



**Rochford District  
Council**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Programme for the development of a refreshed Economic Growth Strategy for Rochford District</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Emma Goodings</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The current Economic Growth Strategy for Rochford District runs until 2025 (see Appendix A). To prepare for a refreshed strategy that will span 2025-2030, the Economic Development team needs to gather an updated evidence base, create and consult on a draft strategy that will be brought back to members of the Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism committee for final approval in March 2025.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1 -** Approve the timescales for refreshing the Economic Growth Strategy for Rochford District.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1** The current Economic Growth Strategy for Rochford District runs until 2025 (see Appendix A). A refreshed strategy is required to deliver on the council's ambitions for growth from 2025-2030.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 To prepare for a refreshed strategy that will span 2025-2030, the Economic Development team needs to gather an updated evidence base, create and consult on a draft strategy that will be brought back to members of the Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism committee for final approval.
- 2.2 The refreshed strategy will need to be aligned with updated corporate priorities and the emerging South Essex Councils Economic Growth Action Plan.
- 2.3 The proposed timeline is set out as follows:

June – September 2024	Gather updated evidence base
September 2024	Present findings from the evidence base along with a framework for developing the refreshed Economic Development strategy to the Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism committee
December 2024	Share a draft strategy with the Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism committee
January – February 2025	Consult on draft strategy
March 2025	Members to approve final strategy

## **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 None.

## **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 4.1 By publishing a refreshed strategy, the Council will reduce risk the lack of economic growth in the District by setting clear economic priorities and objectives that will inform project delivery until 2030.

## **5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation with the wider business community will be required once the draft strategy is completed.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It is expected that the work in developing a refreshed strategy can be delivered within existing council resources. The actions identified in the final strategy may have financial implications for the Council but it is expected that

any resource requirements will form part of a later report to this Committee.

## **7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None arising out of this report, but consideration needs to be given to any public consultation when required.

## **8.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to assess whether any impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010 might arise from the refreshed strategy.

## **9.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no environment and climate impacts from the development of a programme for the updated strategy. However, the strategy itself will need to consider any impacts or opportunities.

## **10.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The Economic Development team will have operational responsibility for delivering the new strategy; however, it is intended to be a ‘whole Council’ document and reflect and help to set the objectives and priorities of all teams within the Council who have a role in growing the economy and supporting local businesses. If additional budget is required for delivery of the strategy, this amount will be highlighted to members when the final report is brought back to the committee.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2025

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Executive	13 June 2022