

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>3 DECEMBER 2014</b>
<b>NOTTINGHAM GROWTH PLAN</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>

1. **Purpose**

The Committee is asked to consider the progress of the Nottingham Growth Plan which was published in July 2012. This was previously considered by the Committee on 2 October 2013 when the Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Growth delivered a presentation on the Plan and its 'flagship' projects.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested an update on progress of the Growth Plan when it was considered on 2 October 2013.

2. **Action required**

**The Committee is asked to consider the impact of the Nottingham Growth Plan since its meeting in October 2013.**

3. **Background information**

At its meeting on 2 October 2013, Councillor McDonald presented the Nottingham Growth Plan and its 'flagship' project, the Creative Quarter and set out the its key challenges for the following twelve months. The Committee focussed on the following key areas:

- Revitalisation of the City Centre and the availability of financial incentives to small businesses outside of the City Centre.
- The issue of derelict buildings in the Creative Quarter and how their potential was being reviewed through the Property Action Plan. It was confirmed that the Creative Quarter Company was working with Nottingham Regeneration on a strategy to address these and that the key priority was to fill street level retail units.
- Talent retention across the city and Nottingham's relationship to its two internationally renowned universities.
- Work experience and enterprise education in schools in light of the changing nature of academisation across the authority. Further information on Nottinghamshire Futures development of a business-focussed offer for schools was explored.

The growth plan was launched in July 2012 and set out a series of measures to reshape and grow the local economy. This included a long term economic

strategy for the city enabling the growth of ambitious large-scale projects to be delivered over the next five to ten years.

The first Annual Review of the Nottingham Growth Plan was published by the Nottingham Economic Growth Board on 18 October 2013 and is the first stage in the evolution of the long-term economic plan for Nottingham and outlines the top priorities for 2014, including:

- The launch of the £40 million Nottingham Investment Fund and a new ambitious and proactive approach to attracting inward investment;
- Developing a skilled workforce, continuing to create apprenticeships and the launch of a city-wide internship programme;
- Securing free wireless access in the city centre;
- Innovative thinking around talent retention and improving the digital infrastructure.

Both the full Growth Plan and Summary document are available to read via the following link on the website:

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/static/nottinghamgrowthplan/index.htm>

In October 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded that:

- It was important to ensure the availability of sufficient targeted communication and information relating to financial and other support for business start up for minority ethnic groups;
- There was a lack of progress both nationally and locally on the development of a digital infrastructure;
- The importance of district centres such as Bulwell had to be remembered and addressed as part of the whole package of regeneration of the City as a whole.

The Committee seeks to review progress made on the above and how the Growth Plan will deliver its top priorities for 2014.

#### **4. List of attached information**

The Nottingham Growth Plan – Report by Director of Economic Development.

5. **Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None.

6. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None

7. **Wards affected**

All

8. **Contact information**

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