

KIRKLEES HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD	
MEETING DATE:	16th January 2024
TITLE OF PAPER:	Draft Kirklees inclusive Economy Strategy
1. Purpose of paper	<p>This report presents the draft Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy (KIES) to the Health and Wellbeing Board for comment and input.</p>
2. Background	<p>The current economic strategy expires in 2025, hence a new version is required. The refreshed economic strategy will join the others 'Top Tier' strategies; the Inclusive Communities Framework, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and Environment Strategy. As with all the top tier strategies the KIES is framed as a partnership strategy and needs to go to Full Council for approval.</p> <p>The KIES has been the subject of a dedicated workshop with partners early in its development and has been the subject of multiple discussions at the recent Picture of Kirklees event, each of Kirklees Partnership Executive, Kirklees Health and Care Board and Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board. The employment and skills theme has been informed by the priorities of the Kirklees Employment and Skills Partnership and those raised in discussions of the Kirklees Top 100 business group.</p> <p>With recent developments, there is now very strong alignment at national, regional and local levels. WYCA are nearing completion of the West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan (LGP) which was a mayoral manifesto commitment. Alongside, WYCA have shared priority sectors with Government that are expected to be refined to reach sub-sectors during the ongoing development of the National Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>The Government's Green Paper <i>Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy</i> was published on 14 October and is currently open for consultation until 24 November. This is a key pillar in their mission to achieve the longest sustained growth in the G7. It is important that Kirklees has an economic strategy in place that articulates our priorities to inform both the West Yorkshire strategy and submissions to Government, as well as driving our own action and direct engagement with Government.</p>
3. Proposal	<p>In keeping with a number of recent strategies, the draft KIES is structured around People, Business and Place. The Business section includes consideration of the future role of social enterprise, co-operatives and other alternative business models.</p> <p>The Strategy is underpinned by three linked objectives of Productivity, Sustainability and Inclusion. The document is explicitly aimed at stimulating inclusive growth – defined as '<i>enabling as many people as possible to contribute to and benefit from growth</i>' - i.e. overall</p>

economic growth as measured by Gross Value Added (GVA) and average wages is important, but it must be matched with reduced levels of inequality and a move towards low carbon, otherwise 'growth' alone will not be sufficient. Overall economic growth is an enabler to help achieve other shared outcomes; it is not an end in itself.

In response to ongoing feedback and comments, a number of areas are being strengthened in the document, such as

- Foreword from the Leader to be drafted and agreed
- Case studies to be added – for example, Our Cultural Heart, Dewsbury regeneration, business productivity.
- Formatting and layout from the Design Team
- Ensuring specific language aligns to new corporate priorities
- Highlighting the role of culture and creative industries not just as an economic sector but as a driver of place making and inclusive communities.
- Alignment with Our Kirklees Futures and early years / schools.

4. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the strategy. Individual business cases will be brought forward for constituent programmes and interventions at the appropriate times.

Increasing the productivity of local businesses and increasing employment has positive financial benefits for the council through increased business rates, reductions in council tax exemptions. It is also expected to have a range of indirect impacts through reduced demand for a range of services.

5. Sign off

Edward Highfield
Service Director, Skills and Regeneration

6. Next Steps

Final changes including those above along with any further comments from partners will be incorporated into a final version for Cabinet and Council.

7. Recommendations

Note and offer comments

8. Contact Officer

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