

## **Item 6 - Economic Development Strategy Delivery Plan Monitoring**

The attached report was considered by the Improvement & Innovation Advisory Committee on 27 February 2020 and the People & Places Advisory Committee on 3 March 2020. The relevant Minute extracts are below:

### Improvement & Innovations Advisory Committee (27 February 2020, Minute 35)

The Economic Development Officer presented the report updating Members on the delivery of the 2018-2021 Economic Development Strategy. Work on the strategy began in January 2019. The strategy was designed to have the flexibility to adapt to economic changes and needs of business customers. The performance targets were 86% green, 14% amber and 0% red.

In response to queries, Members were advised officers regularly attended networking events to discuss business needs and how the Council could provide support. Members were also advised that Swanley's good transport links, enhanced by the renovation of Swanley Station, would allow a workhub to be set up in Swanley without any issues with parking.

The Chairman highlighted the success of the Gateway Gatwick Group (Appendix A, 3.2a), which aimed to encourage tourism in West Kent, and the Sevenoaks support internship programme (Appendix A, 4.1b), which encouraged growth of skills and employability for young people with special educational needs. Members were advised that there were plans to continue working with the Gateway Gatwick Group and to encourage local authorities to set up a similar support internship programme.

Resolved: That the progress of the Economic Development Strategy delivery plan to date, be noted.

### People & Places Advisory Committee (3 March 2020, Minute 37)

The Economic Development Officer presented the report updating Members on the delivery of the 2018-2021 Economic Development Strategy. Work on the strategy began in January 2019. The strategy was designed to have the flexibility to adapt to economic changes and needs of business customers. The performance targets were 86% green, 14% amber and 0% red.

In response to questions from Members, it was clarified that the Council did not provide financial support towards the business hubs, but assisted in networking and providing advice.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted the success of the Visitor Economy Forum (Appendix A, 3.1b) as a good network which allows many to share feedback on the Sevenoaks Visitor Economy.

The Chairman thanked the Economic Development Officer.

Resolved: That the progress of the Economic Development Strategy delivery plan to date, be noted.