



Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy Refresh

Update to Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel
08.02.2022



Purpose

- To update Scrutiny on work to refresh the Kirklees Economic Strategy
- The first opportunity to input – not the last
- Reminders about what the current strategy says and how it is structured
- Kick off a conversation about process and content / gaps / areas of focus to help inform the work



Kirklees' Economic Outlook

- Despite recent growth, Kirklees still lags regional and national averages – GVA, earnings, productivity
- Relatively high employment levels masks low wage, insecure employment
- Covid impact less severe than first predicted e.g. employment
- Covid widening inequality with differential impacts across groups
- Major headwinds – export, automation, input costs, skilled labour
- Cost of living squeeze for most people – inflation, energy etc



Kirklees Economic Strategy 2019-2025



INCLUSIVITY

with every person realising their potential, through good jobs, and higher levels of skills, income and wellbeing.

PRODUCTIVITY

with innovative, outward and forward looking businesses. Higher productivity creates more value per hour worked and can support good jobs and higher incomes.

Skills, innovation, investment and the infrastructure needed for growth are used as the catalyst for driving productivity and also reducing inequality. Good work and good pay contributes to people's health and wellbeing and progressive future focused businesses recognise that how they support their staff and help them to progress also contributes to how they grow their bottom line.



Priorities

1. Modern Innovative Businesses

boosting business ambitions, best practice and innovation to drive productivity and good jobs.

2. Skilled and Ambitious People

equipping people with the skills, talents and confidence they need to access good, well paid jobs, contributing to and benefiting from economic success.

3. Active Partnerships

building high impact partnerships across private, public and voluntary sectors, with a focus on how 'anchor institutions' can use their employment, procurement, assets and service delivery to build local wealth and achieve better outcomes.

4. Advanced Connectivity and Infrastructure

securing and maximising benefits from the Transpennine rail upgrade, a Huddersfield-North Kirklees Leeds Inclusive Growth Corridor, 10,000 new homes and excellent digital and green infrastructure.

5. Revitalised Centres

using a forward looking, place based approach across Huddersfield, North and South Kirklees to celebrate our district's diversity.



Why refresh?

- Changed context – Brexit & COVID
- Build consensus on local priorities for economic recovery/Levelling up
- Stronger focus on long-term/structural challenges and opportunities
- Highlight opportunities from devolution
- Identify clean growth opportunities from climate change agenda
- Articulate links with communities and health
- Strengthen links between inclusion and growth
- Inform review of Local Plan 2022



Three interlinked top tier strategies for Kirklees



Scope

- Refresh of the KES renaming it the 'Inclusive Economy Strategy'
- Incorporate local Economic Recovery Plan in delivery plan
- Ensure alignment with new MCA arrangements
- Content will be broad-based – encompassing business growth, skills, infrastructure, place (e.g. town centres, housing offer), cultural offer and more...
- Set out ambition for macro economic growth (creating conditions) and catalytic interventions (delivery)
- Review of evidence base and performance framework
- Reignition of partnership / governance arrangements
- Aim for Council endorsement September 2022



Possible thematic approach

People
Skills & Jobs

Partners
Businesses

Places
Investment

Environmental sustainability

Inclusive Economy



Integrating Inclusive Economy

- Inclusive Growth group formed in 2018
- CLES report commissioned in parallel with KES development
- Ongoing work on Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy building on developing practice
- Nationally recognised Asset Transfer Policy
- The Council as an inclusive employer and WY Fair Work Charter
- Now integrating within all economy work



Multiple Audiences

- Council / Cabinet / Executive Team
- Anchor institution partners (University/College etc)
- Residents and wider business community
- Potential investors
- WYMCA
- Government



Output

- Refreshed Inclusive Economy Strategy, to be owned by Council and partners
- Focus on long-term (10 year) structural challenges and opportunities
- Framework for action over short term
- Revised partnership approach
- Public facing web page of key content
- Acknowledge different audiences will need tailored output



Approach / timeline

- Yorkshire Universities ‘critical friend’ input commenced
- Early Scrutiny input and visibility – today
- Insight work on public engagement
- Partner engagement / drafting
- Exec Team
- LMT
- Scrutiny
- Cabinet / Council September 2022



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