
Thanet's Economic Growth and Regeneration Strategy – Phase Three

To: **Extraordinary Cabinet – 29 May, 2013**

Main Portfolio Area: **Economic Development and Regeneration Services**

By: **Madeline Homer, Director Community Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward **All Wards**

Summary: **To provide Cabinet with the opportunity to endorse the delivery of Phase three of Thanet's Economic Growth and Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Council is committed to driving growth across the district by promoting investment, skills, employment and innovation to provide a sustainable, balanced economy. Officers have developed the strategy so far in two phases, to bring it to its current position.
- 1.2 Phase One: Setting the Direction – this phase recognised the key issues facing the economy, it proposed a vision and strategic direction, summarised the economic context of Thanet and identified the sectors of the economy that are important to Thanet or have the potential to deliver growth. The document outlined the areas where support is required to help business of any size and in any sector to prosper in Thanet. The development included undertaking research and engagement with key stakeholders.
- 1.3 Phase Two: Understanding the opportunities – this phase helped shape dialogue between all those engaged in economic growth. This highlighted that for the public sector partners to agree the strategic direction and align their activity, the private sector must be engaged. This engagement started by opening up the Thanet Regeneration Board to private sector members to enable the Board to hear first hand what business think and what they require. A consultation document was used to gain feedback from key organisations and groups; it was intended to give all partners confidence about the key priority areas, so they could develop their own policies and activities.

2.0 The Current Position

- 2.1 Phase Three: Action and Policy – this phase includes having taken reactions to the priorities put forward in the strategy and feedback from those directly involved in industry, through the engagement process. The action plan has been developed and is currently in draft format, ready for targeted consultation with key stakeholders.
- 2.2 The strategy is also being prepared to make the relevant changes to fully implement Phase three. This includes updating the statistical data using information from the most recent Census, adding links to other strategic documents and a series of indicators for monitoring purposes. This will ensure that the strategy is ready for adoption when the consultation period is completed.

3.0 Next Steps - Consultation

3.1 The action plan will go out for full consultation, to selected stakeholders, for a six week period from Friday 31 May. The deadline will be Friday 12 July, at which point relevant changes will be made and the final strategy and action plan will be prepared for adoption by Cabinet. It is anticipated that changes will be made during the process through close working with the stakeholders.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

4.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this phase of the strategy and action plan.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this phase of the strategy and action plan.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 Thanet's Economic Growth and Regeneration is a key priority for the Council and this action plan is the delivery tool by which the Council can implement its regeneration priorities, in partnership. The consultation allows the Council to ensure that it takes into account key stakeholders opinions, thus mitigating risks associated with the strategy and its delivery.

4.3.2 The strategy directly supports delivery of the Corporate Plan 2012-16 through the following priorities:

- Priority One – We will support the growth of our economy and the number of people in work
- Priority two – We will tackle disadvantage across our district
- Priority three - We will support our community and voluntary organisations
- Priority five – We will work to improve parking and transportation in our district
- Priority six – We will make our district cleaner and greener and lead by example on environmental issues
- Priority eight – We will support excellent and diverse cultural facilities and activities for our residents and visitors
- Priority nine – We will support a broad range of sports, leisure and coastal facilities and activities
- Priority ten – We will influence the work of other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for Thanet

4.4 Equity and Equalities

4.4.1 There is no equity and equalities issues with the consultation process for the action plan, officers will ensure that all types of businesses and relevant stakeholders will be consulted with.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

5.1 Members are requested to approve officers to consult on the action plan during the period 31 May - 12 July, 2013 and complete the strategy ready for adoption.

Contact Officer:	Louise Askew, Economic Development Officer,
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Annex List

Annex 1	Economic Growth and Regeneration Strategy draft Action Plan
Annex 2	Setting the Direction for Economic Growth in Thanet – Draft

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Name the officers consulted in the drafting of the report

Senior Management Team on 23 April, 2013
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