

# Forest Heath District Council

(This report is a key decision. This report has been subject to appropriate notice of publication under the Council's Access to Information Rules)

## Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism

**CABINET**

**5 MARCH 2013**

**CAB13/070**

### **SUFFOLK GROWTH STRATEGY** (Key Decision Reference: MAR13/07)

#### **1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 Appendix 1, The Suffolk Growth Strategy (the strategy) is an important piece of work that aims to set out clearly the ambition for growth in Suffolk. It will help Suffolk secure future funding streams and put Suffolk on an even footing with Norfolk which has clearly articulated plans for growth. It attempts to represent the ambitions for growth held by each of the Local Authorities.
- 1.2 The strategy will help influence the Growth Plans that both New Anglia and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEAs will prepare and it can be supplemented by local growth plans that are more detailed. It is anticipated that there would be four such plans (or strategies) for Suffolk Coastal/Waveney; Ipswich (already consulted on); Mid Suffolk/Babergh; and West Suffolk.
- 1.3 The strategy is divided into eight parts that include: the ambition for Green Economic Growth; our key growth sectors; the overall strategy; delivery; and sections on skills; inward investment (and enterprise); strategic growth locations; and infrastructure investment.
- 1.4 The strategy will be accompanied by a Suffolk Delivery Programme that will focus on the four elements of the strategy:- Innovation and Enterprise; Growth locations; Skills; and Infrastructure. Whilst the content of the strategy is important, it is the Delivery Plan that will articulate how the authorities will bring the aspirations for growth into reality.
- 1.5 The strategy has been out to consultation from the 21<sup>st</sup> January to the 8<sup>th</sup> of February and individuals, businesses and local authorities have been asked to provide comments so that the final document can be launched at Apex on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.
- 1.6 In conclusion, it is considered that the Suffolk Growth Strategy has succeeded in clearly articulating the ambitions for economic growth held by the constituent local authorities in Suffolk. It provides the opportunity for all of Suffolk's stakeholders to understand not only the appetite for economic growth in Suffolk but also how it is intended this growth will be realised. Ultimately, the strategy will feed directly into the growth plans that each of the two Local Enterprise Partnerships are about to prepare and will enable future funding opportunities to be co-ordinated and supported.

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

**It is RECOMMENDED that:**

- (1) The content of the draft Suffolk Growth Strategy, as contained in Appendix 1 be approved; and**
- (2) The Head of Economic Development and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Rural Affairs, be given delegated authority to approve the final version of the Strategy prior to its launch on 27 February 2013.**

### **Contact details**

Name

Title

Telephone

E-mail

### **Portfolio holder(s)**

Councillor David Bowman  
Portfolio Holder for Economic  
Development and Tourism  
01638  
david.bowman@forest-  
heath.gov.uk

### **Lead officer(s)**

Andrea Mayley  
Head of Economic  
Development and Growth  
01284 757343  
[andrea.mayley@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.mayley@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

## **3. Corporate priorities**

3.1 The recommendation meets the following, as contained within the SEBC Corporate Plan:

- (a) Corporate priority 2: Working together for prosperous and environmentally-responsible communities.
- (b) Vision 2025: St Edmundsbury will be a place which: has a nationally recognised higher education system linked to a thriving University Campus for Suffolk with an appropriately skilled, productive, trained and adaptable workforce and where there are strong links between the education sector and local industry; and where school and college provision is of the highest quality with all residents having access to facilities for lifelong learning;

## **4. Key issues**

4.1 Over the last few weeks the Leaders, Economic Development Portfolio Holders and officers have been engaging with Suffolk County Council and the other Suffolk districts in the production of the Suffolk Growth Strategy.

4.2 Appendix 1, The Suffolk Growth Strategy (the strategy) is an important piece of work that aims to set out clearly the ambition for growth in Suffolk. It will help Suffolk secure future funding streams and put Suffolk on an even footing with Norfolk which has clearly articulated plans for growth. It attempts to represent the ambitions for growth held by each of the Local Authorities.

4.3 West Suffolk in particular has the benefit of being within two local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), New Anglia (covering Norfolk and Suffolk) and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership. Both LEPs are required to prepare their growth plans – setting out how they will provide the right conditions for growth in their areas. The Suffolk Growth Strategy will feed directly into these plans and will help influence the framework that both LEPs will set out.

- 4.4 The strategy is divided into eight parts that include: The ambition for Green Economic Growth; where Suffolk sits in the Global Economy and an outline of our key growth sectors; an overview of growth in Suffolk setting out the broad strategy and how the four principal components work together; the approach to skills; the approach to inward investment and enterprise; explanation of the strategic growth locations; and a section on the infrastructure investments required to enable this growth. The final section sets out the approach to delivery.
- 4.5 The strategy has been out to consultation from the 21<sup>st</sup> January to the 8<sup>th</sup> of February and individuals, businesses and local authorities have been asked to provide comments so that the final document can be launched at Apex on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.
- 4.6 The strategy will be accompanied by a Suffolk Delivery Programme that will focus on the four elements of the strategy:- Innovation and Enterprise; Growth locations; Skills; and Infrastructure. Whilst the content of the strategy is important, it is the Delivery Plan that will articulate how the authorities will bring the aspirations for growth into reality.
- 4.7 The Strategy can also be supplemented by local growth plans that are more detailed. It is anticipated that there is the opportunity for four such plans (or strategies) for Suffolk Coastal/Waveney; Ipswich; Mid Suffolk/Babergh; and West Suffolk. Ipswich Borough Council has already produced its Economic Development Strategy 2012-2026 and is currently consulting on the accompanying Implementation Plan.
- 4.8 The timetable for the production of the Suffolk Growth strategy has been very ambitious and has caused some short-circuiting of our normal decision making processes. However it is considered that the document has managed to fairly represent the views of all of the partner authorities and will be a useful tool in the delivery of economic growth in the county.
- 4.9 In conclusion, it is considered that the Suffolk Growth Strategy has succeeded in clearly articulating the ambitions for economic growth held by the constituent local authorities in Suffolk. It provides the opportunity for all of Suffolk's stakeholders to understand not only the appetite for economic growth in Suffolk but also how it is intended this growth will be realised. Ultimately, the strategy will feed directly into the growth plans that each of the two Local Enterprise Partnerships are about to prepare and will enable future funding opportunities to be co-ordinated and supported.

## **5. Other options considered**

- 5.1 None.

## **6. Community impact**

### **6.1 Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

- 6.1.1 ... No impact from this report/proposal.

**6.2 Diversity and equality impact** (including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)

6.2.1 ... No impact from this report/proposal.

**6.3 Sustainability impact** (including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)

6.3.1 ... No impact from this report/proposal.

**6.4 Other impact** (any other impacts affecting this report)

6.4.1 ... No impact from this report/proposal.

**7. Consultation** (what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)

7.1 The consultation period for this document ran from 21<sup>st</sup> of January and closed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. Businesses, individuals and local authorities were asked for their opinions on the Growth Strategy document.

**8. Financial and resource implications** (including asset management implications)

8.1 There are no financial resources required for the consideration of the Growth Strategy. There is Member and staff time associated with not only the consideration of the strategy and inputting of information but also inevitably with the Delivery Programme which will follow on from the strategy.

**9. Risk/opportunity assessment** (potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)

<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
	High/Medium/Low		High/Medium/Low
That opportunities for funding growth are not taken.	Low	That the document is used to attract potential funds/funding agencies.	Low

**10. Legal and policy implications**

10.1 The strategy is not a statutory plan and there is no requirement for it to be produced or adopted by the local authorities. However it is aligned with approved and emerging Local Development Frameworks and Suffolk County Council's Community Strategy "Transforming Suffolk".

**11. Ward(s) affected**

11.1 All

**12. Background papers**

12.1 None

**13. Documents attached**

13.1 Appendix 1 – Suffolk Growth Strategy