

Cabinet

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	7 June 2017
<p><u>Cabinet Member(s)</u> Deborah Crony - Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills Daryl Turner - Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment</p> <p><u>Local Member(s)</u> County Councillor for West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, North Dorset: Rebecca Knox, Deborah Crony, Pauline Batstone, Jon Andrews, Derek Beer, Richard Biggs, Kevin Brookes, Andy Canning, Graham Carr-Jones, Andrew Cattaway, Keith Day, Jean Dunseith, Tony Ferrari, Katherine Garcia, David Harris, Jon Orrell, Mary Penfold, Byron Quayle, Clare Sutton, Daryl Turner, David Walsh, Kate Wheller, Hilary Cox, Jill Haynes</p> <p><u>Lead Director(s)</u> Matthew Piles - Service Director - Economy</p>	
Subject of Report	Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan
Executive Summary	<p>The County Council has endorsed the Western Dorset Growth Strategy, as the basis for ambitious economic growth across the area.</p> <p>An action plan has been developed to deliver the aspirations and priorities of the Strategy. The plan is devised around five themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Homes and employment sites • Employment and skills • Businesses and sectors • Assets and policy <p>The County Council has a key role to play in collaboration with a broad range of partners if the plan is to be delivered successfully. Approval of the Plan is sought from Cabinet.</p>
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: This intervention is included within the Council's Enabling Economic Growth Strategy which was

Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan

	<p>subject to an EqIA. The Western Dorset Growth Strategy has similarly been subject to an assessment and no deleterious impacts have been identified.</p> <p>Use of Evidence: The Strategy is based upon a detailed economic assessment of the area, including growth projections and modelling. The Strategy and action plan have also been informed by several specially commissioned studies, and extensive consultation with relevant bodies.</p> <p>Budget: There are no direct budget implications arising from the Strategy and action plan. The financial implications of any specific interventions will be subject to the normal budget and scrutiny processes.</p> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p> <p>Other Implications: none</p>
Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cabinet approves the Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan as the basis for delivery of the Strategy for the next five years, and 2) progress on the action plan is reported to the Western Dorset Growth Strategy Member Board
Reason for Recommendation	<p>Successful delivery of the Western Dorset Growth Strategy would make a significant contribution to the economic growth of Dorset, providing high quality and skilled jobs, housing and essential infrastructure. Thereby contributing to each of the four corporate priorities.</p>
Appendices	<p>Appendix 1: Western Dorset Growth Strategy summary action plan</p>
Background Papers	<p>Western Dorset Growth Strategy, December 2016 Enabling Economic Growth, Dorset County Council, January 2017</p>
Officer Contact	<p>Name: David Walsh, Economy & Enterprise Team Leader Tel: 01305 224254 Email: d.walsh@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 In December 2016 (minute 183) Cabinet endorsed the Western Dorset Economic Growth Strategy for engagement and consultation with key stakeholders and the production of a detailed action plan. The Strategy was also approved by West and North Dorset District, and Weymouth and Portland Borough Councils in December.
- 1.2 In order to deliver the Strategy an extensive and dynamic five-year action plan (see appendix 1) has been developed to address the challenges and realise the opportunities identified. This is intended to be a working document, and as such is subject to monitoring and amendment as circumstances change, opportunities arise or delays are experienced. The action plan has recently been considered and approved by the respective Councils in the Dorset Councils Partnership.
- 1.3 In addition to economic forecasting and analysis, including housing and employment provision, the Strategy and action have been informed by several studies, supported via the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and Growth Deal 2 funding: -
 - Transport and Movement – including roads, cycling walking, rail, public transport and parking – principally for the Western Dorset Growth Corridor but also for the major road and rail connections across the area. The rail element of this study area is approaching completion.
 - Skills – looking at the skills and education requirements to meet the current and future growth needs across Western Dorset.
 - Culture and Tourism – considering the work required to develop the tourism offer through attracting higher spend visitors to the area and the role of events and festivals, museums and heritage and the public realm in supporting and growing the tourism offer.
 - The development potential for the five identified sites from the Weymouth Town Centre masterplan.
- 1.4 The LEP funded studies have enabled the councils to engage industry experts in an objective review of issues and challenges in Western Dorset. The studies have produced an extensive set of recommendations which have been incorporated into the action plan appended to this report.
- 1.5 In addition to the actions from the economic analysis, and the Dorset LEP funded studies, the plan has been informed by the economic aspirations of others from across the area, such as the coastal community teams (CCT), private sector and educational partners and as expressed in their published plans.
- 1.6 It is anticipated that the strategy and action plan together will both influence others in their decision making and underpin applications for funds whether made by the Councils or other delivery partners such as the CCTs.
- 1.7 The action plan as presented is an ambitious and dynamic work programme, with several work streams that will require their own detailed delivery plans and both assessment and identification of resources required. It is not anticipated that the partnership will deliver on all actions, but will use its ability, informed by the strategy and action plan, to influence key partners (including Dorset LEP, Dorset Employment and Skills Board, HCA, Highways England, Dorset Growth Hub, Dept. International Trade, DCCI etc.) and the private sector to deliver projects and services, accessibly and appropriately, for economic growth in our area. Relationships with many delivery partners are well established, and there will be a

Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan

need for members and officers to build new relationships with potential deliverers and deliver a consistent message from the strategy and action plan.

- 1.8 Regular progress reports adopting a RAG system will be presented to the Western Dorset Growth Strategy Member Board at no less than six monthly intervals.

2. Role of Dorset County Council

- 2.1 Elected Members and officers of the County Council have been working in close collaboration with colleagues from the Dorset Councils Partnership throughout the process of developing the Strategy and action plan for the Western Dorset Growth Strategy.

- 2.2 This collaboration is set to continue as delivery gathers momentum. The County Council will have direct responsibilities for delivering particular actions, especially around transportation and movement subject to the necessary funding being in place. The Council will have a more indirect role in delivering in other topic areas, and a vested interest in seeing successful delivery of housing and employment sites, jobs and skills. The securing and alignment of resources and effort from the four councils will be essential if the ambitious growth levels and aspirations of the Strategy and action plan are to be achieved.

Matthew Piles

Service Director – Economy

May 2017

Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan

Appendix 1: Western Dorset Growth Strategy summary action plan