business Case for HGV Drivers
6. Economic Growth and Tourism Update
7. Local Development Framework Progress Report
8. Reconstitution of Working Parties/Task & Finish Groups

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PART 2 – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

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CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT ITEMS

None

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday, 29 March 2017 in Room G21, Kelham Hall at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor D.J. Lloyd (Chairman)
Councillor K. Girling (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: M.G. Cope, Mrs R. Crowe, P.C. Duncan (substitute),
G.P. Handley, P. Peacock (Opposition Spokesperson),
A.C. Roberts, F. Taylor and B. Wells (substitute)

Substitutes: Councillors: P.C. Duncan for T. Wendels
Councillors: B. Wells for Mrs Y. Woodhead

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Mrs P. Rainbow

108. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: T. Wendels and Mrs Y. Woodhead.

109. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS AND AS TO THE PARTY WHIP

NOTED: that no Member or Officer declared any interest pursuant to any statutory requirement in any matter discussed or voted upon at the meeting.

110. DECLARATION OF ANY INTENTION TO RECORD THE MEETING

NOTED: that an audio recording was to be made of the meeting by the Council.

111. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2017

AGREED (unanimously) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

112. THE BEACON INNOVATION CENTRE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Economic Growth which provided an update on performance at the Beacon Innovation Centre (BIC) together with information regarding the current contract extension. Also contained within the report was further information in relation to the proposals for: extending the lease until 31 March 2018; re-configuring the internal space; the performance of the three centres for January 2017; and information about the Pioneer 10 Programme.

Members noted the current low occupancy figures at the BIC and acknowledged that this as partly due to the relocation of two successful businesses who had outgrown the Centre. Members agreed that despite this the Centre continued to be a success and offered fledgling companies a place to begin the businesses.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) the re-configuration at Newark Beacon takes place following approval by Assessment within NSDC;
- (c) Policy & Finance Committee be recommended to add the scheme to the capital programme; and
- (d) the opportunity to re-tender the contract for the three Nottinghamshire Innovation Centres be progressed in a timely and considered manner.

113. OLLERTON OUTREACH SERVICE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Senior Project Officer – Economic Growth which sought to provide information and recommendations regarding the Outreach Service that had been in operation for three years and was based in Ollerton & Boughton Town Hall.

The report provided Members with details of the purpose of the Service and the offer made to its customers. Statistical information was provided as to the number and type of enquiries and customers who utilised the service together with some success stories of customers being able to find employment. A review of the work undertaken during 2016 and the aims for 2017 were listed within the report.

In response to a query of the cost of running the service for one day, the Business Manager – Economic Growth advised that it was difficult to calculate. The cost to NSDC was the attendance of the member of the Customer Services Team. A Member of the Committee commented that he had been to Ollerton & Boughton Town Council and commented how well the staff performed, adding that he was in support of the service being extended to two days per week. He also added that he would wish to see the service provided in a further location, closer to Mansfield unless the cost was prohibitive.

A Member of the Committee commented that there must be cost implications to the service provision. He also queried whether Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) continued to provide a job club facility. In response the Business Manager advised that NCC no longer provided that service. She also advised Members as to the rationale behind the proposal to provide the service for two days.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the continuation of the service be supported; and
- (b) the aims for the service provision for 2017, as highlighted in paragraph 3.4.2 of the report, be approved.

114. NEWARK LORRY PARK EXTENSION PROJECT

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Communities which provided options for the expansion and reinstatement of capacity to the Newark Lorry Park.

The report provided background information on the number of spaces at the lorry park and how this had been affected by the building of the new Council HQ. It also provided information for Members to consider in relation to the two options for the construction of the roadway and the costs associated thereof with Appendix Four detailing the lorry park extension income modelling.

In response to whether it was Officers' professional opinion that the extension to the lorry park be phased or undertaken all at once, Members were advised that the preferred choice would be to develop the extension all at once.

A Member of the Committee raised concerns about the figures quoted and how these differed greatly from those provided previously in March 2016, querying whether it was feasible to do no extension works and leave the capacity of the car park at its current level of 122. Officers advised that it was safe to assume that eventually some of the current area would be developed for alternative uses and the number of spaces would likely reduce to 100 with the effect of a reduction in income to the Council. There would also be a loss of business because drivers would not be assured of a space for the night. In relation to drivers booking online, it was noted that almost 50% utilised the facility but that this did not guarantee them a space when they arrived. Newark was a popular place to park due to its close proximity to the town centre and geographic position to transport links.

A Member of the Committee stated that in principle he was in agreement with the proposed full extension with a concrete roadway and that the projected returns from that were acceptable. He was however concerned that only having signed off the capital budget some two weeks previously additions were already being made adding that the potential revenue costs could differ and queried whether it was prudent to wait until the report had been considered by the Policy & Finance Committee. In response, Officers reported that contingency figures had been built into the financial predictions rather than speculating as to what they may be. It was also reported that unless the scheme was attached to the capital programme it could not be progressed.

AGREED (by 9 votes for and 1 abstention) that:

- (a) the lorry park expansion project be approved;
- (b) the full expansion scheme be approved with a concrete roadway with the required budget for the project being approved;
- (c) the above decision of the Committee be reported to the April meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting for ratification;

- (d) the submission of a planning application and the preparation of tender documents for the project be approved, subject to the approval of the Policy & Finance Committee referred to in Recommendation (c) above; and
- (e) any approved scheme be included as part of the Council's capital programme.

115. SCONCE AND DEVON PARK – VISITOR CENTRE EXTENSION

The Committee considered the report of the Director – Communities which sought Committee's approval for the progression of a project to extend the Sconce & Devon Park visitor centre to create a new classroom/meeting room/café extension facility. The report provided background information in relation to the current facility and the benefits and opportunities the new extension would offer.

It was reported that based on typical costs per square metre for a visitor centre extension in the East Midlands, (as provided by the Building Cost Information Service) the cost of the extension had been estimated at £264,216. This included an allowance for inflation, external works, fitting out costs, professional fees and contingencies.

It was also reported that research had been undertaken into possible sources of partnership funding and significant opportunities have been identified. Initial approaches have been made to WREN and Veolia with respect to Landfill Communities funding and an Expression of Interest has been submitted to Sport England's Community Asset Fund. It was envisaged that partnership funding of £136,000 would be achieved, which represented over 50% of the total cost of the extension. The amount requested from Council resources was forecast to be £128,216.

In considering the report Members acknowledged the benefits of extending the visitor centre but considered that the scheme should be linked to the wider area. They also commented that the scheme, whilst desirable, was not essential and concern was expressed that the partnership funding was not in place.

A Member of the Committee stated that he had visited the visitor centre and agreed that the proposed extension was needed. He had discussed the issue of funding with the Business Manager – Parks & Amenities and it had been suggested that there was a possible source from Section 106 monies which would lessen the financial commitment of the Council.

Another Member of the Committee commented that he did not believe the scheme to be sufficiently ambitious and that he would wish to halt its progress and it be replaced with a more strategic scheme that linked in with the entire area which would, in turn, likely attract more external funding.

AGREED (unanimously) that Committee noted the progress of the potential project and its merits. However, the Committee feels that the interconnectivity with other local and heritage schemes cannot be fully assessed at this time and does not recommend that any further progress be made unless significant further funding be found to apply to the scheme.

116. BUILDING OUR INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY – GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER

The Committee considered the report presented by the Chief Executive which sought to provide a summary of the current Government consultation relating to the development of the UK Industrial Strategy and to outline a response from Newark & Sherwood District Council to the draft strategy. The Economic Prosperity Committee agreed that responses from individual authorities would be the most appropriate approach to the consultation which was to close on 17 April 2017.

The draft report proposed ten pillars for Britain's Modern Industrial strategy and focused on strengthening the UK's position in the international arena. The ten pillars were listed as follows:

- Investing in science, research and innovation
- Upgrading infrastructure
- Improving procurement
- Delivering affordable energy and clean growth
- Driving growth across the whole country
- Developing skills
- Supporting businesses to start and grow
- Encouraging trade and inward investment
- Cultivating world-leading sectors
- Creating the right local institutions

The report listed the proposed general comments that should be made in response to the consultation together with the proposed comments that should be made on each of the ten pillars noted above. Paragraph 3.4 of the report provided five additional comments that would conclude the Council's response to the consultation.

A Member of the Committee commented that a good point had been made in Paragraph 3.3(a) but suggested that this be further strengthened before its submission.

In relation to the ten pillars noted above, a Member of the Committee queried whether there was a need to add comment about the impact of the UK leaving the European Union and whether there would be a gap to be filled in the commitment to the continuation of the level of support of the issues listed. In response the Chief Executive advised that it was his belief that the Government would say that this proposed Industrial Strategy was their response to Brexit and the implications thereof.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Industrial Strategy and proposed responses be considered and that the proposed responses to be Government consultation be agreed.

117. ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING THE EXEMPT REPORTS CONSIDERED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive in relation to the list of the exempt business considered by the Committee for the period 17 May 2016 to date. Members have the opportunity to review the exempt reports and request further information. The rule is defined in Paragraph 18 of the Constitution entitled 'Right of Members to Request a Review of Exempt Information'.

Paragraph 3.1 of the report listed the exempt business considered by the Committee during the aforementioned time period and whether the report author considered that the information could now be released into the public domain if such a request was made.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the Tourism Report considered by Committee on 15 June 2016 could be released into the public domain; and
- (b) the Proposed Support for Local Business considered by Committee on 14 September 2017 remain as an exempt item of business.

118. URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Enabling Commencement of Amendments to the Council's Car Parking Order

AGREED (unanimously) that the Urgency Item – Enabling Commencement of Amendments to the Council's Car Parking Order be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman

BUSINESS CASE PROPOSAL

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report proposes further financial support to continue LGV/HGV training in Newark and Sherwood, following a successful pilot programme. This programme cannot be funded from the existing budget allocation.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In July 2016 the House of Commons transport committee shed a light on the shortfall of skilled drivers within the road haulage sector. The road transport industry employs over 1.7 million people in the UK, contributing £75billion to the economy, making it the fifth largest industry in the UK. 85% of everything consumed in the UK is carried by a lorry at some stage in the supply chain. These trucks contribute 35% of fuel duty to HM Treasury each year.

2.2 There is a huge opportunity for jobs and a career progression in an industry that is quite literally driving the economy. The lack of support to introduce these roles needs to be addressed. A key part of the skills shortage is the current gender imbalance in the logistics sector and only 8% of the 400,000-people holding both an LGV licence and a driver CPC is female.

2.3 The demand for drivers does fluctuate throughout the year and there will always be some agency costs for businesses. However, logistics businesses in the district would benefit from reducing their agency costs. Continuation of this training programme will achieve the following:

- ❖ Increase the number of drivers available locally and help to reduce the skills shortage
- ❖ Provide employment opportunities (both temporary and permanent) for people currently out of work, along with equipping them with a portable qualification.
- ❖ Reduce agency costs and training costs for local businesses, making the district a more attractive location for logistics based businesses to remain, grow or indeed locate
- ❖ All the above factors have a positive impact on the local economy

2.4 Information relating to salary costs and average agency fees per placement

How do HGV jobs salaries vary across industries?		
Industry/Sector	Salary Range	Average Agency Costs Per Placement
Oil, Gas, Alternative Energy	£23,703- £32,500	£4,178.00
Engineering, Manufacturing	£23,000 - £28,362	£4,138.00
Transport, Logistics	£26,406 - £31,787	£4,891.00
Other	£23,000 - £26,406	£5,381.00

3.0 Proposals

3.1 Issues were identified regarding HGV driver recruitment for logistics sector organisations based in Newark and Sherwood. In conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Newark and Sherwood District (NSDC) council met with one training provider in May 2016, to discuss a pilot programme. Unfortunately, the training provider could not deliver the outcomes required.

3.2 In September 2016, Newark and Sherwood District Council met with a local training provider to take the programme forward. This was identified as an opportunity for the provider to become involved in a pilot project, providing opportunities to reduce the high agency costs for businesses with HGV drivers and to work with the district council to model best practice in addressing the national skills shortage.

3.3 Processes followed by the Pilot Project

3.3.1 To gauge demand for the pilot programme, referrals were taken by the DWP from mid October 2016. A mix of 37 male and female customers, claiming benefits showed an initial interest in the training programme. An Insight information session was held on 1 December 2016 at the Job Centre in Newark with 23 of the initial 37 people identified attending the event. The process followed for the pilot is detailed at Appendix One.

3.3.2 At the event, the training provider gave details of LGV/HGV driving and what the training course would involve. Three people left at this stage. The remaining 20 completed or took an application form to apply for a provisional LGV licence. 17 of the 20 returned their licence applications.

3.3.3 The law requires LGV/HGV drivers to be in reasonably good health in order to legally operate commercial vehicles on public roads. Every new driver must undergo a medical examination with accompanying paperwork that is submitted to the DVLA by the physician who performs the examination. The medicals took place on 16 and 21 December.

3.3.4 By 3 January 2017, the first licences were returned from the DVLA with approval. 13 of the 17 who attended the medicals were deemed fit to continue to the next stage of Hazard Perception Tests (HPT); Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) and the theory tests. Of the four who were found unfit to continue, two have since found full time employment with companies within Newark.

3.3.5 Candidates must take and pass both the Large Goods Vehicles (LGV) Theory test and Hazard Perception tests (HPT). These are two separate tests, although they can be taken on the same day. Materials required for revision are available to purchase from the government website and the price of the manuals and DVD sets total £70.46. The cost for the candidates would prove a barrier to them continuing with their training. NSDC funded 6 sets of revision materials. The materials were distributed by the DWP to the candidates on a rolling programme. The training provider organised the dates for the theory tests to take place. NSDC agreed that if candidates failed these elements, they would fund one retest.

- 3.3.6 The first practical driving test for a candidate took place on 23 February and was successful. Two further candidates have successfully completed this bespoke training programme, passing their practical tests. One of these is a female candidate and all three have gone into paid employment within the industry in the Newark and Sherwood district.
- 3.3.7 There have been some failures to date, which is to be expected. NSDC agreed to fund one practical resit dependent on the severity of the fail. The test itself consists of 5 topic areas. To pass the candidate must score 15 out of a possible 20 points in each topic area.

Topic Areas	
1	Ability to load vehicle with due regard for safety rules and proper vehicle use
2	Security of your vehicle and its contents
3	Demonstrate an ability to prevent criminality and trafficking in illegal immigrants and contraband
4	Demonstrate an ability to assess emergency situations
5	Demonstrate an ability to prevent physical risk.

3.4 Outcomes from the Pilot

3 candidates passed their theory and practical tests at the first attempt
2 candidates passed their theory at first attempt but passed their practical tests at the 2 nd attempt funded by NSDC
4 candidates failed their theory tests, did not resit but have found alternative employment
1 candidate is booked to sit their theory test within the next month
1 candidate is booked to sit their practical test within the next month
1 candidate failed 2 practical tests. They passed at the third attempt, funded by the DWP
1 candidate passed their theory but is pursuing bus driving as an alternative to LGV/HGV

Overall 6 people gained employment and are no longer claiming benefits.

3.5. Costs for the Pilot

Summary of Project Costs per person	
Description	Costs
Medical	£60.00
Theory Test	£26.00
Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)	£23.00
Hazard Perception Tests (HPT)	£11.00
Four days practical training	£900.00
Practical Test Fee	£115.00
Module 4 practical associated knowledge examination	£55.00
Administration fee	£10.00
Total cost per person	£1200.00

3.5.1 The funding required would make a difference for those who are unemployed. For example: An HGV 1 driver could earn a salary of between £26,406 and £31,787 per annum before Tax and National Insurance contributions, dependent on experience. If this person were aged over 25 their weekly benefit of £65.45 over 52 weeks equals £3403.30. Not only would their income increase by £28,383.60 before tax and National Insurance contributions so would their self-esteem and ability to contribute to the local economy.

3.6 Positive impact for the district

3.6.1 The financial support for the pilot means there will be more benefits than would otherwise happen. An individual who has received the training costing £1,200 could earn a net income of £21,123.00 (gross £26,406). The main objective is to create local employment opportunities. According to research, 70% of those in work will spend within their local economy.

3.7 The Proposal

3.7.1 It is vitally important to recognise the importance of a strong logistics infrastructure across the district. To secure future investment within Newark and Sherwood, providing local employment as well as using the local supply chain. Vacancies are becoming available as HGV drivers are taking retirement and these jobs are not being filled through lack of qualified drivers. Therefore it is proposed that NSDC support a programme for a further 24 LGV Drivers for people currently unemployed and living in the district at a cost of £28,800.

3.7.2 Funding through other avenues have been explored, including the DWP who funded a third retest for one person but are unable to deliver the amount required to meet the needs of local businesses. The D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) offer support and incentives across the D2N2 area through the Employ Local Funding Scheme. A request for possible funding of up to £4,000 available on a staged payment basis is being pursued, but if this were successful the funding would only cover training for 3 people. The proposal would invite other training providers to tender to deliver the model and the larger employers in the district would be invited to take part in the scheme to fill vacancies. The project would be closely monitored by NSDC and DWP with a report compiled at the end of the project to inform all participating organisations as to the outcomes achieved. From the information submitted this would seem a good return on investment.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 This programme would be offered to people looking for employment throughout the district initially, with consideration given to residents in employment within the district who are looking to gain their HGV licence, where the employer cannot fund the process but would have suitable employment if the licence process is successful.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

5.1 This is an application for additional budget of £28,800 to deliver the project for 24 people throughout the Newark and Sherwood district. The project supports the Council's Prosperity theme.

6.0 Comments of Financial Services

- 6.1 The Economic Growth budget had an agreed one-off increase in 2016/17 for various projects, but this was removed in the 2017/18 budget process, on the basis that funding for individual projects should be subject to Committee approval. Funding for this proposal can be found from reserves.
- 6.2 Any funding achieved from the D2N2 LEP will reduce the contribution needed from reserves.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee supports the recommendation to provide additional budget of £28,800 to assist with the training of up to 24 people across the district, with the creation of new jobs, filling current permanent and temporary vacancies in the district and supporting the logistics businesses who employ workforces of between 1,500 and 4,000 employees.

Reason for Recommendation

Following a successful pilot, this programme will assist both businesses and individuals within the District

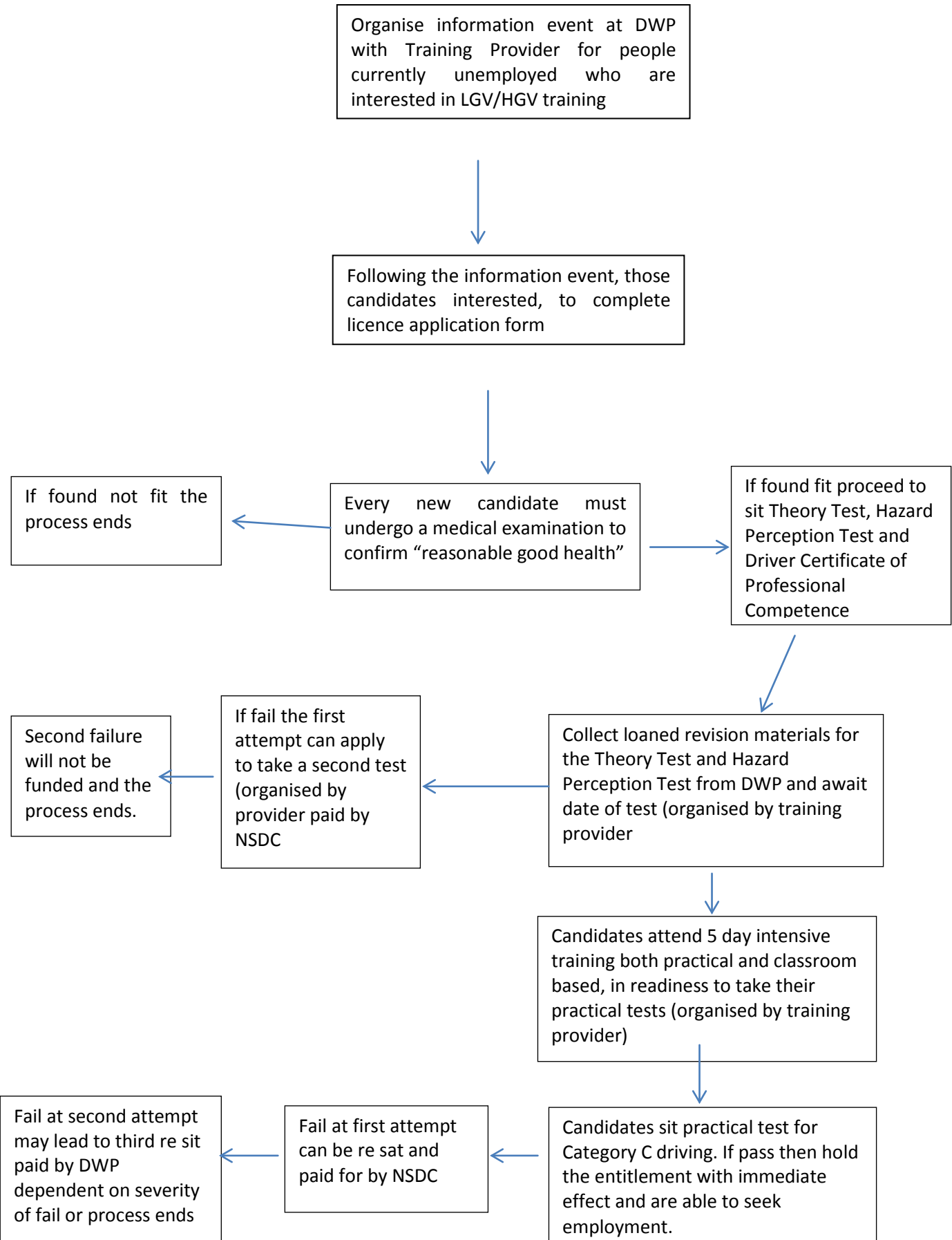
Background Papers

None

For further information please contact Veronica Dennant on Ext 5260

Andy Statham
Director – Communities.

HGV Pilot Process



ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TOURISM UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide an update for the Committee on current and planned activities within the Economic Growth and Tourism Team.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In line with the Economic Growth Strategy agreed on 26th March 2014, the three main objectives of the strategy are:

- ❖ Objective 1: **To develop and maintain an in-depth understanding of the Newark and Sherwood economies, business stock and sector strength.** This will ensure that all activities and resources available to support our vision are appropriately focused.
- ❖ Objective 2: **To develop appropriate place marketing to visitors and investors.** To achieve this we will work with partners such as Visit Nottinghamshire for Tourism and Invest in Nottingham and the Department for International Trade (DIT) for Inward Investment opportunities.
- ❖ Objective 3: **To plan and support Growth for our district.** This incorporates a number of areas which the council can directly affect or can exercise influence.

2.2 This report summarises progress in these key areas as well as outlining current national and local economic conditions. The report does not include day to day activities such as liaising with teams within the Council over information required by businesses and resolving general enquiries.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The Economy

John Hawksworth, Chief UK Economist, Price Waterhouse Coopers, (PWC) said during March 2017 “The UK economic growth has held up better than expected in the six months following the Brexit vote, but this has begun to ease in early 2017 as inflation has risen, squeezing household spending power”.

“We project UK growth to slow to around 1.6% in 2017 and 1.4% in 2018 due to slower consumer spending growth and the drag on business investment from Brexit-related uncertainty”.

“Service sector growth will slow but remain positive in 2017-18. Construction may suffer from lower investment levels. Manufacturing and services exporters should benefit from the weaker pound”.

“Longer term, PWC expect the UK economy to grow at around 2% after Brexit, with consumer spending rising at a similar rate but increasingly focused on housing and utilities, financial services and personal care. Spending on food, clothing, alcohol and tobacco will take a declining share of total spending”.

“Around 30% of existing UK jobs could be at potential risk of automation by the early 2030s, with the most exposed sectors including retail and wholesale, transport and storage, and manufacturing. Less educated workers face the highest risks of automation”.

“But these new technologies will also boost productivity, wealth and spending. This should generate jobs in service sectors that are less easy to automate, but could also increase income inequality”.

“Government needs to respond by reshaping education and vocational training to help workers adapt to this fast evolving technological world. Measures to redistribute income should also be considered, but need careful design to avoid adverse incentive effects”.

Local Information regarding Unemployment Figures:

The number of out of work claimants for Newark and Sherwood in April 2017 numbered 1,030 which is 1.4% of the population. The East Midlands figure was 1.6% and the national figure was 2.0%. It is important to note that the percentage unemployment for the 18-24 age group and the 18-21 group is higher than the East Midlands average and so confirms that the work with schools and businesses is a crucial element to the work of the team.

The most recent NOMIS report provides the following details and is available in full as background reading.

Claimant Count by Age - Not Seasonally Adjusted (April 2017)				
	Newark & Sherwood (level)	Newark & Sherwood (%)	East Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
Aged 16+	1,030	1.4	1.6	2.0
Aged 16 to 17	0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Aged 18 to 24	255	2.8	2.4	2.9
Aged 18 to 21	160	3.2	2.6	3.1
Aged 25 to 49	525	1.5	1.7	2.0
Aged 50+	250	1.0	1.3	1.7

3.2 Inward Investment

The team liaise with our neighbouring districts regarding representation of our district at conferences and exhibitions, as well as pursuing opportunities to promote the East Midlands offer and this includes:

3.2.1 MIPIM UK - October 2016. NSDC in partnership with Nottingham City Council, Ashfield, Mansfield District Councils and Rushcliffe Borough Council organised a joint stand at the three day event. NSDC promoted the offer of exciting propositions to businesses that are looking to locate/relocate to Newark and Sherwood.

D2N2, Chief Executive, David Ralph attended to promote the area's development opportunities and was part of a 'Derby Showcase' business panel.

Questions were taken from an audience of around 50 delegates on subjects such as how the Nottingham and Derby Enterprise Zone could support key sectors; the importance of a recent £12million additional funding for Midlands Connect - the region-wide initiative to improve transport connectivity in the Midlands, and between it and the rest of the UK - to the cities' areas.

Commenting after the event, David Ralph said: "I think MIPIM UK showcase event was well received and a good opportunity to air some of the ideas around the Metro strategy; including the potential economic benefits of a proposed future HS2 line through the D2N2 area and how the East Midlands needs to come together to show its strengths."

NSDC received 7 enquiries and all were followed up further to the show, however there have been no significant new inward investment enquiries as yet. However, some useful conversations with potential developers took place.

3.2.2 East Midlands EXPO - October 2017. There will be a stand representing all opportunities in Newark & Sherwood. Representatives from other local authorities include Invest Ashfield & Mansfield, Invest Gainsborough, Invest East Midlands and Lincolnshire County Council. The Economic Growth team will promote the opportunities in the district and promote the key account management role offered support to businesses with their move to the district. The East Midlands Expo is held in Nottingham each year and in the past significant leads have been gained from attendance at this event.

Additional Projects Under Development

- ❖ Once the outcome of the CIL Consultation is known, events to provide information to commercial agents and developers will be organised, following a successful event two years ago.
- ❖ A small strategic commissioning review will take place to understand the most effective way of engaging with potential inward investors, in order to maximise NSDC resources and ensure we provide inward investors with relevant information.
- ❖ The Invest Newark and Sherwood website (www.investnewarkandsherwood.co.uk) is being refreshed in order to reflect current businesses in the district.

3.2.3 New businesses are establishing new operations in the area such as Moy Park, The Range and Ultimation Direct. Overall, 90 planning applications were received during the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 relating to proposals to both existing and proposed business operations throughout the district. Proposals have included applications for change of use, new holiday lodge accommodation, infrastructure to support further development, hotel and industrial units as well as proposed extension to existing light industrial units.

3.2.4 Business Leaders

The Business Leader's Breakfast meetings are held quarterly at business venues across the district. These provide the opportunity for senior executives in the larger businesses to discuss relevant concerns and developments in the district, as well as national policy issues. During the last 12 months they have been held at NSK, Southwell Race Course and Golf Club, Newark Leisure Centre and BE Design. Approximately 40 businesses are invited and 15 to 20 attend when they are available.

3.2.5. Key issues and trends from Businesses in Newark and Sherwood

Impact of BREXIT on local businesses - Through both the Business Leader's meetings and key account meetings with the businesses, the general trends are reflected below:

- ❖ Concern relating to the free movement of people as many employees in the district travel to the district from Eastern Europe and take up employment in local organisations.
- ❖ There has been a noticeable impact in early stage design work, with new customers not starting initial design work, or only commissioning in short stages.
- ❖ Within the hospitality sector, the impact of prices of food supplies has meant either internalising the price increase, or raising the price the customer pays.
- ❖ Businesses that trade across currencies are experiencing some challenges at present which is having a negative impact on trading.

The Economic Growth Team provide a dedicated account manager to assist local businesses. During the last 12 months 15 of the 20 larger businesses have been visited and below is a summary of issues they reported:

Recruitment Issues

- ❖ These issues run across the board from apprentices, higher level skills, graduate recruitment and lower skilled shift workers.
- ❖ The impact of the Apprenticeship Levy which has now come into force. Some businesses are still not clear of the impact and some have not put into places plans to maximise use of the levy.
- ❖ The mismatch between schools and business: The students who are leaving to look for work do not have the knowledge, skills or behaviours the businesses are looking to recruit.
- ❖ Businesses within Newark and Sherwood are filling their vacancies from outside the district. This includes Lincolnshire, Peterborough and Leicestershire.

Financial Issues

- ❖ CIL: still awaiting outcome of the CIL Review as this impacts on industrial land and businesses considering investment in the district.

Premises, Parking and Travel

- ❖ Issues around the businesses based on Brunel Drive. At peak times it can be difficult to get on and off the estate due to the volume of traffic at the A1/A46 roundabout.
- ❖ Parking issues relate to the numbers of employees travelling from outside the area in their own vehicles and lack of parking for the businesses at their own sites to accommodate ever growing work forces.

The Team take a proactive approach to assisting the businesses and resolving enquiries/issues wherever this is possible. This report does not detail these enquiries.

3.3 Business Support

3.3.1 A total of 103 Businesses have received support via the Economic Growth team in the last 12 months. This is a combination of property enquiries, start-up business enquiries as well as requests for support regarding funding and advice.

Business Support Events

Over 90 business people attended our free “Starting or Growing Business” events held at two venues in Newark and Edwinstowe during September and October 2016. The main theme covered learning about public procurement and how to bid for public sector contracts. The event also offered finance and business support solutions for new and existing businesses.

The feedback was extremely positive with two noting from each session *“Good to see local council supporting local businesses. Useful insight to procurement/finance. Could have used this 3 years ago”* *“Many thanks for the inspiring event. It was lovely to meet everyone and to start finding out about the support and guidance out there for start-up ideas like ours. This week is all about further research”*.

Following on from these events a free “Ready Set Grow Your Own Business” workshop was held in Newark during March 2017. Speakers included D2N2 Growth Hub - Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, Wright Vigar, NBV Enterprise Solutions Ltd and The University of Nottingham. The day was focussed on individuals thinking of starting a business or those already running a new business and brought together partners who offer support to individuals at either pre-start or start up stages.

Over 20 attended which consisted of 33% pre starts and 67% in the early stages of trading. The feedback received was excellent with one noting *“I was really impressed with the wide scope of the discussion and the quality of the speakers. I'll be looking out for other courses to continue learning in this area”*. All attendees were offered ongoing support from all partners involved to move forward. The Economic Growth Team maintain a document providing information on funding and support available throughout the county and this was circulated to the audience and emailed to all further to the session. This document is available as background reading to this report.

D2N2 LEP (The Growth Hub) is keen to support High Growth businesses and is organising some high growth business coaching sessions. There are three cohorts for this which are: Scale Ups, potential for Scaling Up and ambitious businesses. NSDC has agreed to work collaboratively as part of our delivery support programme to businesses in D2N2. There are elements and aspects to the specific needs of high growth businesses. Two business health check sessions have been organised to take place during June 2017 at Newark Beacon. Following the events, feedback will be sought from the businesses attending, in order to assess how beneficial the sessions proved to be.

NBV Mentoring

NBV Enterprise Solutions Ltd continue to offer support in Newark and Sherwood through Start up Business Workshops. There is also a Business Assist programme is available for trading businesses and the offer of grants of between £1000 to £2500 or up to a maximum of 25% of eligible costs for the purchase of capital equipment where it supports business expansion or diversification.

A total of 32 Newark & Sherwood pre starts and new starts have been referred to NBV from the Economic Growth team in the last 12 months. Eleven have utilised NBV services.

Following the one to one NSDC/NBV Clinics that took place from September 2015 to April 2016, 7 out of the 21 businesses that attended the clinics have been trading for 12 months.

The Way Forward

There are now a number of organisations supporting businesses in the district and this was not the case two years ago. The role of the Economic Growth team moving forwards, will be to support businesses in accessing the right service and to act as the liaison point. It will also be important to evaluate the effectiveness of the services available to business.

3.3.2 Think BIG Loan Fund

The number of jobs created through the loan fund is 84 at present with further new jobs planned from a new approved loan but yet to be drawn. The current cost of the Fund per job created is £8541. The calculation is based on the actual jobs created to the end of March and not anticipated or expected jobs. This calculation does not take into account capital and interest repaid to date.

Job losses have occurred from 3 of the businesses. These range in number from 1 to 9 jobs across the district. Two businesses have defaulted on their loans and of these one has gone into liquidation. A report for the Policy Monitoring Group will provide more detail in this area. However, with any type of funding of this nature, some loss is to be expected.

A brief summary of the Think BIG fund is given below:

Of the 15 approved and drawn loans, 3 have repaid in full. One further loan has been approved but as yet to be drawn.

Total Loans Granted :	£1,296,762
Capital repaid:	£579,257
Capital outstanding:	£717,505
Interest paid:	£123,689
Fees paid:	£41,264

A12506 Growth Investment Fund		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
Think Big Fund Balance B/f		1,294,842.80	1,877,074.01	1,574,175.33	1,416,740.51	1,217,270.63	
Contribution to the fund							
	From other balances	705,157.20	12,766.88				
Costs							
	Professional Services	70,691.46	37,978.09	62,758.54	54,171.21	61,684.59	287,283.89
	Internal Charges	6,502.84	2,456.46	2,705.28	3,192.11	6,129.38	20,986.07
	Bank Charges from Streets		74.00	31.80	29.40	28.00	163.20
	Total running costs of the scheme	77,194.30	40,508.55	65,495.62	57,392.72	67,841.97	308,433.16
Income							
	Fees charged	-125.00	-6,575.00	-9,250.00	-10,464.00	-14,850.00	-41,264.00
	Interest	-799.88	-17,751.22	-33,207.38	-36,890.21	-35,040.81	-123,689.50
	Total Income	-924.88	-24,326.22	-42,457.38	-47,354.21	-49,890.81	-164,953.50
	NET Costs of the scheme	76,269.42	16,182.33	23,038.24	10,038.51	17,951.16	143,479.66
Loans							
	Amounts loaned out	50,500.00	370,000.00	297,500.00	368,762.53	210,000.00	1,296,762.53
	Principle Repaid	-3,843.43	-70,516.77	-163,103.42	-179,331.16	-162,462.64	-579,257.42
	NET Loan Balance	46,656.57	299,483.23	134,396.58	189,431.37	47,537.36	717,505.11
Balance c/f		1,877,074.01	1,574,175.33	1,416,740.51	1,217,270.63	1,151,782.11	

In March 2017, the outstanding loan from one business stands at £34,764 (net £23,837) after interest and fees received. The process to 'write off' this loan is now commencing. The second business in default has an outstanding loan of £33,998 (net £30,846 after interest and fees received, although the security for this loan should ensure payment in the longer term). A further business is experiencing difficulties and the Loan fund panel is working closely with the business to provide any possible support.

It is notable that 3 businesses in the portfolio had a turnover in excess of £1m at the start of the loan and have created in excess of 75 jobs throughout the loan fund period. Those with a turnover under £1m have created less than 5 jobs each.

3.4 Innovation and Technology - Silicon Forest

The promotion of the technology based companies in the district continues as does the involvement with projects being supported through the LEP (D2N2). It has been a challenge to organise a suitable time and date for local employer meet ups and it is hoped to schedule an event prior to the summer holiday weeks. The purpose will be to create a meet up culture in the district in order to share good practice, assist with recruitment issues and promote the expertise available. A tailored Code Club is taking place at Newark Academy, with students working on real projects that were showcased at the recent Careers Expo.

3.5 Employment and Skills

3.5.1 HGV Driver Training Pilot

Issues were identified regarding HGV driver shortages for the Logistics sector based Newark and Sherwood companies, as well as the national and international skills shortage in this area. The rationale behind the pilot was to work in collaboration with the DWP to identify individuals claiming benefits, with the desire to work in the logistics sector and to train them initially as Light Goods Vehicle drivers.

In September 2016, NSDC met with a local training provider to progress the programme further. This was identified as an opportunity for the provider to become involved in a pilot project to reduce the high agency costs and to respond flexibly to employer demand in the local labour markets where specific needs are identified.

Thirty seven delegates attended the insight day at the Job Centre in December. Seventeen took the medical required to progress to the next level. Thirteen were found fit to take the Hazard Perception Test, Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC); and the theory tests. Ten continued with the programme. Three have passed their tests and are now in employed in the district. The remaining seven are progressing along the path sitting their theory tests with their practical tests booked over the next two months.

A business case to continue to deliver this programme for the next twelve months will be presented to the Economic Development Committee for consideration.

3.5.2 Pilot Mini Bus

The pilot bus/mini bus service funded through the additional financial support made available through the Economic Development Committee commenced on July 4th 2016. The purpose of the pilot was to provide transport for those seeking work opportunities in the rest of the district filling vacancies for employers in Newark with vacancies for shift start and end times outside the normal service bus timetable. Pre-Employment support work meant employability courses and one to one support was available in advance of the interviewing and transport commencing.

Due to the shift times operated by two of the larger Newark employers, a requirement of their online recruitment process is that individuals have access to transport to and from work. The provision of the minibus overcame this stipulation and enabled at least four people to take up employment and car share; therefore they did not require use of the mini bus. A couple of others applied for the Wheels to Work scheme which provides a loan of a moped to support employment. Volumes reached a total of six people on the twelve seater minibus. Due to the nature of the 24/7 four days on, four off and 12 hour shift patterns, it was not expected to achieve full capacity on the bus, however take up was lower than anticipated. Activities were undertaken to promote the use of this service by all organisations and the service was extended to include Mansfield, however there was insufficient demand to justify continuation of the service. The benefit for those who gained employment through this programme is significant although unsustainable. People using the service were notified in January 2017 that the service would cease on 31 March 2017 and they were offered other options for continuing their employment.

Due to the low numbers accessing the mini bus service by the end of the pilot it was decided not to pursue this into the new financial year. Had the mini bus service been successful the principle was to transfer responsibility to the larger employers involved in order for the service to continue.

3.5.3 Bilsthorpe Support Event

The Ollerton Outreach Service report presented to the last Committee, demonstrated the success and Councillor Peacock requested that research was undertaken to understand what might be possible for Bilsthorpe.

The Economic Growth team are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions in Mansfield to organise a short local employers focused session for those claiming benefits in Bilsthorpe. Due to public transport issues, it can be challenging for residents to gain employment within the district or attend support sessions to assist them. Due to the low numbers of claimants in Bilsthorpe, it would not be feasible to deliver a full outreach service.

Additional Projects Under Development

There is a possibility of a business case to be presented to the Economic Development Committee from Sherwood Forest Trust. This would look at opportunities to deliver a project broadly based on the previous 'Wild Sherwood' project which aims to support people further away from the job market in gaining skills and confidence to make steps towards employment.

A further business case may be presented from the Sherwood Forest Education Partnership which will propose projects linking primary school students and parents in terms of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.

3.5.4 Future First Expo 2017

The Future First held on 4 May was the re-energised 'What's Next' event, previously held at Kelham Hall. The Expo showcased everything the area has to offer in terms of careers, training and education. The Expo was held in the newly built Lady Eastwood Centre at the Newark Showground and organised by Newark and Sherwood District Council, the Lincoln College Group and the Advertiser Media Group. British Sugar were the Headline Sponsors for the event with Knowhow taking a platinum sponsorship package. Forty two businesses and fourteen education and training providers were in attendance on the day.

The sponsorship from British Sugar and KnowHow covered the cost of transport for the students attending from 6 schools within Newark and Sherwood.

School	Numbers	Year Group	Am/Pm attendance
Magnus Academy	16	Year 12	9:30-12:00
Dukeries Academy	48	Year 12	9:30-12:00
Joseph Whitaker	200	Year 10	9:30-11:45
Toot Hill	42	Year 10	9:20-11:50
Newark Academy	84	Year 10	12:30-15:00
Minster School	270	Year 10	12:45-14:50

The format of the event was innovative and exciting, featuring four different zones with fully interactive exhibits. Seminars covering a wider range of topical and relevant subjects were available to attend in the break out rooms.

The event was marketed in publications across the East Midlands. The expo was not only an event for the pupils from years 10 to 13 attending the local schools in the district, but individuals wanting to explore new training and employment opportunities. Seventy two visitors not connected with the schools attended the event, taking time to meet the exhibitors in attendance.

The feedback after the event from both the schools and exhibitors was very positive.

A few examples are as follows:

Schools:

Fiona Farmer, Head of Careers and Toot Hill Extra sent the following:

"I just wanted to say congratulations on organising such a fantastic event this morning. You have put so much work into this project and it really enthused and raised the aspirations of our students. You have been so dedicated to bringing this idea to life!"

"The students really loved the interactive activities offer and I liked the competitions. This encouraged our Year 10's to engage more fully and to try something new".

"Thank you to all your wonderful providers for their time and for their enthusiasm in engaging with young people. Know How were absolutely fantastic and the team were really friendly and engaging with young people. Newark is such a very lucky area to have such an inspiring team at N&S Council and the backing of many willing employers."

Nicola Watkin from Newark Academy echoed these remarks:

"Absolutely brilliant feedback from my year 10s and a couple of 11s who attended alone yesterday. Staff also reported how informative the event was. Thank you so much and we will definitely want to reserve places for next year."

Exhibitors feedback:

Max Emerson

The Young Project

"Thank you very much for your email and for your organisation of the event itself. I'm glad that it was a success and we thoroughly enjoyed the event as well! The venue and turnout were excellent and we were able to liaise with and network with many new local businesses – which was very valuable for us, as well as the countless young people that showed an interest in the YouNG Project".

Kath Brandreth , Nursing Development Recruitment & Events Co-ordinator

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust:

"Thank you for sharing the wonderful feedback and look forward to participating in 2018".

Claire Knee – Project Coordinator Careers Inspiration:

"The event was great, we really enjoyed it and thought it was excellent.

We were lucky to have a Doctor with us on the day, which was just as well because we got lots of enquiries from students wanting to study medicine.

It was a positive experience for all, thanks again".

Dean Law -Store Manager, Marks and Spencer, Newark:

The team had a great day and enjoyed supporting the event.

The feedback excerpts are brilliant and a credit to the professionalism in the way you and your team planned and set up the day

The Expo can be rated as a huge success for all the partners involved. In 2018 we aim to build on this success. One change will be to alter the time of year it takes place from May to October. This will enable the Year 11 students to attend, which will be beneficial during their GCSE year and will also be more meaningful to students, businesses and training providers.

3.5.5 Schools Project

One of the ten pillars for Britain’s Modern Industrial strategy focusing on strengthening the UK’s position in the international arena is to develop skills. Within Newark and Sherwood a priority linked to the Economic Development strategy is to: Raise aspirations at secondary school level, working with businesses and schools to improve the skill and attitude match between employers, education providers and school leavers.

GCSE results in the district 2015/2016 show (Tuxford Academy & Toot Hill included as a fair number of students from the district attended this school)

School	Grades	2015/2016	2014/2015
Dukeries Academy	A-C English/Maths	53.6%	40%
Joseph Whittaker	A-C English/Maths	75%	66%
Magnus Academy	A-C English/Maths	41.5%	38%
Minster School	A-C English/Maths	82.5%	78%
Newark Academy	A-C English/Maths	43%	35%
Toot Hill	A-C English/Maths	57%	71%
Tuxford Academy	A-C English/Maths	68.%	68%

Comparisons with Nottinghamshire and neighbouring counties

County	Grades	2015/2016	2014/2015
Nottinghamshire	A-C English/Maths	59.6%	57%
Derbyshire	A-C English/Maths	53.8%	55.9%
Leicestershire	A-C English/Maths	57.2%	56.8%
Lincolnshire	A-C English/Maths	56.1%	56.8%
Rutland	A-C English/Maths	70.1%	67.2%

Region	Grades	2015/2016	2014/2015
East Midlands	A-C English/Maths	66.9%	69%

Country	Grades	2015/2016	2014/2015
England	A-C English/Maths	52.8%	53.8%

It should be noted that 3 schools in the district perform below the Nottinghamshire Grade A-C including English and Maths of 59.6%.

Work has continued throughout the year with the schools that have opted to invite participating local businesses to their careers events. In December 2015 the Business Leaders’ group met with local schools and recognised that employability skills and preparation for work were areas requiring development. A willingness was expressed to work with schools to support them in preparing students for work.

Meetings with local schools took place between May and September 2016 to ask which type of businesses they would like to work with and how delivery would take place. To date sessions have been arranged with Magnus Academy, Dukeries Academy, Tuxford Academy and Toot Hill.

The following businesses from within Newark and Sherwood actively signed up to engage in this programme: Knowhow, Hoval, UKWSL, BeDesign, Vodafone, NSK, Engineering Development Trust, Morgan Tucker, Sainsburys, British Sugar, Gusto Group, Per Aarsleff, Robert Woodhead Ltd, Great British Sports Cars, Southwell Racecourse, Ringrose Law and Eclectic Security.

From November 2016 delivery has been made in the guise of assemblies, presentations to 6th Form students, mock interview days for Year 10 students and attending the schools' own career events.

Both schools and businesses have provided positive feedback about the visits. Engaging with the students in a structured but informal manner, often with hands-on involvement has proved to be effective for all concerned. Some schools have also arranged to take students out to the businesses to give them the opportunity of experiencing the workplace first hand.

It must also be reported that communication from some of the schools has proved to be very intermittent; the project can only be offered to those who wish to participate. Equally, businesses deserve a prompt and reliable response once they have agreed to take part.

The project will continue to be offered by the Economic Growth team, working with partners at Together For Newark and the Employment and Skills group. Both provide their own similar complimentary services.

The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) operates throughout the D2N2 area. It is an employer-led organisation aiming to prepare young people for the world of work through supportive programmes between local businesses and schools. They also offer an Enterprise Advisor scheme to ensure this connection is tailor-made to suit both parties.

The Together for Newark (TFN) group works with local businesses to support children and young people from pre-school through to further and higher education. Particular emphasis is placed on working with primary schools in order to inspire and engage pupils from this very early age. TFN require a minimum payment of £150 from businesses who wish to appear on their website and take part in their projects.

To date schools and businesses have found it of benefit to work with both CEC, TFN and our team in order to provide their students with the widest possible choice of opportunities. Our aim in the forthcoming year will be to ensure we continue to work together in a complimentary manner. Through our unique relationship with local businesses we are in a position to encourage more of them to become involved in this project.

Forward Plan

There are a number of new agencies working with Schools, largely set up following the closure of careers related organisations in the past. The Economic Growth Team have worked on 'filling the gaps' over the last two years. However, the Careers Enterprise Company are now working closely with the schools. This means that the role for the Economic Growth Team will be to ensure that the organisations directly working with the schools have the right contacts and keep us informed of progress.

3.5.6 Tourism Update

At the end of March 2017 Sherwood TIC was closed and responsibility was transferred to Southwell Town Council for Southwell TIC. This is in line with a change of focus for tourism overall.

Tourism Strategy

The Tourism Strategy is now in place and actions have begun. Two initial consultation sessions were held in February. These were attended by a wide variety of representatives from tourist attractions, tourism-related businesses, accommodation providers and councillors. The feedback from the events has been reviewed and taken into account in the actions being taken forwards.

The Vision and Aims from the strategy were agreed as:

Our Vision

To champion Newark and Sherwood as a great place to holiday in a world class destination offering rich outdoor activities, civil war heritage and the great legend Robin Hood.

Overarching Aims

- ❖ To actively promote the Newark and Southwell area for its civil war, heritage and cultural offer
- ❖ To actively promote Sherwood for its legend Robin Hood and fantastic outdoor activities and rich history
- ❖ To maximise the potential for growth through tactical marketing campaigns
- ❖ To develop a successful thriving tourism industry
- ❖ To develop a consistent brand for the area

These also fit with Objectives 2 and 3 of the Economic Growth Strategy:

- ❖ To develop appropriate place marketing to visitors and investors
- ❖ To plan and support Growth for our district

Three social-media focussed campaigns for this year were also agreed and the themes are:

Love Our Home Grown Heritage (a weekend of culture and heritage)
Cherish Your Family (Sherwood Forest and family-themed outdoor activities)
Three Castles, Three Stops, (Newark, Nottingham and Lincoln) weekend getaway
(NB. These are working titles only)

Attendees were also given the opportunity to express their opinions on the strengths and weaknesses of how tourism is currently promoted throughout the district, and how they would like to see it enhanced or improved. A follow-up event to which all original attendees will be invited is to be held in the near future. An update on progress will be presented, together with the launch of the new social media campaigns.

Social Media Campaigns

Specialist social media support has been obtained via a freelance expert. The consultant will oversee online promotions, establish a Tourism Action Group (TAG), compose themed blogs and report on activities through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Close liaison with our internal Communications team will continue to take place, in order to ensure all teams are working together to promote the district, both to residents and potential visitors

New Tourism Website

April 2017 saw the launch of a new independent tourism website, www.visitnewarkandsherwood.info. It has already achieved number one Google ranking. In its first six weeks it has received 4778 hits and 5530 visits. The most popular search terms are Sherwood Forest, Robin Hood, Visit Sherwood, Nottingham Shops and Things to do in Nottinghamshire. The most successful response to search has been Visit Newark and Sherwood, What's on in Newark, Newark Attractions and Things to do in Sherwood. 33.5% of the site's visitors have been aged between 25 and 34.

Its ongoing aim is to present a more co-ordinated and modern image of Newark and Sherwood through a user-friendly site offering information on the wide variety of attractions, activities and places to visit throughout the district. It remains a work in progress, additions and improvements continue to take place.

Discover England Just Off the A1 project

This newly proposed project being co-ordinated by Discover England is one that Economic Growth has provisionally agreed to invest in and will involve Southwell and Newark. The aim is to promote market towns worthy of greater attention and close enough to the A1 to make day trip access possible. Further details are expected in due course.

Support for Retail Offer

Independent retailers in Newark and Southwell continue to receive ongoing team support. Sarah Payne acts as Co-ordinator for the Southwell Traders group which included overseeing the Southwell Christmas Late Night Shopping Evening, writing retail-themed features for local newspapers and magazines, encouraging retail support for special events taking place in the town and assisting Southwell Town Council with specialist markets. Southwell was recently voted the tenth 'Best Place to Live in the Midlands' by the Sunday Times, the quality and range of its independent shops being particularly praised.

Tourists frequently comment on this factor as a reason to visit the town and the Southwell Traders group is keen to make the most of this national recognition, whilst also encouraging residents to use local shops on a regular basis as opposed to shopping further afield.

Within Newark, the Totally Locally group recently facilitated an event with Newark Town Council and Newark Festival in order to engage retailers in developments in the Town. The event was successful and any marketing campaigns undertaken are self-funding.

Nottingham Trent University (NTU) Brackenhurst Project

The Economic Growth team remains in contact with NTU through the Memorandum of Understanding agreed in 2016. This offers support for the ongoing redevelopment of its Brackenhurst site. The team has provided assistance with their Heritage Lottery Fund bid focussed on the refurbishment of Brackenhurst Hall and the possibility of siting a Bramley Heritage Centre within it.

4.0 Review of work undertaken in 2016 and aims for 2017

4.1 The Economic Growth Unit are committed to provide an innovative service for growth within Newark & Sherwood. We have delivered a number of successful support events throughout the year for start-up, new and existing businesses, job seekers and apprentices. We are working with partners to support those businesses in the district seeking to grow and potential inward investors. Plus, to support people back into work we are delivering projects into specific areas where there are skill shortages such as HGV drivers.

We are maximising tourism opportunities within the district. A new Tourism Strategy is now in place and actions have begun. The partners involved work very well in collaboration with one another and have the same aims and objectives in mind which is to ensure we create and develop a prosperous and vibrant business community.

2016/2017 Objectives Agreed	Progression of Objectives
Inward Investment - work closely with Commercial Agents.	Urban & Civic provided tour and up to date information regarding Land South and the availability of employment land and housing. Meeting held with CarterRE and provided up to date information regarding Brunel Park and the availability of land and units. Meetings held with Commercial Agents during the year.
Inward Investment - work with Partners to promote commercial property and land opportunities within the district.	Attended MIPIM UK 2016 and East Midlands EXPO 2016 and showcased our district. 3.2.1 and 3.2.2
Economic Growth - work with businesses in the district to improve the local economy.	Consulted with Business Leaders .3.2.4
Provide Key Account Management service.	Defined issues and trends in Newark & Sherwood. 3.2.5 and 3.3.2
Provide Business Support - pre starts, early trading, existing and high growth businesses.	Delivered Business Support events: "Starting or Growing a Business" x 2 events held September and October 2016. 3.3.1. "Ready Set Grow.....Your Own Business" workshop held March 2017. 3.3.1 "Business Health Check" x 2 clinics - one to one sessions held June 2017. 3.3.1
Provision of Mentoring and Grants.	NSDC referred 32 individuals/businesses to NBV Enterprise Solutions Ltd to support new businesses in the district. 3.3.1
Provision of Think Big Loan Fund and Path Finder Investment to create new jobs.	Think Big evidenced in the report. 3.3.1
Innovation and Technology - promotion of technology based companies	Continue working with companies in the district. 3.4

Employment and Skills - work with Partners to support people back into work and research pilot projects into specific areas where there are national skills shortages such as HGV drivers.	HGV Pilot - a business case to continue delivery of this programme will be delivered to the Economic Development Committee. 3.5.1
Employment and Skills - Provision of Ollerton Outreach Service.	Evidenced in 29 March 2017 and 3.5.2
Employment and Skills - careers, training and education - work with partners to support school leavers, apprentices and job seekers.	Delivered "Future First EXPO" held May 2017- provided students prior to GCSE, AS and A Level examination and members of the public career opportunities. 3.5.3
Employment and Skills and Schools - work in partnership with local businesses and schools to raise inspirations at secondary school level.	Meetings with local schools have taken place May and September 2016. From November 2016 local businesses have presented to 6 th form students. Mock interviews took place with Year 10 students. The project will continue to be offered. 3.5.3
Tourism - launch a new Tourism Strategy.	The Strategy is now in place together with launching 3 campaigns 3.5.6

4.4.2 **Aims for 2017/2018**

- ❖ *Continue to work collaboratively with intermediaries/partners to promote the district*
- ❖ *Attend events to showcase our district to potential investors*
- ❖ *Continue to support new business, growth business and increase job creation within the district*
- ❖ *Ensure appropriate business support is offered via routes such as the Think Big Loan, Pathfinder and NBV Grant for Enterprise as well as other funding/support routes*
- ❖ *Continue to provide key account management offer to key strategic businesses in the district*
- ❖ *Continue to deliver HGV programme for next 12 months if approved by Economic Development Committee*
- ❖ *Organise local employer meeting with technology based companies during August/September 2017*
- ❖ *Deliver a further EXPO during October 2018 and to include Year 11 students*
- ❖ *In partnership with schools and businesses continue to coordinate Together For Newark*
- ❖ *Continue to work with partners to maximise tourism opportunities in the district and deliver on campaigns*
- ❖ *Research new opportunities with partners and review best ways of creating prosperity within the district*
- ❖ *To continue to develop relationships with Tourism stakeholders in order to ensure full understanding of the Tourism offer for the district*
- ❖ *Deliver outcomes as per the Tourism Strategy and monitor progress*

5.0 Equalities Implications

5.1 The report outlines measures being taken which support those seeking employment and developing a business.

6.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

6.1 All these activities are within existing budget.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) the Committee notes the activities undertaken within the Economic Growth Team; and**
- (b) the Committee support the aims for 2017 and consider new projects as they are developed**

Reason for Recommendations

To provide an update on aspects of the Economic Development Strategy.

Background Reading

1. NOMIS report for April 2017
2. "What We Know and What We Have Got" Funding Document produced by Economic Growth

Background Papers

Ollerton Outreach Service

For further information please contact Julie Reader-Sullivan on Ext 5258

Andrew Statham
Director - Communities

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on the progress of the various elements of the Local Development Framework (LDF), including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), contained within the Local Development Scheme (LDS) timetable and seek approval to update the Local Development Scheme, in order that the Plan Review Amendments can be consulted upon with an up-to-date LDS.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The current LDS was adopted by Economic Development Committee on 19 January 2017.

3.0 Progress

3.1 Work on the various elements of Plan Review and on the CIL review have both reached an advanced stage;

Plan Review – consultation on the various elements of the preferred approach have been conducted and officers and the Local Development Framework Task Group have been considering the outcome and next steps. Full Council will consider the matter at the 11 July meeting, including proposed Plan amendments to be published to seek formal representations on.

CIL Review – Full Council approved the submission of the Draft Charging Schedule and accompanying documentation at the Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2017. The submission occurred on 19 May 2017 and the Planning Inspectorate appointed Mr. Jameson Bridgwater PGDIPL MRTPI as the independent Examiner to carry out Examination process. It is anticipated that the Hearing Sessions will for up to a day and will be held on Thursday, 3 August 2017. It is anticipated that if found sound the updated Charging Schedule will be considered at 10 October Full Council for Adoption.

3.2 In order for the Plan Amendments to be submitted the Local Development Scheme needs to be updated to reflect the current progress. Attached at **Appendix A** is a copy of an Amended LDS timetable which has been updated to reflect progress on the CIL and proposes the following timescale for the Plan Review process:

Stage	Date
Approval for seeking representations on Plan Amendments – Full Council	July 11 2017
Representation Period	July/August/September 2017
Submission approval – Full Council	September 28 2017
Examination Hearings	December 2017
Inspectors Report	February 2018
Adoption	March 2018

3.3 The timetable is predicated on an additional Full Council meeting will be held at the end of September; this is to consider the responses to the Plan Review representation period and agree the submission of the Plan Amendments for independent Examination in good time.

4.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

4.1 None identified.

5.0 Equalities

5.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is being prepared alongside the Plan Review process to ensure that the impact on groups with protected characteristics of the proposals are considered as part of the policy making process.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) Committee note progress towards meeting the timetable of the adopted Local Development Scheme;**
- (b) Committee agree to amend the Local Development Scheme to reflect the proposed timetable in Appendix A; and**
- (c) the amended Local Development Scheme comes into force on 22 June 2017.**

Reason for Recommendations

To comply with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and amending regulations.

Background Papers

Local Development Scheme January 2017.

For further information please contact Matthew Norton on Ext 5852

Kirstin H Cole
Deputy Chief Executive

Local Development Scheme Timetable

Year	2016												2017												2018											
	1 st			2 nd			3 rd			4 th			1 st			2 nd			3 rd			4 th														
Quarter	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Month																																				
DPDs																																				
Adopted DPDs – Plan Review																																				
SPDs																																				
Review of SPD implementation																																				
Other Documents																																				
Community Infrastructure Levy Review																																				

Key

DPDs and NPs Bold text denotes a Key Milestone	Consultation period/following the Publication of the Submission Draft/Draft Charging Schedule, this would refer to the period for representations to be submitted		Pre-Hearing meeting period
	Publish Draft DPD/CIL charging schedule/NP		Hearing and Reporting Period
	Submit DPD/CIL/NP for Examination		Receipt of Final Inspector’s Report
			Adoption
SPDs/SCI	Consultation Period		Review of DPD/SPD Implementation
			Adoption

RECONSTITUTION OF WORKING PARTIES/TASK & FINISH GROUPS

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To reconvene the Growth Investment Fund & Policy Monitoring Group and the Local Development Framework Task Group (LDF).

2.0 Growth Investment Fund & Policy Monitoring Group

2.1 The remit of this Group is to set the direction of the fund and monitor progress.

2.2 The Group's previous Membership consisted of 5 members of the Committee.

2.3 It is therefore proposed to reconvene the Growth Investment Fund & Policy Monitoring Group with the following terms of reference and 5 members.

Name	Growth Investment Fund and Policy Monitoring Group
Purpose	To set the direction of the fund and monitor progress

3.0 Local Development Framework Task Group

3.1 The remit of this Group is to oversee and advise on the progress of the Local Development Framework production and to make recommendations to this Committee on the LDF.

3.2 The Group's previous Membership consisted of 2 members of this Committee, 1 member from the Policy & Finance Committee; 3 members of the Planning Committee and 2 members from the Homes & Communities Committee.

3.3 It is therefore proposed to reconvene the Local Development Framework Task Group with the following terms of reference with a membership as noted in paragraph 3.2.

Name	Local Development Framework Task Group
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide detailed oversight and advise on the process of LDF production; and• To make recommendations to the Economic Development Committee on the Local Development Framework.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) **the Growth Investment Fund and Policy Monitoring Group be reconvened in accordance with Paragraph 2.3 of the report; and**
- (b) **the Local Development Framework Task Group be reconvened in accordance with Paragraph 3.3 of the report.**

Reason for Recommendations

To reconvene the appropriate Working Parties/Task & Finish Groups.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Nigel Hill on Ext. 5243.

Andrew Muter
Chief Executive

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject: Tour of Britain Cycle Race - Wednesday, 6 September 2017

Appropriate Committee: Economic Development Committee

Details of Item

Due to the need to confirm a commitment to the Tour of Britain organisers to align with the national launch of this year's event it has been necessary to use the Urgency Item procedure to secure member approval to proceed with the event and hosting the finish of Stage 4 in Newark.

Background

Nottinghamshire has been awarded Stage 4 of the Tour of Britain 2017 and the race, which will take place on Wednesday, 6 September, will start in Mansfield and finish on Farndon Road Newark outside the Sconce and Devon Park which will host the race finish and associated activities and events.

The event will cover approximately 190kms of the County's road with a significant middle section being in the District and culminating in the finish at Sconce and Devon Park at approximately 3.30pm. The race will enter the District near Blidworth and make its way through Farnsfield, Halam and Southwell then out to Kirklington, Bilsthorpe, Rufford, Edwinstowe and Budby then out to Bassetlaw before re-entering the District at North Clifton down through Collingham and into Coddington before entering Newark down Beacon Hill to finish at the Sconce via Castle Gate, Lombard Street, Beaumont Cross and Victoria Street.

Nottinghamshire County Council will assume overall responsibility for hosting the event and will co-ordinate the project at a County level with separate project teams (start, finish, route, communications and sponsorship etc.) working collaboratively with the Tour of Britain team to ensure a safe and successful event in the County.

Stage 4 Race Finish

It is anticipated that the cost of hosting Stage 4 is £160,000 of which NSDC's contribution will be approximately £25,000 for the rights to host the prestigious finish although it is anticipated that additional costs in the region of £15,000 may be required for specific infrastructure requirements associated with the race finish but these are currently unknowns until detailed route works has been completed which is work in progress. However, it is equally anticipated that a significant level of sponsorship can be secured through working with Marketing Nottingham and Nottinghamshire which will lead on discussions with local businesses for promotional packages for which there is a high level of interest given that the last three hours of the race will be televised live on ITV4 plus extensive highlights attracting an estimated 1,000,000 viewers per day.

It will also be necessary for a project team to be initiated for the Race finish to work in partnership with the 'Tour Finish Manager' to ensure that all aspects are addressed from race participants and spectator safety and effective communications to minimise disruption and maximising economic impact and benefit in Newark and the wider District.

Further information on the financial arrangements, cost implications and project planning requirements will be developed over the next few weeks as more details become known in respect of route requirements and associated works and planned promotional activities at key points in the District including Southwell and Edwinstowe.

Decision:

That the approval be granted, under Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution, for Stage 4 of the Tour of Britain Race to finish in Newark on Trent and that the District Council agrees to underwrite the cost of hosting the finish but uses its best endeavours through working with the various project partners to secure as much sponsorship and external funding as practicable to reduce the overall financial cost to the council.

Members Consulted:

Cllr Roger Blaney – Leader of the Council

Cllr David Lloyd – Chair of Economic Development Committee

Cllr Paul Peacock – Opposition Spokesperson Economic Development Committee

Signed

Date