

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2018-23**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the Council's Economic Development Strategy for 2018-23, which is attached at Appendix 1.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In May a Task and Finish Group met to consider the draft Strategy, and suggested that it be revised to give a sharper focus, with fewer actions and objectives. As such, The Task and Finish Group have identified 10 Key Actions which will be given priority focus within the Strategy. The Group were also keen to ensure that the Strategy reflected the importance of housing in economic development. Officers have since met with the Chairman (Cllr Steele) to agree appropriate amendments to reflect this, which can be found in Section 6.8 of the document.
- 2.2 The Strategy sets out a vision and related activities to tackle the identified barriers to growth in five key themes. These are as follows:
- Developing a Skilled Workforce
  - Increasing Growth and Productivity
  - Developing Local Infrastructure
  - Facilitating Vibrant Towns and Villages
  - Promoting the Unique New Forest Offer
- 2.3 The Chairman has requested that the Panel receive annual updates on progress with implementing the Strategy, including an outline of relevant housing activity as appropriate.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None directly from the Strategy.

### **4. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None directly from the Strategy.

### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That the Economic Development Strategy 2018-23 be recommended for approval to Cabinet and Council.

- 6.2 That the Panel receive annual updates on progress with implementing the Strategy, including an outline of relevant housing activity as appropriate.

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