

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 APRIL 2016
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to review Nottingham City Council's International Strategy.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the impact of the Council's International Strategy and establish whether further scrutiny is required.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny has previously considered the impact of Nottingham City Council's Growth Plan and at its meeting in December 2015, it was decided to focus on the Council's progress in developing an international strategy.
- 3.2 In addition to its role as a major UK core city, Nottingham is also a member of the Eurocities network. Nottingham City Council continues to attract foreign inward investment and research from the University of Nottingham's Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre shows that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) can have a range of positive impact in the city, such as boosting domestic productivity and making the city's economy more efficient.

International activity

China

- 3.3 Nottingham has developed strong connections with China and in particular, Nottingham's sister City of Ningbo in which the University of Nottingham has a campus. Nottingham Trent University and Central College are also active in China. Nottingham City Council, working in partnership with the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University, Invest in Nottingham Club, UKTI and private sector businesses has developed a China Forum to build upon relationships established in Ningbo to increase trade, investment and collaboration activity.

India

- 3.4 Nottingham City Council has been working with local business leaders and partners in Chandigarh, Haryana and Delhi to develop an investment bridge between Nottingham and these cities. Nottingham has developed strong business and cultural links with India, and in particular the Punjab.

Germany

- 3.5 There are first-class civic and trade connections between Nottingham and Karlsruhe, which is Nottingham's oldest twin city. The two have been linked for well over 40 years and via the Invest in Nottingham Club, a Germany UK forum has been established in order to analyse the market's prospects.

Midlands Engine

- 3.6 In March 2016, the government published its proposals for the Midlands Engine which includes ambitious plans to make the area an engine of growth. The Midlands Engine is the result of 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) coming together with a plan to boost productivity, attract inward investment, increase connectivity and build a regional tourism offer. The Midlands Engine focusses on five key themes – skills, innovation, transport, promoting the region and finance for business.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 None.

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

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 None.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 Citywide.

8 Contact information

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