

Briefing Note

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Title: **Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan Consultation Draft**

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Date: **12 February 2019**

Intended Audience: Internal Partner organisation Public Confidential

Purpose or recommendation

To comment on the draft Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan.

Overview

To provide an overview of the background to the development of the Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and invite feedback on the consultation draft.

Background and context

The City Strategy, Prosperity for All, was published in 2011 and provides the overarching Economic Strategic Framework for the City. It was ratified by full Council and developed in collaboration with a wide range of partners across the city. The City Strategy formed the basis of much of the Council's Corporate Plan, particularly in helping to shape the Council's economic policies, priorities and actions.

Its revision reflects significant changes in context in which the City operates including creation of the West Midlands Combined Authority, changes to local government finance, growing confidence in Wolverhampton and the new City Vision 2030.

Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) complements a series of national, regional and sub-regional plans, including the Government's Industrial Strategy, West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy, Growth Company Business Plan and Black Country SEP, as outlined in the consultation draft. It aims to support delivery of these strategies locally and contribute to their outcomes including boosting productivity, supporting economic growth, generating jobs, supporting regeneration and job creation.

Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel fed into the design of the SEP at its meeting in April 2018. We are now inviting comments on the consultation draft of the Strategic Economic Plan in advance of the final version being taken to Cabinet for signoff in March 2019.

Wolverhampton Strategic Economic Plan

Wolverhampton's consultation draft Strategic Economic plan: Delivering Prosperity for All aims to deliver inclusive growth (business, innovators, entrepreneurs and a skilled workforce) and create the conditions for growth (infrastructure and planning for the future) through four main themes:

- An enterprising city
- A working and inclusive city
- A vibrant city
- A future city

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The Plan highlights key achievements for the city since the City Strategy was developed and ongoing challenges. The Plan aims to support economic growth by addressing the key components of productivity: jobs, skills and economy as well as supporting a vibrant city and city for the future. The Action Plan identifies priority actions against each theme.

Formal consultation is taking place during January and February 2019 for a condensed period given the extensive consultation with partners during its development. This allows the final SEP to be considered at Cabinet on 20 March 2019 in advance of full council approval in April 2019 in line with the Corporate Plan timescale. Comments are invited to Service.Development@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Consultees to date informing the plans development have included Wolverhampton City Board, Economic Growth Board and Employment and Skills Board including organisations set out in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: SEP Consultees

City Board
Economic Growth Board
Skills and Employment Board
Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel
CWC Leadership Teams and Portfolio boards
City of Wolverhampton Council Councillors
City of Wolverhampton College
University of Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
Local businesses
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS
West Midlands Police
NHS Wolverhampton CCG
Department of Work and Pensions
Wolverhampton Homes
Bilston Resources Centre
School representatives
Business Improvement District
Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club