



Meeting: Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Time: 10.00 am

Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2019

Venue: Committee Room 1 - County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

Ray Bryan (Chairman)
Jon Andrews
Jean Dunseith
Peter Hall
Margaret Phipps

Cherry Brooks
Andy Canning
Spencer Flower
Jon Orrell
David Shortell

Notes:

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Mike Harries

Chief Executive

Date of Publication:
12 March 2019

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5. Enabling Economic Growth Strategy - Progress

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To consider a report by the Director for Environment, Infrastructure and the Economy on the progress with the current workstreams within the Economic Growth Strategy and to recommend to Dorset Council what the next steps should be in relation to Dorset Council's economic vision in collaboration with the Dorset LEP/LNP. To follow.

7. **Dorset Transport Infrastructure - Progress**

9 - 14

To consider a report by the Director for Environment, Infrastructure and the Economy on the what progress is being made with the Regional Transport agenda and to provide an update on the Transforming Cities Bids in the South East of Dorset. To follow.

Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	20 March 2019
Officer	David Walsh, Economy & Enterprise Manager
Subject of Report	Enabling Economic Growth Strategy - Progress
Executive Summary	This paper reports on progress with delivering the County Council’s Enabling Economic Growth Strategy, focusing on priority actions. A presentation to the Committee will raise issues which could lead to recommendations for the economic vision of the new Dorset Council.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: an EqIA was completed and approved for the County Council’s Enabling Economic Growth Strategy.
	Use of Evidence: a considerable evidence base was used to devise the Strategy, and this is up-dated on a frequent basis to provide an effective and up-to-date local economic assessment.
	Budget: No budget implications arising from this report.
	Risk Assessment: 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: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW

	Outcomes: please see outcomes focused monitoring report March 2019 (item 9 on the agenda for this Committee)
	Other Implications: none
Recommendation	It is recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. progress with delivering the County Council's Enabling Economic Growth Strategy 2018-2020 be noted; and 2. Members consider appropriate recommendations to inform the economic vision of the new Dorset Council.
Reason for Recommendation	Economic growth is vital to the achievement of the County Council's four corporate priorities, especially 'Prosperous', and is likely to be a priority for the new Dorset Council.
Appendices	None
Background Papers	Enabling Economic Growth 2018-2020, Dorset County Council
Officer Contact	Name: David Walsh Tel: 01305 224254 Email: d.walsh@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. Context

- 1.1 Dorset County Council's active engagement in economic growth has been informed for several years by its Enabling Economic Growth Strategy. The delivery of the strategy was overseen by the Economic Prosperity Board, which also rolled the strategy forward on an annual basis (the most recent being December 2017). The Board prioritised the following actions for delivery: -
- Deliver the implementation plan for Dorset Innovation Park (Enterprise Zone) in collaboration with Purbeck District Council and the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP).
 - The Council will support growth and development of the key sectors for the local economy.
 - Review and roll-forward the Digital Infrastructure Strategy for Dorset, in order to continue to secure investment and improvements.
 - Monitor the delivery of the National Mobile Infrastructure Programme, to ensure effective mobile phone service coverage to support economic growth across Dorset.
 - Take a strategic approach to work with schools to deliver impartial careers advice, improve their knowledge of the local economy, including local career opportunities and routes to employment, and engagement with the business community.
 - Develop and deliver the concept of the Western Dorset Growth Strategy with partners, to clarify ambition and secure investment to realise the economic growth potential of the corridor.
- 1.2 This report will focus on these priorities, with the third and fourth bullet points covered in the following agenda item on Digital Growth. See also item 9, outcomes focussed monitoring report.

2. Dorset Innovation Park (Enterprise Zone)

- 2.1 Considerable progress has been made with Dorset Innovation Park since Dorset County and Purbeck District Councils, together with the DLEP, actively intervened to secure Enterprise Zone status from Government, and purchased the site: -
- Twenty small workshop units, known as the Quadrant, have been constructed providing 1800 square metres of workspace. Almost half the units are occupied or under consideration, and the Quadrant continues to be marketed by local agents. The prescribed occupation policy for the units is likely to deter some would be applicants.
 - Atlas Elektronik UK has significantly expanded its presence on site with a new manufacturing workshop and additional jobs.
 - A Local Development Order (LDO) was approved by Purbeck District Council in December 2018, following detailed preparation activity by the appointed consultants, Stride Treglown. The LDO streamlines the planning application process for companies wishing to relocate to Dorset Innovation Park, and a decision can be reached within 28 days if the appropriate information is provided. This reduces the wait, uncertainty and cost for applicants.
 - Plots in the Park are being actively marketed at national and international levels, generating several promising leads; progress should be apparent with the approval of the LDO.
 - Additional tenants have been attracted to Chesil House, thereby increasing the rental income.
 - Plans for a new Gatehouse at the entrance to the Park have been drawn up and the contract is currently out to tender.

- Early designs have been drawn-up for an Innovation Centre, or Hub, in readiness to secure funding once appropriate opportunities are identified.
- A funding application has been submitted to the European Regional Development Fund to establish an innovation centre in Chesil House as a precursor and test bed to a purpose-built centre.
- New signs have been erected at the entrance and throughout the Park, in accord with the design guidance prescribed in the LDO.
- Environmental management of the site has been reviewed and amended to better reflect the setting of the Park and the design guidance within the LDO.
- As can be seen from the outcomes focussed monitoring report, Dorset Innovation Park has created or safeguarded 4 new enterprises, 2,100 square metres of new workspace and 40 new or safeguarded jobs since designation as an Enterprise Zone.

3. Support for key sectors

3.1 The Dorset economy is not reliant upon any one sector, and its resilience is enhanced by the presence of sound if not spectacular sectors in terms of high productivity. As such resources have been focussed on sectors with potential to grow and increase productivity (advanced engineering and manufacturing, and agritech/aquaculture) and improving aspects of sectors which are important to the local economy (construction, visitor economy).

3.2 Interventions to support these sectors include: -

- Inward investment; preparation and dissemination of sector propositions to raise the profile of opportunities and benefits of locating in Dorset. Material utilised by Department for international Trade (DIT) and Invest in Dorset Ambassadors (created by the Council under the banner of DLEP)
- Co-production of a Higher Potential Opportunity with DIT for aquaculture in Dorset
- Leading the work of South West Agritech to identify and exploit opportunities for investment and growth arising from the greater critical mass of the south west LEPS
- Active engagement in the South West Rural Productivity Commission to identify barriers and opportunities for increased productivity and employment opportunities in rural areas
- Providing support for companies through the Dorset Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster, and enhanced delivery of South West Manufacturing Advisory Service with support from the European Regional Development Fund
- A 'Building Careers in Construction' day is being organised for 8 May 2019 in Poundbury, Dorchester, raise awareness of the full range of jobs and skills involved in construction. This is aimed at school students, careers advisors and people considering alternative careers
- Land and premises; the Council enables access to workspace through Property Pilot (an interactive database of employment and commercial land and premises), and intervention in cases of market failure, such as Dorset Innovation Park

3.3 Understanding the challenges faced by businesses is crucial to informing Council policy and resource allocation. Effective engagement, or account management, with companies is pursued through personal visits, and participation in Business Improvement Districts, the Ambassador scheme mentioned in 3.2 above, and various working groups.

4. Working with schools and employers

- 4.1 DLEP contracts Dorset County Council to deliver the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) Enterprise Advisor Network to County schools and colleges. In October 2018 we recruited a second Enterprise Coordinator giving the capacity to offer every secondary school, Further Education College, Learning Centre, Specials School and Middle school to join the network and access support for the Careers agenda. Forty schools and colleges have joined the network to date with five remaining.
- 4.2 Recruiting the volunteer Enterprise Advisors to support the strategic development of a school / college careers plan remains challenging; to date fourteen Enterprise Advisors have been matched to schools / colleges. Significant time and effort is being spent on trying to achieve the target of 30 Enterprise Advisors matched by the end of July 2019. Dorset County Council staff have been encouraged by Mike Harries' blog to consider the role. A targeted communication to employers is being planned alongside approaches to individuals.
- 4.3 The Dorset CEC has recently been rated 'green' by the CEC in terms of Dorset schools / colleges achievement of the Gatsby benchmarks for employer engagements. Dorset County Council provided a letter of support for the DLEP bid for a CEC Careers Hub. If successful this will be operational from September 2019 providing additional resource to the area with employer engagement and in particular for Weymouth & Portland schools and Weymouth College. £50k match-funding for the two Enterprise-Coordinators is required for the next academic year.
- 4.4 The CEC activity engages with careers events at schools and has been involved in organising special events such as the Big Bang at the Tank Museum to raise awareness of STEM careers (12 March 2019) and the construction skills event referred to in 3.2 above.

5. Western Dorset Growth Strategy

- 5.1 The Western Dorset Growth Strategy was approved by the Cabinets of Dorset County, North Dorset, West Dorset, and Weymouth & Portland Councils in December 2017. The Strategy sets an ambition for economic growth in excess of that based on past performance, and within growth levels provided for in current Local Plans. This work provides a basis for the development of the new Dorset Councils economic growth strategy.
- 5.2 Among the notable success associated with the Strategy are: -
 - Multi-council consensus on economic growth ambition and policy.
 - Securing £9 million from Highway Infrastructure Fund to enable new development.
 - Public realm and junction improvements completed in Dorchester.
 - Successful delivery of a range of careers fairs, young enterprise and disability confident events.
 - Working constructively with new initiatives, such as Eden Portland.
 - Visit Dorset website refreshed.
 - Investment in Dorchester retail and Weymouth development sites.

6. Related underpinning activity

- 6.1 In addition to the work on the priorities above, a substantial body of work takes place to enable economic growth across Dorset, including: -
- **LEADER**; delivery of the EU funded rural development programme is currently at its peak, investing some £2.7 million across a broad range of growth-related projects devised by local communities.
 - **Economic intelligence**; the Council maintains a comprehensive evidence base to underpin policy development and inform investment opportunities. Economic impact assessments have recently been commissioned and provided for Eden Portland, the Duchy of Cornwall (impact of development at Poundbury), and Coastal Communities funding bids. A significant piece of independent research commissioned by the Council quantified the monetary value of the environment and its management for Dorset.
 - **European Union funding**; the Council has been active in advising on investment of European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. These amount to some £43 million across Dorset. The Economy and Enterprise Team has also received income for providing Technical Assistance to a range of applicants for EU funding.
 - **Business support**: this is primarily provided through the Dorset Hub Growth, which receives considerable support for EU funding. Council resources are used as match funding, and officers engage through steering groups to ensure effective coverage and service provision across Dorset.
 - **Dorset LEP**; Dorset County Council is the Accountable Body for the DLEP and this role will be assumed by the new Dorset Council. The Council is active in the delivery of various DLEP funded infrastructure projects, and operational sub-groups, including Inward Investment, Rural Enterprise Group, Growing Places Fund, Enterprise Zone Management Board, Dorset Gateway, Connected Dorset, and the BIG Programme Steering Group.
 - **Brexit**: monitoring of the implications of leaving the European Union has been underway for two years, including the likely impact upon the provision of Council services and the functioning of Dorset businesses. Priority work areas have been identified and pursued, including seeking to inform the development of alternative funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

7. Looking forward

- 7.1 The policy, investment and activity referred to above provides a context and foundations for the new Dorset Council to develop ambitious and sustainable proposals for economic growth. A presentation at the Committee meeting will consider changes in the national context which will require a review of how Dorset presents its opportunities and challenges if it is to secure investment funds in future, and the importance of establishing effective working relationships new and established bodies and partnerships.

Matthew Piles
Director for Environment, Infrastructure and Economy
March 2019

Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	20 March 2019
Officer	Kate Tunks, Service Manager Infrastructure
Subject of Report	Dorset Transport Infrastructure
Executive Summary	<p>This report is to update the Committee on strategic transport issues and workstreams for Dorset. Of particular importance is the progression of the Sub-Regional Transport agenda and the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Bid in South East Dorset.</p> <p>As part of the Government’s Industrial Strategy and the National Productivity Investment Fund, the national focus is now on sustainable access and delivery of growth. Government aims to drive up productivity through improved connections between urban centres and suburbs. To do this, Government will invest in infrastructure to improve public and sustainable transport connectivity. Dorset must be able to evidence investment needs to take the opportunities presented by the sub-regional transport agenda and other significant funding bidding opportunities.</p> <p>A Local Transport Plan Review is required to update Dorset’s transport strategy to take into account recent Government and LEP policies.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: Policies, bids and schemes align with the Dorset Local Transport Plan. The Local Transport Plan (2011) was subject to an EQIA</p>
<i>Please refer to the protocol for writing reports.</i>	<p>Use of Evidence: The Local Transport Plan was subject to public consultation and transport evidence was used to formulate the policies and strategies.</p>

Dorset Transport Infrastructure

	<p>Budget: DfT government grant of £2.088M received annually for local transport improvements in Dorset. This is supplemented with other funding from transport bids to government and from developer contributions which vary each year.</p> <p>Risk Assessment: 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: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p> <p>Outcomes: Economic Growth, Sustainable, Safer and Active Travel</p> <p>Other Implications: Sustainability; Property and Assets; Community Safety; Physical Activity.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Local Transport Plan (LTP) should be reviewed with our partners to inform the new Local Plans 2) Continue to evidence, work with partners and submit funding bids for transport infrastructure to support housing delivery, jobs and economic growth
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To ensure the integration of transport planning and planning to deliver the outcome of sustainable development for Dorset. 2) Transport infrastructure priorities have been agreed and included in the LTP 2011 but Dorset does not receive enough LTP grant funding to deliver each scheme. Other funding opportunities must be sought to deliver Dorset's growth potential.
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact</p>	<p>Name: Kate Tunks Tel: 01305 228534 Email: k.tunks@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

Dorset Transport Infrastructure

1. Sub-Regional Transport Bodies (STBs) Update

- 1.1. Highway Authorities in the South West are now well advanced in their work within two STBs for the Western Gateway and South West Peninsula. Shadow STBs have been established whilst longer term discussions about statutory body status take place. The SW authorities wrote to the DfT in July 2018 setting out the intention to set up two bodies and explaining the benefits and opportunities that this would create. In August 2018 the Shadow Dorset Council agreed to join the Western Gateway STB with Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council, Bristol, Wiltshire, Bath & North East Somerset, Gloucestershire and West of England Combined Authority. The Western Gateway STB is an associate member of the South West Peninsula STB with Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Somerset authorities.
- 1.2. Work is now underway to develop the evidence base, transport strategy and to prioritise schemes which will be the key output from the Body to inform discussions with Government about strategic transport investment needs across the region. Corridor alliances such as those formed around the A303 corridor and the North to South M4 to South Coast corridors are a strong feature of joint working in the area and will remain a key mechanism for joint working between the sub-national bodies.
- 1.3. There are distinctly different economic challenges within the South West leading naturally to the formation of two groups. These challenges can be broadly described as follows:
 - Western Gateway is on the axis of a number of routes into the Bristol city region area and the Bournemouth/Poole city region area. Investment needs are more likely to focus more on metropolitan transit solutions and strengthening core routes to manage growth of the two city-regions. The key themes included in the constitution and prospectus are:
 - Metro connectivity
 - Network resilience
 - Access to ports and airports
 - Strategic connectivity
 - The SW Peninsula challenge is to enable more peripheral areas to become more productive and reduce journey times on key strategic routes connecting with other economic hubs. There are also a more dispersed set of place-based growth challenges including town and city growth, rural communities, and maximising the economic potential of the Region's natural assets. The priorities included in the prospectus are:
 - Strategic connectivity
 - Unlocking large scale housing and economic growth
 - Smart rural mobility
 - Access to skills, education and employment

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- 1.4. Schemes to improve the Major Road Network are being prioritised across the Western Gateway area. In Dorset the MRN strategic priorities for investment are the A348 Poole to Ferndown and the A354 Weymouth to Dorchester. Large Local Major schemes (LLM) are also being prioritised, and for Dorset these schemes include the A350, A35 Dorchester bypass and A31 – Poole Link Road. The A350 in Dorset has not been recognised by government for inclusion in the MRN. Dorset will need to continue to lobby for this to ensure equal status with the A350 in Wiltshire which has been recognised as being part of the MRN.

2. Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Update

- 2.1. The Budget 2018 included a Government announcement that the Fund will be extended by a year to 2022-23. This will provide an extra £440 million to the city regions shortlisted for competitive funding, and a further £240 million will be made available to the six metro mayors with a devolved settlement. The Government also announced at Budget that two additional city regions will be shortlisted, taking the total to 12 shortlisted city regions. Preston and South East Dorset were selected by the Secretary of State in December 2018 from those city regions that previously bid for competitive funding and met the eligibility criteria.
- 2.2. The TCF for SE Dorset is a joint project between Bournemouth & Poole and Dorset. The majority of schemes fall within the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole urban area with sustainable transport and digital connectivity improvements along key corridors to Wimborne, Ferndown and West Parley.
- 2.3. As part of the Government's Industrial Strategy and the National Productivity Investment Fund, the Transforming Cities Fund aims to drive up productivity through improved connections between urban centres and suburbs. To do this, Government will invest in infrastructure to improve public and sustainable transport connectivity in some of England's largest cities.
- 2.4. Encouraging an increase in journeys made by low carbon, sustainable modes is a key objective of the Fund. Proposals which include cycling and walking will be viewed more favourably where they have been derived and prioritised using the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) process or equivalent. Proposals should demonstrate a clear link to the city's emerging LCWIP or existing cycling and walking strategy.
- 2.5. Additionally, the Fund aims to support wider cross-cutting priorities such as:
- Improving sustainable access to work and delivering growth
 - Encouraging the use of new mobility systems and technology
 - Tackling air pollution and reducing carbon emissions
 - Delivering more homes
 - Delivering apprenticeships and improving skills

3. Achievements

- 3.1. Some major achievements by Dorset County Council's Infrastructure Service over the last 5 years are as follows:
- LSTF Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Joint Project (£12.1m) – In 2015 this project provided an integrated package of sustainable transport measures, along the main east-west corridor (incorporating the A35) through the three local authority areas.

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- LSTF Sustainable Access to Employment (£0.57m) – In 2015 DCC secured LSTF revenue to improve access to jobs through facilitating and promoting sustainable travel at Dorset's three major employment centres; the Portland-Weymouth-Dorchester area, Ferndown Industrial Estate and the Aviation Business Park;
- Delivery of the annual Local Transport Plan programme - Sustainable transport infrastructure provision including the provision of footways, shared use footways and cycleways, junction improvements including pedestrian/cycle facilities. Safer routes to schools and employment are the priorities.
- Business Travel Network (BTN) – This was developed in urban areas across Dorset to support workplaces in the development of sustainable travel plans focused on the staff commute;
- A338 Bournemouth Spur Road Maintenance (£22m) – The first of Bournemouth International Growth Programme's transport projects has been delivered in order to release the full growth potential of Aviation Park.
- Improvement to the B3073 corridor including Chapel Gate rbt, Hurn rbt and Blackwater East junctions have been improved as part of the BIG programme with the LEP.
- Gillingham Growth Package – A funding package of £6M from Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and £3.45M from Growth Deal was secured to unlock growth to deliver a transport improvement package for the town. Schemes are being designed.

3.2. Key transport priorities for Dorset Council for 2019/2020 onwards include:

- Bid for additional funding for transport improvements to support development;
- Continue to work with the STB and make representations to government to include A350 corridor in national programmes for the Strategic Road Network / Major Road Network;
- With the DLEP, complete delivery of the Growth Deal 1 Bournemouth International Growth (BIG) programme schemes for better access to Bournemouth Airport, Aviation Business Park;
- With the DLEP, deliver the Growth Deal 3 and HIF Gillingham transport schemes to deliver development;
- Improve active travel access to the Dorset Innovation Park and Ferndown Industrial Estate;
- Deliver targeted junction improvements and measures to encourage cycling and walking particularly in South East Dorset, the Weymouth to Dorchester corridor and the Dorset growth towns;
- Update the SE Dorset model and transport study and provide transport modelling for the A348 corridor to support scheme delivery;
- Joint LTP Review;
- Provide transport planning input to the 2 new Local Plans;
- Deliver a programme of structural maintenance identified through the application of Highways Asset Management Principles.

4. Transport funding

- 4.1. Government funding opportunities are centred around the provision of economic growth and active travel improvements. The Transport Planning team will continue to work with the STB and bid for funds for larger schemes from central government for example the Growth Deal, Housing Infrastructure Fund, Growth & Housing Fund, Challenge Fund, Coastal Communities Fund and in future, the Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Fund. This involves work with Highways England, the LEP and other local authority partners.

Dorset Transport Infrastructure

4.2. Developer contributions are also negotiated to deliver transport improvements related to development which requires continued close working between Dorset's transport and planning teams, soon to be within one authority.

5. Next steps

5.1. Local transport, planning and economic development will continue to work closely with members within the new Dorset Council, the LEP and government departments on funding bids, help submit the business case to secure TCF funds, give joint responses to consultations and deliver transport schemes and outcomes.

5.2. A review of the Bournemouth, Poole & Dorset Local Transport Plan will be necessary following local government reorganisation to support future funding bids and to inform the two new Local Plans for Dorset and BCP.

Matthew Piles

Service Director Environment, Infrastructure & Economy

March 2019