

For publication

Chesterfield Growth Strategy 2019-2023

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| Meeting: | Council |
| Date: | 12 December 2018 |
| Cabinet portfolio: | Economic Growth |
| Report by: | Assistant Director Economic Growth |

For publication

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek Council approval of the Chesterfield Growth Strategy (2019-2023).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Chesterfield Growth Strategy (2019-2023) be adopted by the Council.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The purpose of the Growth Strategy is to set out the role of the Council in supporting the growth and regeneration of the Borough. It provides a framework for actions over the period 2019-23 that will deliver the Council's priority of making

Chesterfield a thriving borough and contribute towards the priority of improving the quality of life for local people.

3.2 The draft Growth Strategy was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 2nd October 2018 where it was resolved that the draft Growth Strategy be approved for wider consultation.

3.3 This report was considered at the Cabinet meeting on 4 December, 2018, where it was resolved to recommend to full Council that the recommendation at paragraph 2.1 above be approved.

4.0 **Growth Strategy**

4.1 The draft Growth Strategy was circulated to a number of partner organisations and to Chesterfield Champions via Destination Chesterfield. A copy of the Strategy was also placed on the Council's website.

4.2 Responses to the Strategy were received from four organisations (Chesterfield Canal Trust, Destination Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire District Council and Bolsover District Council) and a summary of comments is set out below.

4.3 Whilst there have been no substantive changes to the Strategy as a result of the consultation, a small number of amendments have been made, as well as the addition of the Foreword. The revised Strategy is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Consultation Responses

4.4 The **Chesterfield Canal Trust** consider the Canal to be an underestimated asset for the town, with 50,000 walkers / cyclists passing Tapton Lock every year and 6,000 people taking boat trips from either Tapton Lock or Hollingwood Hub.

The ambition is that the Canal is fully restored by 2027, with interim developments such as the connection of the Waterside Basin and a small marina included as part of Chatsworth Settlement Trust's proposals for the Staveley Corridor adding to the Canal's visitor appeal. The Strategy has been amended to include reference to the potential to further develop Chesterfield Canal as a visitor attraction.

- 4.5 **Destination Chesterfield** note that the document covers all the major areas of comment or feedback that they receive from businesses regarding their needs / requirements in relation to the local economy. However, they consider additional opportunities that could be highlighted in the plan include the key drivers of low carbon and digitisation. In relation to this, the Strategy already references digitisation, but this has been viewed as a challenge rather than an opportunity, given the national forecast that 20% of jobs could be displaced over the next 20 years. In response a comment has been added under the 'Infrastructure' objective about ensuring that the future provision of local infrastructure positively supports the development of the digital and low carbon economies.
- 4.6 Destination Chesterfield welcomes the importance given to place marketing in the Strategy and will continue to work closely with the Council (and other partners) to support the delivery of the Growth Strategy objectives.
- 4.7 **North East Derbyshire District Council** (NEDDC) supports the overall approach set out in the Strategy, recognising that there are clear areas of common interest and opportunities in both of the Authorities ' growth aspirations. NEDDC welcomes the opportunity to work in collaboration on growth related projects, where this can add value for both authorities.
- 4.8 In their response, **Bolsover District Council** (BDC) state that the Growth Strategy provides comprehensive coverage on a

wide range of relevant growth matters such as marketing, town centre vitality and the visitor economy. BDC highlight the long history of partnership working between the three authorities (Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire) and the County Council and state that it is important to recognise that the economic impact of Chesterfield (as the principal town in Derbyshire) extends across local administrative boundaries. They suggest that the reference to Chesterfield’s wider employment and service role could be strengthened, and the strategy has been amended to reflect this.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The Growth Strategy provides the overall strategic framework for activities by the Council to support the growth and regeneration of the Borough. As such, the preparation of the Growth Strategy has no direct financial implications for the Council, although new activities brought forward under the framework may require resourcing in future.

6.0 Risk Management

| Description of the Risk | Impact | Likelihood | Mitigating Action | Impact | Likelihood |
|--|--------|------------|--|--------|------------|
| There is a risk that the Council’s approach to supporting growth will lack focus and be fragmented in the absence of a Growth Strategy | L | L | The Growth Strategy provides a clear link between issues impacting on the local economy and the Council’s policy/action response. The Strategy provides a coherent | L | L |

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| | | | framework for the development of new programmes and initiatives | | |
| There is a risk of duplication / less effective service delivery between partner organisations in the absence of a Growth Strategy | L | L | The Growth Strategy clearly sets out the role of the Council in supporting the growth and regeneration of the borough | L | L |
| The ability of the Council to make the case for regeneration funding is reduced in the absence of a Growth Strategy | M | L | The Growth Strategy ensures demonstration of a clear strategic fit when preparing business cases for funding | L | L |

7.0 Equalities Impact Assessment

7.1 A preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment was submitted alongside the previous Cabinet report on the draft Growth Strategy on 2nd October 2018. This considered that the Growth Strategy would not have a disproportionate impact on the groups listed and would have a potentially positive impact on particular groups such as the young unemployed and those with a disability / long term condition through the delivery of specific programmes (for example the Talent Match and Ambition SCR programmes) to assist people into employment.

8.0 Alternative Options Considered

8.1 The alternative option is for the Council not to prepare and adopt a Growth Strategy. However this option is not considered appropriate primarily for the reasons set out in the risk assessment. The preparation of the Growth Strategy will increase the credibility of the Council with policy makers and funding providers. The Growth Strategy demonstrates that the Council has a good understanding of the issues impacting on the economy and has defined its service provision in response to addressing clearly identified needs and seeking to make the most of economic opportunities for the benefit of local people

9.0 **Recommendations**

9.1 That the Chesterfield Growth Strategy (2019-2023) be adopted by the Council.

10.0 **Reason for Recommendation**

10.1 To secure the adoption of the Growth Strategy.

Decision information

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| Key decision number | 842 |
| Wards affected | All |
| Links to Council Plan priorities | Making Chesterfield a thriving borough Improving the quality of life for local people |

Document information

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| Background documents These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared. | |
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| Appendices to the report | |
| Appendix A | Growth Strategy 2019-2023 |
| Appendix B | |
| Etc. | |