

COUNCIL MEETING – 12 FEBRUARY 2019

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE – CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider amendments to the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee's (EPC) Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference state that they 'can only be amended by resolution of each of the constituent authorities' and as the joint committee has delegated powers the remit requires approval by the Council.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 5 December 2013, the Policy Committee recommended to Council the establishment of a joint committee of local authorities in the City of Nottingham and County of Nottinghamshire to drive future investment in growth and jobs within their areas. Having considered the proposals and governance arrangements for the EPC, the Full Council, at its meeting held on 17 December 2013, agreed the establishment of the Committee.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 In August 2018, senior officers from four of the constituent authorities: Nottinghamshire County; Nottingham City; Ashfield District; and Rushcliffe Borough Councils met to discuss the future of the EPC, which last met in March 2018. It was recognised that the TOR required updating in order to adapt to changes in the economic and political environment over the previous four years and therefore amendments to the existing Terms of Reference were considered.
- 3.2 The proposed amendments were designed to reflect changes in the operating environment (such as the Midlands Engine and the EU Referendum) since the EPC was established. The main substantive addition would enable discussion at future meetings of issues that cut across local authority boundaries and to agree to align activity where this would benefit the local authorities and local citizens. A copy of the revised Constitution for the EPC is attached to the report as Appendix A.
- 3.3 For ease of reference the proposed changes are listed below.

Current EPC Purpose:

'To bring together local authority partners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will drive future investment in growth and jobs in the City and County.'

Proposed EPC Purpose:

'To bring together local authorities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to agree and promote the key aspects of economic prosperity across the area, with a specific focus on shared priorities and securing investment.'

Current EPC Remit:

- a) *to act as a local public sector decision making body for strategic economic development and to make recommendations to the D2N2 LEP on its investment and other priorities;*
- b) *to prioritise, commission and monitor both investment plans and all European Structural Investment Funds (SIF) and Single Local Growth Fund money that is available to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire via the D2N2 LEP and the EPC;*
- c) *to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans and ensure that they contribute to economic growth;*
- d) *to actively engage with a range of businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to the EPC's decision making and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;*
- e) *to consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements; and*
- f) *to ensure that potential benefits stemming from any overlaps with other LEPs are fully maximised.*

Proposed Remit:

- a) *to act as the local public sector decision making body for strategic economic growth;*
- b) *to act as a conduit to other sub-regional and regional bodies such as the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and Midlands Engine;*
- c) *to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans for economic prosperity;*
- d) *to agree shared priorities and bids for funding to existing and new funding sources such a Local Growth Funds, European Funds (until the end of the Brexit transition period) and the Share Prosperity Fund (at the end of the Brexit transition period);*
- e) *to monitor and evaluate projects and programmes of activity commissioned directly by the EPC;*
- f) *to agree, monitor and evaluate spending priorities for the Nottinghamshire Business Rates Pool. (Only those constituent authorities that are members of the Pool would participate in this);*
- g) *to communicate and, where unanimously agreed, to align activity across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire on a range of other key public priorities that affect citizens.*

3.4 Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 would indicate that as the joint committee has delegated powers the Council's Constitution would also need to be updated to include the revised remit of the EPC. It is proposed that the Director – Governance & Organisational Development be given delegated authority to carry out the appropriate amendments.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

5.0 Financial Implications (FIN18-19/4359)

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) the proposed amended Terms of Reference for the Joint Economic Prosperity Committee be approved; and**
- (b) the Director – Governance & Organisational Development be given delegated authority to carry out the necessary amendments to the Council’s Constitution.**

Background Papers

Report submitted to Nottingham City Council Meeting

For further information please contact Nigel Hill, Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services on 01636 655243.

John Robinson
Chief Executive