

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate

Part 1

Date: 28 February 2022

Economic Recovery Strategy – Update report

Author Regeneration Manager

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Matt Tribbeck	Regeneration Manager
Tracey Brooks	Head of Regeneration and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Mudd	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Investment

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the Economic Recovery Strategy and presentation on the progress against the plan.
2. Assess the contents of the plan and presentation and decide if there has been satisfactory progress against the aims stated within the plan.
3. Establish whether there is any additional information needed.
4. Decide if the Committee wishes to make any comments or recommendations in relation to the plan

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Council adopted an Economic Growth Strategy in 2015 and approved an update in February 2020, just before the UK went into the first lockdown. In response to the shutting down of the economy and the challenges this presented to our businesses, an Economic Recovery Strategy was approved by Cabinet in May 2020. Little did we know at that time that there would be further periods of lockdown and a more prolonged adverse effect on the economy.

2.2 The Economic Recovery Strategy proposed the following objectives:

- Recover, through supporting Newport businesses and providing leadership
- Reposition, through securing inward investment, preparing for new infrastructure development, and supporting growth in skills and learning.
- Renew, through economic resilience

2.3 The long-term effects and impacts of the pandemic, coupled with other macro-economic influences such as the departure from the EU, are yet to emerge but the report suggests that we need to remain focussed on how Newport can best promote growth in job opportunities, adapt to changing skills demands and drive more sustainable economic growth. It is suggested that regional partnerships, regeneration schemes and work & skills programmes are the most powerful tools we have to encourage inward investment, support indigenous business growth, and reduce inequality during and after the pandemic.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 Two documents are provided. The Economic Recovery Strategy and the update report.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

Review and analyse the contents of the update report and establish what progress has been made against the plan and what that means for the Council.

- Take a look at the achievements to date and reflect on whether this constitutes sufficient progress.
- Assess and make comment on the impact that the plan has had on economic recovery, bearing in mind that we are only just emerging from a period of sustained restriction.
- Conclusions:
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance against the strategy?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Does the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.1 The Committee might wish to think about the following when devising questioning strategies;
- What activities have made the biggest contribution towards economic recovery?
 - What have been the wider benefits of having the strategy and delivering against it.
 - What are the opportunities for economic recovery?
 - What are the main challenges to the delivery of the strategy?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The following have been provided to the Committee for additional / background reading to support the scrutiny of the Economic Recovery Strategy.

Economic Growth Strategy 2015
Economic Growth Strategy Update 2020.

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment		Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities		
Manifesto commitments	Working Newport: Jobs, growth & the economy	Sustainable Newport: Environment & transport	Learning Newport: Education & skills	Future Newport: Well-being & social care	Fairer Newport: For all our residents	Safer Newport: Community safety & antisocial behaviour	Vibrant Newport: Creativity & culture
Corporate plan actions	A thriving city		Aspirational people		Resilient communities		
Supporting function	A modernised council						
	Objective 1		2	3	4		

7 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality.

An FEIA has not been provided as this update is for information purposes only.

7.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

NA

7.2 **Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010**

NA

7.3 **Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty**

NA

7.4 **Summary of impact – Welsh language**

NA

8. **Background Papers**

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)

- Economic Growth Strategy 2015



Economic Growth
Strategy_Final versic

- Economic Growth Strategy Update 2020



EGS UPDATE 2020
-Final.pdf

Report Completed: 21 February 2022