

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE – 27 NOVEMBER 2018**

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| Subject: | Terms of Reference | | |
| Presenting authority / representative): | Chris Henning, Corporate Director, Development & Growth, Nottingham City Council | | |
| Report author and contact details: | Peter Davies-Bright, Economic Programmes Manager peter.davies-bright@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 876 3413 | | |
| Key Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Subject to call-in |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Value of decision: Not applicable | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital |
| Authorities affected: All | Date of consultation with relevant authorities: 13-15 November 2018 | | |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities): | | | |
| <p>The original Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) were adopted in February 2014 when the Committee was established.</p> <p>In August 2018, the TOR were reviewed by Nottinghamshire County, Nottingham City, Ashfield District and Rushcliffe Borough Councils. Proposed changes to the TOR have been drawn up to reflect wider changes in the operating environment since 2014, and to enable the EPC to discuss wider issues (and, where appropriate, align activity) that cut across local authority boundaries.</p> | | | |
| Exempt information: | | | |
| None | | | |
| Recommendation(s): | | | |
| 1 To agree the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference, as outlined in this report. | | | |

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The proposed change to the Terms of Reference (TOR) would enable the EPC to discuss wider issues that cut across local authority boundaries and, where appropriate, align activity.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Senior officers from Nottinghamshire County, Nottingham City, Ashfield District and Rushcliffe Borough Councils met in August 2018 to discuss the future of the EPC, which had last met in March 2018. The officers recognised that the TOR needed to be updated to adapt to changes in the economic and political environment over the past four years and suggested the following changes to the TOR:

Purpose

- 2.2 The purpose of the EPC is currently:
‘To bring together local authority partners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will drive future investment in growth and jobs in the City and County.’
- 2.3 It is proposed that this should be revised to:
‘To bring together local authorities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to agree and promote the key aspects of economic prosperity across the area, with a specific focus on shared priorities and securing investment.’

Remit

- 2.4 The remit of the EPC is currently:

- a) *to act as a local public sector decision making body for strategic economic development, and to make recommendations to the D2N2 LEP on its investment and other priorities;*
- b) *to prioritise, commission and monitor both investment plans and all European Structural Investment Funds (SIF), and Single Local Growth Fund money that is available to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire via the D2N2 LEP and the EPC;*
- c) *to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans and ensure that they contribute to economic growth;*
- d) *to actively engage with a range of businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to the EPC's decision making, and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;*
- e) *to consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements;*
- f) *to ensure that potential benefits stemming from any overlaps with other LEPs are fully maximised.*

2.5 It is proposed that this should be changed to:

- a) *to act as the local public sector decision making body for strategic economic growth;*
- b) *to act as a conduit to other sub-regional and regional bodies such as the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and the Midlands Engine;*
- c) *to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans for economic prosperity;*
- d) *to agree shared priorities and bids for funding to existing and new funding sources such as Local Growth Funds, European Funds (until the end of the Brexit transition period) and the Shared Prosperity Fund (at the end of the Brexit transition period);*
- e) *to monitor and evaluate projects and programmes of activity commissioned directly by the EPC;*
- f) *to agree, monitor and evaluate spending priorities for the Nottinghamshire Business Rates Pool. (Only those constituent authorities that are members of the Pool would participate in this);*
- g) *to communicate and, where unanimously agreed, to align activity across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire on a range of other key public priorities that affect citizens.*

2.6 The changes are largely designed to reflect changes in the operating environment (such as the Midlands Engine and the EU Referendum) since the EPC was established in 2014. The main substantive addition is 2.5(g) (above) which will enable discussion at future EPC meetings of issues that cut across local authority boundaries and to agree to align activity where this would benefit the local authorities and local citizens.

Quorum

2.7 To reduce the quorum from six to five.

Secretariat

2.8 The Secretary shall be from the same authority as the Chair, rather than held by Nottingham City Council.

Review

2.9 The TOR should be reviewed every two years to ensure they remain fit for purpose

2.10 A full copy of the revised TOR is attached at Appendix A.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To make no amendments to the TOR. This was rejected as the TOR would not be fit for current purpose, and this would limit the EPC's ability to discuss and take mutually action beneficial to address issues that concern the local authorities and local citizens.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 None

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 The EPC TOR state that the TOR 'can only be amended by resolution of each of the constituent authorities'. Should the EPC agree the recommendation in this report, all constituent local authorities will need to formally agree to the proposed amendments in accordance with their own constitutions for the amendment to take effect, as set out in the current TOR (17.1).

6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference aim to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the citizens of Nottingham by facilitating discussions with neighbouring authorities and potentially aligning activity for the benefit of citizens.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- 7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
An EIA is not required because the report does not contain any changes to policy.

Yes

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

- 8.1 The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee draft Terms of Reference (revised November 2018) – see Appendix A.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

- 9.1 None