

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

10 September 2013



**Overview of the County Durham
Economic Partnership**

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic
Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information prior to the presentation providing an overview of the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP).

Background

- 2 The work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee focuses on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
- 3 In addition, the Committee invites on an annual basis when the committee is refreshing the work programme the Chair or Vice - Chair of the CDEP to discuss with Members changes to the economy, challenges faced and opportunities within County Durham. This has previously resulted in additional areas being identified for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.
- 4 The Vice-Chair of the CDEP, Sue Parkinson attended the meeting of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny committee on the 24 June 2013 and discussed with members changes to the economy at a national and local level together with several areas that presented delivery opportunities within County Durham. Following that discussion, members of the Committee thought it was timely to have an overview of the work of the CDEP which would be of particular relevance to new members of the Committee and it was agreed that this would be included as an additional item in the Committee's work programme.
- 5 Arrangements have therefore been made for Andy Palmer, Head of Strategy, Programmes and Performance, Regeneration and Economic Development, to attend the meeting to give a presentation focusing on the CDEP.

County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)

- 6 The CDEP is one of five thematic partnerships within the County Durham Partnership. There are over 60 public, private and voluntary and community sector organisations that make up the membership of the partnership. These are all members of the Working Groups and Board that make up the structure of the Partnership.
- 7 The current structure of the Partnership consists of the Board and Working Groups focusing on:
 - Business and People
 - Business Enterprise and Skills Working Group.
 - Place
 - Housing Forum – Housing Partnership Working Groups.
 - Thriving Durham City Group.
 - Rural
 - Rural Working Group – NEFRAN.
 - Culture
 - Cultural Partnership.
 - Tourism
 - Visit County Durham.
- 8 The aim of the CDEP is to contribute to the well being of County Durham by leading, developing and delivering the County Durham Regeneration Statement in partnership with others. The Regeneration Statement outlines the underlying ambition of creating sustainable places where people want to live, work, invest and visit can be achieved. The statement outlines the current Durham County position and looks forward ten years, identifying key priorities and ambitions for where we want to be. The Regeneration Statement will be delivered through the planning policies set out in the County Durham Plan together with the improvements brought about by the Local Transport Plan and the Durham Housing Strategy. It also underpins the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for County Durham and forms the 'Altogether Wealthier' Priority Theme.

9 The Partnership also works towards achieving the aims identified in the SCS. The SCS Priority Theme 'Altogether Wealthier' is focused on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of the SCS. The objective of achieving an 'Altogether Wealthier' County sits at the heart of the County's strategies with the County prioritising economic regeneration as the core means of achieving its vision. The following 'Altogether Wealthier' aims and objectives are identified:

- Thriving Durham City.
- Vibrant and successful towns
- Competitive and successful people
- Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
- A top location for business

The Partnership is developing a delivery and investment plan to achieve the aims and objectives together with a framework which is used to measure their performance.

10 The presentation to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 10 September 2013 will provide an overview of the CDEP and will focus on the following:

- The history of the Partnership
- The role and focus of the CDEP
- Partnership Restructure
- Working Arrangements
- Members of the CDEP
- Relationships
- Scrutiny

Recommendation

11 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment upon the information provided during the presentation.

Background Papers

- Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Update on the work of the County Durham Economic Partnership – 24 June 2013.
- Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny report – Refresh of the Work Programme 2013-2015 – 24 June 2013.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Discrimination Act - None

Legal Implications - None