

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

to
Place Scrutiny

on
10th April 2017

Report prepared by: Chris Burr, Group Manager for Economic
Growth

Industrial Strategy Green Paper Response

Place Scrutiny Committee
Executive Councillor: Councillor Ann Holland

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To introduce the Council's proposed response to the recently published 'Building our Industrial Strategy Green Paper January 2017'.
- 1.2. To seek Members' input, comment and endorsement of the proposed consultation response prior to submission to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy by the deadline of 17th April 2017.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the 'Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper January 2017' is noted **(Appendix 1)**.
- 2.2. That views are provided to contribute towards the consultation response **(Appendix 2)**.

3. Background

- 3.1. In January 2017, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) published a Green Paper on a new 'modern industrial strategy' for the UK.
- 3.2. The stated objective of the new strategy is: 'to improve living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country'.
- 3.3. The publication of the Green Paper marks the commencement of a public consultation exercise during which Government is seeking views on its industrial strategy work to date.
- 3.4. The Green Paper proposes a structure for a new industrial strategy based on 'ten pillars'. The 'pillars' of the industrial strategy are intended to form the basis of a

comprehensive policy response designed to achieve sustainable and balanced economic growth for the UK. The ten pillars are:

- Investing in science, research and innovation
- Developing skills
- Upgrading infrastructure
- Supporting businesses to start and grow
- Improving procurement
- Encouraging trade and inward investment
- Delivering affordable energy and clean growth
- Cultivating world-leading sectors
- Driving growth across the whole country
- Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places

3.5. With the exceptions of ‘Driving growth across the whole country’ and ‘Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places’, the pillars identified within the Green Paper closely mirror the priorities identified within the ‘Southend Borough Council Draft Economic Growth Strategy’, recently reviewed by the Place Scrutiny Committee.

3.6. The Green Paper provides background information, data and a proposed approach for each of the ten pillars. This information is then followed by a set of questions that seek to further elicit information, suggestions and comment – with which to steer the production of the final strategy document.

4. Southend Borough Council Response

4.1. A base response for Members to consider and comment on has been prepared drawing on a number of sources including feedback from local businesses **(Appendix 2)**.

4.2. The draft response takes a holistic approach, considering each pillar and the issues related to it as a whole in order to provide a Southend response to the general issues raised within the Green Paper. This approach provides the opportunity to expand on a number of issues of particular pertinence rather than be restricted to the discreet issue raised within the green paper.

4.3. It is proposed that the draft will be revised to reflect Place Scrutiny Members’ input and submitted prior to the consultation deadline of 17th April 2017.

4.4. A number of partner organisations will also be submitting a response to the Green Paper, including Opportunity South Essex (OSE), the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and The University of Essex (UoE). Where possible and appropriate work will be undertaken to re-enforce key messages from this response and avoid conflict with those included within the other responses.

5. Other Options

5.1. The Council could decide not to respond to the Green Paper. However, this is a key opportunity to feed into Government’s plans to catalyse economic growth within the UK. As such, not responding is not recommended.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1. The information included within the proposed response is a compilation of information and views collected from the Southend community. It is a draft brought to Scrutiny to ensure that cross-party Member input is also reflected in the response to ensure that we have accurately captured the Council's views.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1. Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

Ensuring that Southend's key economic characteristics are considered within the Governments' formulation of the new UK Industrial Strategy will contribute to all of the Council's objectives and lead towards a **Safe, Clean, Healthy Prosperous and Excellent** Southend.

7.2. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to the responding to the Green Paper.

7.3. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications to the responding to the Green Paper.

7.4. People Implications

Preparing the draft response has been undertaken by Officers.

7.5. Property Implications

There are no property implications to the responding to the Green Paper.

7.6. Consultation

The draft response is being brought to Place Scrutiny in order to consult with Members prior to compiling a final response to the Green Paper.

7.7. Equalities and Diversity Implications

There are no Equality and Diversity implications to responding to the Green Paper.

7.8. Risk Assessment

There are no risks associated with responding to the Green Paper.

7.9. Value for Money

There are no Value for Money implications.

7.10. Community Safety Implications

There are no Community Safety implications

7.11. Environmental Impact

There are no Environmental impact implications

8. Background Papers

The following documents have been utilised in the preparation of the response:

- The Southend Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2010
- The (draft) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Economic Growth Strategy 2017
- The (draft) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Economic Growth Strategy 2017 Evidence Base
- The Southend-on-Sea Business Survey 2016
- Information gathered from the Southend Business Partnership Executive Committee.
- Feedback gathered from the Pre-Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 28th November 2016 – Economic Growth Strategy

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper January 2017

Appendix 2 – Draft response to Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper January 2017