

Local Members Interest
N/A

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Friday 23 July 2021

Executive Response for the Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise All Party Working Group

Recommendations

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Receives and considers the final reports and Executive Responses of portfolio holders to the All Party Working Group recommendations, as attached, identifying any opportunities for adding further value to the approach.
- b. Identifies opportunities to build on the work of this All Party Working Group and the approach set out in the Executive Response.

Report of the Leader of the Council

Summary

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

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Update Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the final reports of the two most recent investigations of the Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise All Party Working Group, and Executive Responses from the county council portfolio holders as agreed by Cabinet in June.
2. Ask the Committee to consider any opportunities to build further on the Executive Response, either through the work that is described within it or through activity the Committee could explore.

Report

Background

3. In 2020/21, the County Council's approach to involving frontline members in shaping the authority's future thinking included All Party Working Groups, as a forum taking an overview, to help inform thought leadership through an informed debate on long term issues that affect all the communities of Staffordshire.
4. The Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise All Party Working Group undertook an Overview approach considering "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 "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?”

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. Attached alongside this report are the full reports of the two investigations, and an action plan setting out the agreed actions or updates above.

Link to Strategic Plan

7. 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.

Community Impact

8. 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 – Overarching Cabinet paper 16 June 2021 – Executive Responses for All Party Working Groups

Appendix 2 – Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise APWG - Executive Response Report – Cabinet paper 16 June 2021

Appendix 3 - Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise APWG - Final Report (presented to Cabinet 16 June 2021)

Appendix 4 - Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise APWG Executive Response Action Plan (agreed by Cabinet 16 June 2021)

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