
Report to Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

10 September 2020

Economic Recovery Plan

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

COVID-19 is having a significant impact on the county's economy and the pre COVID-19 economic landscape is changing rapidly. The impact on the economy also has severe social consequences. The economic plan therefore needs to be reviewed and up-dated to reflect the changing landscape and priorities.

The attached reset plan from the Executive Director of Place Services reflects what we know so far from evidence and intelligence on the impact of COVID-19 but it should be recognised that the situation is fluid as further information and implications become known. The Plan is therefore a 'live' document that will be regularly up-dated to reflect changing circumstances. The draft reset plan included as Appendix A therefore sets out the overall priorities and longer-term plan for the economy of West Sussex. The Partnership Engagement document attached as Appendix B focusses on the priorities identified for the next 12 months.

The County Council is developing its overall reset plan which is informed by wider business and partner engagement. However, given the economic impact, working on resetting the economy is a priority which means an approach needs to be mapped to develop wider engagement and strategic alignment across the county and with the LEP.

The resourcing requirements of the economy reset plan need to be understood to ensure the Council's ambition and approach are realistic. The plan will support the case for additional resources should they become available from Government.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to review the Economic Recovery Plan post COVID-19 in relation to the Council's reset of plans and priorities. The focus should include:

- the impact of COVID-19 on the economy of West Sussex;
- a review of the broad framework included within the draft economy reset plan and the priorities identified for the year ahead in the Partnership Engagement document;
- how the Council is working with partners including District and Borough councils;
- whether the Council has the necessary resources to achieve the priorities included within the Plan or whether specialist services/expertise are required; and

- how the Plan will be monitored and measured to indicate whether the outcomes have been achieved.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Proposal

1. Background and context

- 1.1 The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached appendices (listed below). As this is an internal overview report for the scrutiny committee the Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability, and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments will be addressed as part of the Economy Reset Plan as a whole and as part of individual projects/work streams.

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Appendices

Appendix A West Sussex Economy Reset Plan – July 2020 (Draft)

Appendix B Partner Briefing and Engagement August 2020

Background papers

None