

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26 NOVEMBER 2009</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide.

### **Purpose**

To respond to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee review of the Economic Development Strategy.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT the response to the recommendations (see Appendix 1) be agreed.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Community Services has considered the recommendations contained in the report of 5 October 2009.
- The Cabinet Member's response to each recommendation is set out in Appendix 1.

### **Alternative Options**

- 1 That the review and its recommendations are rejected or reviewed for further consideration.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 All the recommendations are agreed or agreed in principle. Where agreed in principle further work needs to take place to consider the recommendation, its scope and costings.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Geoff Hughes,  
Director of Regeneration on Tel: (01432) 260695

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 Community Services Scrutiny Committee considered a report reviewing the economic development strategy on 5 October 2009. The task of the review was to consider the economic development strategy in light of the current economic downturn and changes in priorities.
- 4 The review was supported from officers within the Planning Policy Services and as there is a great deal of connectivity to the Local Development Framework – which is a positive approach considering the impact of the LDF on decisions that will effect the economy.
- 5 The original strategy was produced in 2004 with a refresh when it was published in 2006. It covers a 20 year period but since its publication the regional strategy has changed and so has the financial climate. There is also a new national duty to produce Local Economic Assessments which will provide greater data on the local economy which will inform a revised strategy.

## **Key Considerations**

- 6 The aim is to produce the new strategy by October 2010. This allows time to reflect on the emerging priorities of the LDF and findings of the local economic assessment. As part of the process there will be consideration of geographic needs and sector specific requirements.

## **Community Impact**

- 7 The Economic prosperity of the county has an impact on all aspects of community life. The recent downturn has impacted on businesses, communities and individuals – as well as public sector spend. Much of the new economic development strategy will focus on recovery and support the sustainability of the county's economy over the long term.

## **Financial Implications**

- 8 All costs must be met from within existing budgets if the recommendations, as presented, are accepted.

## **Legal Implications**

- 9 Not relevant.

## **Risk Management**

- 10 That once investigated the “in principle” recommendations will have a cost implication that will not allow for implementation.
- 11 That there will be time slippage on the production of the new strategy due to Local Economic Assessment information not being forthcoming or delay on decision making regarding the LDF.

## **Consultees**

- 12 None (for this report).

## **Appendices**

- 13 Appendix 1 Recommendations arising from Scrutiny review.
- 14 Appendix 2 Scrutiny Review of the Economic Development Strategy.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified