

Appendix 2

Economic Growth Strategy – Response to Member Engagement Sessions

Project ideas identified by Task and Finish Group	Outcome / Action
Productivity	
Defence Sector Projects: - Expansion of submarine building and related high-tech components in Dorset. - Development of facilities at Portland for defence-related manufacturing.	Support for growth sectors including advanced engineering manufacturing and defence are detailed within the Economic Growth Strategy
Clean Energy Initiatives: - Development of offshore wind turbines in the Celtic Sea and off the coast of Devon and Cornwall. - Utilisation of Portland Port for the clean energy supply chain.	Clean Energy forms an integral element of the Economic Growth Strategy. It has been identified within the Economic Growth Strategy as a unique and integral opportunity to create jobs and investment and a project of sufficient scale that would provide significant productivity and employment benefits.
Infrastructure Upgrades: - Upgrading the National Grid to support manufacturing and other high-energy sectors. - Improving transport connections to facilitate economic growth.	The impact of grid capacity on economic growth is being fed into the development and formulation of the Local Area Energy Plan. Improving transport connections is to be considered as part of the Local Transport Plan
Innovation and Test Facilities: - Establishment of test facilities to support innovation in clean energy and other future sectors. - Development of the growth corridor from Portland to Dorchester.	Work with universities to improve skills and knowledge / technology transfer is an integral part of the Economic Growth Strategy. A prospectus has been developed promoting the opportunities created by the growth corridor from Portland to Dorchester. This becomes part of a suite of documents, including the Economic Growth Strategy, showcasing the growth potential across the county.
Housing and Workforce Retention: - Initiatives to retain young families by addressing affordable housing issues. - Strategies to attract and retain high-skilled workers in the county.	Expansion of the first Homes Scheme for local people in Dorset is being considered through the housing team.

Economic Development and Planning: • Creation of enterprise zones and local development orders to simplify planning processes. • Focus on high-value sectors and the development of a comprehensive economic strategy.	Enterprise Zones are a government initiative that were awarded on a competitive bidding basis and as such expansion of the Enterprise Zone policy is not currently possible. Local Development order can be used to simplify planning in town centres and for business parks and industrial estates.
Housing affordability	
Affordable Housing Initiatives • Development of Affordable Housing - Focus on increasing the supply of affordable housing through partnerships with housing associations and developers. • Key Worker Housing - Specific projects to provide affordable housing for key workers, such as healthcare professionals and teachers, to ensure they can live close to their workplaces	Being taken forward as part of the delivery of Home in on Housing and Dorset Council's Housing Strategy
Planning and Infrastructure • Integrated Planning Sessions - Regular sessions to align planning and infrastructure development with housing strategies. • Local Plan Development - Collaboration with town councils to develop local plans that include provisions for care and extra care schemes.	To be considered by the planning function, as part of the Local Plan development. Through regular engagement between the Council's functions and with town and parish councils, when they are developing Local Neighbourhood Plans
Housing Strategy Implementation • Joint Housing Strategy: Rolling out a joint housing strategy that involves various stakeholders, including local councils and housing associations. • Community Engagement: Engaging with community members to gather feedback and incorporate their needs into the housing strategy.	Being taken forward as part of the delivery of Home in on Housing and Dorset Council's Housing Strategy
Economic Development and Employment • Attracting Employers: Initiatives to attract employers to Dorset, creating job opportunities and supporting the local economy. • Supporting Local Businesses: Providing housing solutions that support local businesses and help retain employees in the area.	Attracting high growth businesses to Dorset, which align with our sector strengths and investment ambitions is a key part of the Economic Growth Strategy and is currently being supported by programmes such as the Shared Prosperity Fund and government Growth Hub funding. Expansion of the first Homes Scheme for local people in Dorset is being considered with the housing team.
Addressing Demographic Challenges	Work with registered social landlords and care home providers to develop solutions.

• Housing for Aging Population: Developing housing solutions that cater to the aging population, including care and extra care homes. • Family Housing: Increasing the supply of larger family homes to meet the needs of families in the area.	Being taken forward as part of the delivery of Home in on Housing and Dorset Council's Housing Strategy
Private Rented Sector • Encouraging Private Rentals: Initiatives to encourage landlords to offer long-term rentals instead of short-term holiday lets. • Regulating Private Rents: Addressing the issue of rising private rents and ensuring they remain affordable for local residents.	This is to be considered by the housing team,
Sustainable and Quality Housing • Energy-Efficient Homes: Promoting the development of sustainable, energy-efficient homes that contribute to long-term community well-being. • Infrastructure Development: Ensuring that new housing developments include necessary infrastructure, such as green spaces and transportation links.	Dorset Council is already delivering the Homes Upgrade Grant, which is targeted at subsidising the cost of energy efficiency heating improvements in eligible residential buildings. Energy efficiency, such as solar panels may be possible to incorporate through the inclusion of appropriate policies in the Local Plan and via building control. Location of housing and infrastructure is being considered as part of the Local Plan process.
Policy and Market Shaping • Influencing Developers: Working with developers to ensure that new housing projects meet the needs of the community and align with economic development goals. • Market Interventions: Considering market interventions to address gaps in housing supply, particularly in the private rented sector.	
Infrastructure	
Transport Infrastructure Projects: • Road Network Improvements: Strategic road improvements, including addressing bottlenecks and enhancing connectivity. Projects to enhance the strategic road network, including the A37 and A354 routes, to improve connectivity and reduce congestion.	This should be taken into consideration when developing the Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan. Infrastructure improvements often come on the back of successful development not before it. Therefore, a lack of

• Rail Connectivity Enhancements: Railway network enhancements to improve freight usage and passenger services. Initiatives to increase train frequencies, improve line speeds, and modernize rail infrastructure. • Freight and Port Connectivity: Development of strategic gateways, including airport and port facilities. Enhancing freight usage and improving connectivity to key ports like Portland and Bournemouth to support economic activities. • Sustainable Transport Solutions: Developing better public transport options, cycling infrastructure, and alternatives to car use to promote sustainable travel.	infrastructure should not be used or seen as a blocker on development. The Economic Growth Strategy highlights green energy and growth plans for Portland Port. Options for sustainable transport improvements are considered by the transport planning team and where appropriate incorporated into the Local Transport Plan
Digital Infrastructure Projects: • Collaboration with commercial providers and government to improve digital connectivity. • Broadband Expansion: Expansion of gigabit broadband. Projects to improve Gigabit broadband coverage across Dorset, addressing current gaps and ensuring high-speed internet access for all communities. • Mobile Network Improvements: Expansion of mobile coverage. Initiatives to enhance mobile coverage, particularly in rural areas, and address connectivity issues along major routes. • Data Centre Development: Exploration of data centres and AI opportunities, leveraging local power and cooling resources. Exploring opportunities to develop data centres in Dorset, leveraging local power and cooling resources to support digital growth. • Digital Inclusion Programs: Ensuring that businesses and communities can adopt advanced digital technologies and benefit from improved connectivity.	Digital connectivity is included in the Economic Growth Strategy and is the central topic in the Council's Digital infrastructure and Inclusion Strategy. Clean energy is a major project in the Economic Growth Strategy. Dorset has the locations available for Data Centre(s) to be co-located alongside clean energy production, as detailed in the Economic Growth Strategy. The Council are preparing a submission to the government's AI Growth Zone programme.
Housing and Community Projects: • Large-scale housing developments with integrated employment spaces. • Creation of 20-minute neighbourhoods with accessible green spaces and sustainable transport options. • Focus on affordable housing and homes for key workers. • Allocating sites for housing and employment, ensuring they are attractive and viable for development.	The location of housing developments, with the necessary infrastructure to support them, including the allocation of suitable and sizeable employment land, is being considered as part of the Local Plan process. Initiatives to provide key worker housing form part of the Housing Strategy and "Home in on Housing".

Planning and Policy Initiatives: • Allocating sites for housing and employment, ensuring they are attractive and viable for development • Development of design codes to improve the quality of new developments. • Lobbying for changes in planning regulations to support viability and affordability. • Local Transport Plan (LTP) Integration: Aligning the LTP with the economic growth strategy and local plan to ensure cohesive infrastructure development. • Local Development Orders (LDOs): Implementation of local development orders to facilitate economic growth. Utilising LDOs to facilitate development, reduce planning barriers, and attract investment. • Housing and Employment Land Allocation: Identifying and allocating sites for housing and employment to support economic growth and meet community needs.	Economic Growth team are working with Local Plans team to ensure policies in favour of economic growth and development are in the new Local Plan. The planning team are to facilitate work with local partners, Town and Parish Councils to take forward design codes in appropriate locations. Work with local transport plans team to ensure policies in favour of economic growth and development are in the new Local Transport Plan. Local Development order can be used to simplify planning in town centres and for business parks and industrial estates. The allocation of suitable and sizeable employment land, located close to the major settlements and new residential developments is being considered as part of the Local Plan process.
Energy Infrastructure • Grid Capacity Upgrades: Projects to enhance the current grid capacity and support the increasing energy demands of new developments. • Renewable Energy Initiatives: Developing solar farms, wind energy projects, and hydrogen storage solutions to support local energy needs and promote sustainability. ▪ Solar farms and battery storage solutions to support local energy needs. ▪ Offshore wind projects and associated onshore infrastructure. • Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Expanding EV charging infrastructure to support the transition to electric vehicles and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.	The impact of grid capacity on economic growth is being fed into the development and formulation of the Local Area Energy Plan.
Economic Development and Employment • Attracting Employers: Initiatives to attract employers to Dorset, creating job opportunities and supporting the local economy.	Attracting high growth businesses to Dorset, which align with our sector strengths and investment ambitions is a key part of the Economic Growth Strategy.

• Supporting Local Businesses: Providing infrastructure solutions that support local businesses and help retain employees in the area.	The Economic Growth Strategy, details our approach to providing business support
Environmental Considerations: • Sustainable Development: Balancing economic, social, and environmental objectives to achieve sustainable development. • Biodiversity and Climate Change: Development projects deliver biodiversity net gain and contribute to environmental sustainability. • Climate Change Adaptation: Projects to adapt to climate change, including flood defences and coastal protection measures.	The impact of the Economic Growth Strategy on sustainability, climate change and biodiversity has been considered as part of the reporting process and the Committee report includes the Climate Emergency Wheel. The impact of individual projects on the environment and climate will be considered during the development of these specific projects.
Skills and Social Mobility	
Skills and Employment Initiatives: • Expansion of post-16 vocational training and apprenticeships. • Enhanced careers advice and guidance for Electively Home Educated children. • Development of work experience programs in collaboration with local businesses.	Skills initiatives, aligned to our growth opportunities are a key part of the Economic Growth Strategy. We want to inspire young people about the future employment opportunities in Dorset, particularly those centred around clean energy.
Social Mobility Programs: • Early intervention programs to improve opportunities for young children. • Engagement with Dorset Youth Council to address young people's concerns and aspirations.	Targeted business start up programmes for young people are a feature of the business engagement element of the Economic Growth Strategy and the Council Plan. Dorset Youth Council have been involved in the engagement sessions for this strategy and have helped shape it. We have undertaken project work experience students on addressing social mobility.
Educational Improvement Projects: • Initiatives to improve educational standards and leadership in Dorset schools. • Collaboration with colleges to align courses with local economic needs.	We want to inspire young people about the future employment opportunities in Dorset, particularly those centred around clean energy. Raising their ambitions and aspirations about a future in Dorset will help attainment. Collaboration with HE, FE and universities is a key feature of the Economic Growth Strategy
Local Skills Improvement Plan Actions: • Investment in net zero and digital skills.	

Strengthening employer-provider relationships and expanding the workforce.	Dorset Council continues to work with and feed into the Dorset Local Skills Improvement Plan.
Lifelong Learning and Adult Skills Programs: - Development of midlife career training and retraining opportunities. - Support for lifelong learning initiatives.	Skills initiatives, aligned to our growth opportunities are a key part of the Economic Growth Strategy. A review of Dorset Skills and Learning activities and operations in Dorset Council area is included within this work.
Business Engagement and Support: - Business mentorship programs and collaboration with voluntary sector organisations. - Brokering relationships between businesses and education providers.	Dorset Council support and values the Dorset Business Mentoring Service - DORMEN. A review of the service to make sure that it is aligned to future needs is underway.
Agriculture and Rural Economy Projects: - Innovation and investment in agritech and sustainable farming practices. - Promotion of food security initiatives.	The Economic Growth Strategy, through the business engagement ambition, identifies a focus on increasing support for improving productivity and innovation within businesses which would be available across all business sectors.
Cultural and Lifestyle Promotion: - Initiatives to promote Dorset's unique lifestyle and outdoor opportunities. - Addressing young people's perceptions of Dorset's cultural offerings.	Dorset Youth Council have been involved in the engagement sessions for this strategy, and we have listened to their views on things to do.