

**URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS UNDER
100B 4(b) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**Public
Key Decision - No**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Key requirements for delivering growth for inclusion in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Enterprise Partnership

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny (Economy and Growth) – 3rd November 2016

Executive Portfolio: Business, Enterprise and Skills; and Planning Policy, Housing & Infrastructure

Report by: Head of Development

War(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) would assist in providing clarity on shared objectives and better enable the Council and LEP to work in partnership to develop options and source funding for significant projects, and deliver the infrastructure, skills and economic growth needed for the Council's Growth ambitions.

The table appended to this report is a 'long list' that it is proposed to use as the basis for further discussions with the LEP. It may be that requirements are grouped together and some may also not be included in the final list to ensure that the MoU sets out a clear, targeted list of the most important requirements agreed with the LEP. The MoU would also only include a list of the projects. The benefits and comments columns are included in the appended table for Members' benefit.

The Panel is asked to highlight any missed items and to identify items that it considers are most important. This will then help inform further discussions with the LEP about the final list to be included in the MoU.

Recommendation:

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the draft list and specifically to:

- a) Highlight any critical infrastructure or skills that are not included; and
- b) Identify any items that it considers to be the most important.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Panel with the opportunity to provide input into the preparation of a list of infrastructure, skills and economic growth requirements for inclusion in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS

- 2.1 A long list, rather than a short list, was considered appropriate to ensure that the Panel had the opportunity to comment on the relative importance of all requirements. Whilst the MoU would ultimately only include a list of projects, the table includes benefits and comments for Members' benefit.

3. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 3.1 The key risk lies in the timing of the MoU. A 'Growth and Infrastructure Investment and Delivery Plan' which will set out the full list of infrastructure to support the Local Plan has been commissioned. A delay to the agreement of the MoU to await this is not considered necessary as the MoU will concentrate on the key requirements and these requirements are already known.

4. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The expectation is that, following this meeting, further discussions will take place with the LEP and a MoU will be prepared for consideration by this Panel and approval by Cabinet in December 2016 or January 2017.

5. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND / OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 'A strong local economy' and 'Enabling sustainable growth' are two of the Strategic Priorities in the Corporate Plan.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A MoU would not have a legal standing but it would be a clear commitment to shared objectives between the Council and the LEP.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no resource implications other than the officer time for discussions and preparation of the MoU.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 8.1 To ensure that, prior to detailed discussions, the Panel has the opportunity to shape the contents of a MoU between the Council and the LEP.

9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix – Table setting out a draft long list of infrastructure, skills and economic growth requirements.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Plan 2013-2023.

Minutes of 14th June 2016 Overview & Scrutiny (Economy and Growth) meeting –
Presentation from the LEP on its role and business plan.
Report to 8th September 2016 Overview & Scrutiny (Economy and Growth) meeting –
Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and Infrastructure Planning Updates

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