

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 13 January 2022**

### **Future Economy and Enterprise All Party Working Group – 6 month review of Action Plan implementation**

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Consider the 6-month update of the council's work to implement the recommendations of the All-Party Working Group on Future Economy and Enterprise;
- b. Scrutinise the update for any gaps or risks in the activities taking place ;
- c. Identify any opportunities to link work together or take the activity further in future plans.

#### **Report of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills**

#### **Summary**

##### **What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?**

1. Consider the 6-month review of the council's work to implement the recommendations of the All-Party Working Group on Future Economy and Enterprise, identify any gaps or risks in the activity, and identify any opportunities to now take this further.

#### **Report**

##### **Background**

2. The Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise All Party Working Group undertook an Overview approach considering two research questions:
  - a. "How can we in Staffordshire raise aspirations around lifelong career learning and upskilling, ensuring all local people can progress into 'better jobs' throughout their working life?" and;

- b. "Given the impacts of Covid-19 and looking to our future local economy, how can we ensure that the Staffordshire workforce - of all ages - remain ambitious for their future, and how can we encourage entrepreneurship?"
3. The findings and recommendations of the All-Party Working Group investigations were submitted in late 2020 to the Leader of the Council; Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills; Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND); Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change, for any initial response.
4. These findings and recommendations were then discussed by a meeting of the Cabinet in full on 16 June 2021 so that the recommendations could receive a formal Executive Response. A detailed action plan was developed and taken to Cabinet as part of the papers for this, with suggestions and planned activity against each recommendation.
5. At the meeting of Cabinet on 16 June 2021, the final reports for these two investigations were considered by Cabinet Members, along with initial Executive Responses from portfolio holders, which provided a planned course of action or update against each of the All-Party Working Group's recommendations. These were received by Cabinet and agreed.
6. They were then discussed at a meeting of Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 July 2021, where it was agreed that a review of the activity would be brought back in around 6 months.
7. Attached as an Appendix to this report is a table setting out:
  - a. each of the agreed recommendations;
  - b. the organisation/lead Member or officer;
  - c. the action proposed (or already taken) in response to the agreed recommendations;
  - d. a suggested deadline for completion;
  - e. an update as at December 2021 giving the latest position and next steps for activity supporting each recommendation.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

8. Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth – the core principles of these two investigations are about how Staffordshire people can continue to access opportunities in the local economy, both now and in the post-Covid-19 context.

## **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

9. The recommendations of the two investigations have very close links to economic strengths and challenges already being looked at by Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee, along with partnership work programmes around Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation.

## **Community Impact**

10. The All Party Working Groups were established to support the council's long term ambitions and putting forward proposals on how public services in Staffordshire could address economic issues that arise over the medium to long term, therefore they can have an impact on all communities in Staffordshire and all resident groups.

## **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Action Plan and December 2021 Update

## **Contact Details**

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