

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	18 FEBRUARY 2019
Heading:	NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE (EPC) TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE		
Portfolio Holder:	LEADER, COUNCILLOR JASON ZADROZNY		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	No		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet sign off for the minor revisions made to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) following a review.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To approve the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee terms of reference as attached in appendix 1**
- 2. To delegate to the Leader, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer any future minor non substantive changes to the Terms of Reference**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

In order to acknowledge and approve the revised terms of reference following a review.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

Cabinet could choose not to approve the revisions and to seek further discussion at the EPC regarding the details of the terms of reference. Given the relatively minor and positive changes to the terms of reference this option is not recommended.

Detailed Information

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee is a joint committee created by the N2 Local Authorities. The Committee includes the Leaders of all the Local Authorities in

Nottinghamshire. It is currently chaired by Nottingham City Council through Cllr Collins. Ashfield District Council through Cllr Zadrozny is the Vice Chair of the Committee. The attached terms of reference set out the purpose and scope of the committee, which in essence is established to promote partnership and collaboration on issues pertaining to economic growth. The EPC is a public meeting and agendas and minutes are publically available.

The benefits from the Committee for Ashfield are to be found in articulating our priorities to key partners and working collaboratively to support investment in Nottinghamshire as a whole either through the Local Enterprise Partnership or via National Government. The EPC provide an opportunity to lobby for Nottinghamshire to get its fair share of funding. It also provides space to discuss regional and sub-regional issues such as the Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect and HS2.

The review included input from Chief Executives and the terms of reference as attached at Appendix 1 have been approved by the EPC on the 27th November 2018. However, they also require approval from the constituent authorities (depending on their local governance arrangements). The changes are described below.

Purpose

The purpose of the EPC is currently:

'To bring together local authority partners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will drive future investment in growth and jobs in the City and County'.

Revised to:

'To bring together local authorities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to agree and promote the key aspects of economic prosperity across the area, with a specific focus on shared priorities and securing investment.'

Remit

The remit of the EPC was:

- a) *to act as a local public sector decision making body for strategic economic development, and to make recommendations to the D2N2 LEP on its investment and other priorities;*
- b) *to prioritise, commission and monitor both investment plans and all European Structural Investment Funds (SIF), and Single Local Growth Fund money that is available to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire via the D2N2 LEP and the EPC;*
- c) *to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans and ensure that they contribute to economic growth;*
- d) *to actively engage with a range of businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to the EPC's decision making, and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;*
- e) *to consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements;*
- f) *to ensure that potential benefits stemming from any overlaps with other LEPs are fully maximised.*

The EPC changed to:

- a) *to act as the local public sector decision making body for strategic economic growth;*
- b) *to act as a conduit to other sub-regional and regional bodies such as the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and the Midlands Engine;*
- c) *to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans for economic prosperity;*
- d) *to agree shared priorities and bids for funding to existing and new funding sources such as Local Growth Funds, European Funds (until the end of the Brexit transition period) and the Shared Prosperity Fund (at the end of the Brexit transition period);*

- e) *to monitor and evaluate projects and programmes of activity commissioned directly by the EPC;*
- f) *to agree, monitor and evaluate spending priorities for the Nottinghamshire Business Rates Pool. (Only those constituent authorities that are members of the Pool would participate in this);*
- g) *to communicate and, where unanimously agreed, to align activity across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire on a range of other key public priorities that affect citizens.*

The changes are largely designed to reflect changes in the operating environment (such as the Midlands Engine and the EU Referendum) since the EPC was established in 2014. The main substantive addition is 2.5(g) (above) which will enable discussion at future EPC meetings of issues that cut across local authority boundaries and to agree to align activity where this would benefit the local authorities and local citizens.

Quorum

To reduce the quorum from six to five.

Secretariat

The Secretary shall be from the same authority as the Chair, rather than held by Nottingham City Council.

Review

The Terms of Reference (TOR) should be reviewed every two years to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

A full copy of the revised TOR is attached at Appendix A.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The EPC is aligned with the Council’s Corporate Plan

Legal:

The Terms of Reference set out the legal powers for the establishment of the EPC. The EPC acts as a Joint Committee under Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	

Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	
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Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
There are no significant risks to engaging with the EPC or agreeing the terms of reference	

Human Resources:

None

Equalities:

None

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable

Background Papers

None

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