

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

24 April 2023



**Inclusive Economic Strategy (IES)
Delivery Plan**

**Report of Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director, Regeneration, Economy
& Growth**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This cover report accompanies the presentation to Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee that sets out how we will coordinate activities via the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) to develop a Delivery Plan and for the Inclusive Economic Strategy (IES) with further detail provided in the presentation attached as appendix 2.

Executive summary

- 2 The Inclusive Economic Strategy (IES) was adopted by Cabinet and County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) in December. The CDEP and the wider County Durham Partnership provides a critical structure for the development and implementation of a Delivery Plan for the IES which will be updated up to 2035. The Delivery Plan will initially cover the next two years in order to align with a number of other key events such as local and national elections.
- 3 The intention is to develop the IES Delivery Plan over the next six months via a series of working groups involving CDEP partners. As part of this approach Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have an opportunity to review the Delivery Plan in Autumn ahead of the proposed adoption of the plan by Cabinet and CDEP Board in November 2023.

Recommendation

- 4 Members are asked to endorse the proposed process and timescales for the development of a Delivery Plan for the IES and to review the draft plan before it is presented to Cabinet in November.

Background

County Durham Economic Partnership

- 5 The development of the Inclusive Economic Strategy (IES) was overseen by the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) during 2022 and adopted in December. The CDEP is one of five thematic partnerships that sits beneath the umbrella of, and reports to, the County Durham Partnership. The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives the minutes of CDEP Board meetings which take place every two to three months.
- 6 The chair of CDEP Board is a private sector representative and the vice chair, who is also from the private sector, chairs the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group and the UK Shared Prosperity Funding Group. The CDEP includes representatives from local businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, and other thematic partnerships, and regional bodies, as well as representatives from Business Durham, Visit County Durham, and Durham County Council. This partnership structure is critical to the design and delivery of strategies and investments that support businesses and residents across the county.

Inclusive Economic Strategy Delivery Plan

- 7 Given that the IES is a long-term strategy which will guide actions up to 2035, the intention has always been to drive the strategy through a series of time limited Delivery Plans. The range of partners and stakeholders that sit within the CDEP mean it is the ideal structure to oversee the development and implementation of these IES Delivery Plans.
- 8 In March 2023, a workshop was convened to bring regular and new partners together to commence the development of the IES Delivery Plan. Partners agreed to establish and take part in working groups to identify actions for the next two years which align with the core themes and priorities of the IES. Individual working groups have been established to develop plans for the People¹, Productivity, Places, and Promotion themes of the IES, each of which will also identify actions linked to the cross-cutting Planet theme in the IES.
- 9 A working group has also been established to identify actions under the theme of Innovation², due to the specific complexities of the theme. The plans of these individual working groups will be brought together as a single Delivery Plan which will guide the activities of the CDEP over the next few years. The intention is for the Delivery Plans to be updated

¹ Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on 'Skills delivery' in December which will underpin the work under the People theme of the Delivery Plan.

² Innovation sits within the Productivity theme but cross-cuts various activities.

during the lifetime of the IES as opportunities, funding, and priorities change. The initial focus on the next two years aligns with a number of timescales including a potential general election, local elections, the conclusion of external funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and the establishment of a new North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

- 10 Each working group is supported by a chairperson, vice chair, and officer who will coordinate the development of the thematic plans with partners. The groups will meet once a month and report progress at CDEP Board meetings in June and September with the intention of CDEP Board and DCC Cabinet adopting the Delivery Plan in November. The Delivery Plan will be presented to Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee in early Autumn to allow it to be refined ahead of it being presented to Cabinet.
- 11 The working groups will review evidence in the IES, Economic Review and Big Conversation to ensure actions are evidence-based and targeted at supporting the overall vision³ of the IES. Together, the working groups and CDEP Board will ensure that priorities that are supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other partnerships and partners are integrated into the Delivery Plan. There are limits to what can be achieved in the first two years of the IES, therefore partners will also identify gaps in provision with the intention of seeking ways to address these gaps in the future. This will include needs and opportunities for which we will seek support from regional and national bodies via the North East Devolution Deal and other strategic arrangements.
- 12 Partners will have their own strategies, plans and objectives so the Delivery Plan will focus on collaborative solutions and transformational activities that are 'SMART'⁴. The Delivery Plan will be accompanied by an Investment Plan which will have more specific details about the investment needed to support strategic priorities and which will be used to guide bids for additional funding and private sector investment.

Conclusion

- 13 The IES Delivery Plan will be developed with a clear purpose, structure, governance, and timescales. Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse the approach set-out in this paper, and to review the emerging draft Delivery Plan in the autumn.

³ More and better jobs in an inclusive, green economy

⁴ Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-oriented

Background papers

- [Inclusive Economic Strategy Cabinet papers, December 2022](#)
- [Skills delivery and support for the Inclusive Economic Strategy paper, Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, December 2022](#)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

The Delivery Plan and Investment Plan will be used to bid for and oversee the management of funding but have no financial cost or consequences.

Consultation

The Delivery Plan and Investment Plan will be developed in partnership but will not be subject to public consultation.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Delivery Plan and Investment Plan will be aligned to the IES which aims to improve inclusivity.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

The Delivery Plan and Investment Plan will be aligned to the IES which aims to address climate change.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.