

Committee: Cabinet

Date 10th November 2014

Agenda item:

Wards: All Wards

Subject: Performance of the Economic Development Strategy Refresh 2012 and proposal for activity beyond 2015

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration

Lead member: Councillor Andrew Judge, Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration

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Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet note the progress made since 2012 on delivery of activities through the Councils Refreshed Economic Development Strategy 2012-2015 shown in Appendix A.
- B. To agree to taking forward a stage two Economic Development Strategy (EDS2) including the proposed activities shown in appendix B

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To provide a progress report to Cabinet on the Refreshed Economic Development Strategy 2012-2015 and to identify a programme of activities beyond 2015 which builds on the success achieved to date.
- 1.2 At the Cabinet Meeting on 22nd October 2012, Cabinet resolved to
 - A. agree the proposed economic development activity in the 'Economic Development Strategy' refresh 2012-2015; and
 - B. approved a virement of a maximum of £1,112, 875 for 2012/13 from specific grants and earmarked reserves to fund the proposed activity.It was noted that future years' budgets were to be submitted for Cabinet approval as part of the process of setting the overall Council budget and this has been the case.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 The 2010 EDS set out a 20 year plan based on data from 2008. Due to the recession it was felt necessary to review Merton's economic position using more up to date data reflecting the changing local economy from 2008 on Merton's economy.
- 2.2 The EDS Refresh was written to deliver a short-term action plan of activity up to 2015. It sets out six "components for growth" and includes an action plan with delivery timetable and anticipated outcomes (found in the Summary of Actions).
- 2.3 The six main drivers of growth for Merton were:
 1. Retaining existing companies
 2. Support business growth and start-ups
 3. Inward investment
 4. Town centre initiatives including BIDs
 5. Providing support to identified sectors
 6. Supporting unemployed residents into work
- 2.4 The attached appendix A identifies the actions to be delivered and provides an update on the progress.
- 2.5 In 2012/13 £702.4k was spent on EDS activities. In 2013/14 £448k was spent and this year it is proposed that £766k will be spent.
- 2.6 Appendix B identifies further projects which futureMerton would like Cabinet to consider for 2014/15 and 2015/16. A further £505,000 is requested for this financial year and £785,600 for 2015/16, to be funded from the Economic Development Strategy Reserve. Appendix C provides a breakdown detailing the funding for each of these projects for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 To continue with the current projects planned and do nothing with the proposed EDS2 programme.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5. TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The timetable was to deliver activities from the action plan in the three year period between 2012-2015. Many of the activities are now in place and some will run over to 2016, subject to funding being approved.

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As detailed in paragraph 2.6.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None for the purposes of this report – legal and statutory implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the budget reports from Corporate Services submitted each October to Cabinet for consideration.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None for the purposes of this report – human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the budget reports from Corporate Services submitted each October to Cabinet for consideration.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None for the purposes of this report – crime and disorder implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the in the budget reports from Corporate Services submitted each October to Cabinet for consideration.

10. RISK AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None for the purposes of this report – risk management and health and safety implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in in the budget reports from Corporate Services submitted each October to Cabinet for consideration.

11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THIS REPORT

- 11.1 Appendix A - EDS Refresh 2012-2015 Progress Report
11.2 Appendix B - EDS2 proposed programme
11.3 Appendix C – Funding breakdown for EDS2 (2014-2016)

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 22nd October 2012