

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – CONSULTATION DRAFT**

### **Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee –8 July 2014**

Report of Chief Officer Communities & Business

Status: For consideration

Key Decision: No

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**Executive Summary:** This report seeks comments from Members on the District Council's Consultation Draft of the Economic Development Strategy

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**This report supports the Key Aim of** the Community Plan's Dynamic & Sustainable Economy priorities and the District Council's Corporate Plan

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Hogarth

**Contact Officer(s)** Joe Middleton Ext. 7128

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**Recommendation to the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee:** Members views are sought in advance of circulation of the Consultation Draft to consultees.

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**Reason for recommendation:** to ensure that Members are happy with the Consultation Draft before it is released for consultation

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### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 The Sevenoaks District Community Plan makes a commitment to a thriving local economy where businesses flourish, where people have the skills for employment and where tourism is supported. The Community Plan also commits to a sustainable economy where people can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shape their communities. One of the Council's five promises in the Corporate Plan is to support and develop the local economy.
- 2 The Council's Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan will help us to prioritise our ambitions and provide support for our local economy. Officers and Members have been holding consultation workshops with interested groups such as Town & Parish Councils, town partnerships, business support and inward investment organisations, rural support groups, businesses, tourism groups, young people and Council officers engaged in associated work. Members were invited to consultation workshops and this Advisory Committee held its own workshop. Businesses were also consulted by way of a survey which was e-mailed to them and publicised in the Council's e-publication 'real Business'. The results of the consultation were used to inform this draft strategy.

- 3 It is proposed to send the draft strategy out for consultation over the Summer with a view to bringing back a final draft to this Committee at its October meeting.

## **Key Implications**

### Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this consultation draft. Work identified in the action plan will be funded within existing resources or from external funding where this can be accessed.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

There are no legal implications associated with this report. A full risk assessment will be completed on the final document when it is drafted.

### Equality Impacts

A full equality impact assessment will be completed on the final document when it is drafted.

## **Conclusions**

Members' views are sought on the consultation draft.

## **Appendices**

Consultation draft Economic Development Strategy

## **Background Papers:**

South East LEP Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan

Results of consultations

West Kent Priorities for Growth

**Lesley Bowles**

**Chief Officer Communities & Business**