

LOCAL PLAN EVIDENCE BASE: SPATIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Head of Service/Contact: Ruth Ormella, Head of Planning

Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No

If yes, reason urgent decision required:

Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1: Draft Spatial Economic Development Strategy (January 2020)

Other available papers (not attached):

Report summary

The Draft Spatial Economic Development Strategy is a technical study commissioned by the Council to inform the emerging new Local Plan on the provision of employment land to meet the economic growth opportunities and options.

The Strategy identifies a number of priority interventions that would assist the borough to achieve longer-term economic prospects. The priority interventions set a strategic direction with projects identified that could come forward as part of separate business cases.

The Strategy identifies supporting measures including polices and development management guidelines.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee notes the contents of the Spatial Economic Development Strategy 2020 as a technical study that will form part of the evidence base for the emerging new Local Plan.

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 The Spatial Economic Development Strategy will form part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan policies. The delivery and implementation of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Local Plan will ensure sustainable growth is planned in the Borough to meet the Corporate Vision, priorities and values.

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2 Background

- 2.1 The Core Strategy 2007 sets out the policies for employment land provision and investment. The Economic Development Plan 2016 builds on this with an emphasis on delivering growth and diversification in the local economy. Being part of the Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) enables the borough to build a long term vision which strategically aligns to those in the SEP that are relevant to the borough.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Local Plan Spatial Economic Growth Strategy aims to identify solutions for the provision of employment space to meet the borough's needs for economic growth and change within the plan period. It also identifies possible interventions, local plan policy changes and approaches required to deliver those solutions.
- 3.2 The Strategy identifies priority interventions to strengthen the borough's longer-term economic prospects, these include:
- University Enterprise Zone and Creative Businesses Hub
 - Accelerated Redevelopment of the Utilities, East Street sites and Kiln Lane Industrial Estate
 - Longmead Office & High-tech Expansion Hub
 - Epsom & Ewell Cycle Network
- 3.3 The Strategy sets out the rationale for these interventions and the steps needed for their implementation, which includes the creation of an Enterprise Zone.
- 3.4 Supporting measures to achieve the aims include policies and development management guidelines for Epsom Town Centre, Longmead and Nonsuch, Ewell and Stoneleigh and The Downs.
- 3.5 The Strategy forms part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan, however it importantly sets out what is needed to create the conditions for investment and economic growth. The Strategy sets the direction and detailed business cases will be required for projects.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The Spatial Economic Development Strategy has been prepared within agreed budgets by external consultants Economic Growth Management.
- 4.2 The planning policy team have undertaken the commissioning and contract management of the project.
- 4.3 ***Chief Finance Officer's comments:***

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5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

5.1 The Local Plan will be examined to assess that it has followed legal and procedural requirements and that it is 'Sound'. For the Plan to be considered Sound, it needs to meet the following tests:

- Positively prepared
- Justified
- Effective
- Consistent with national policy

5.2 The Spatial Economic Development Strategy will inform the strategies and policies contained within the emerging new Local Plan in order to ensure that they meet the tests of soundness.

5.3 ***Monitoring Officer's comments:*** *None for the purposes of this report.*

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

6.1 The new Local Plan will contribute towards delivering the Council's objectives and priorities.

6.2 Proposed policies are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which is an integral part of the plan making process.

7 Partnerships

7.1 Local Planning Authorities have a duty to cooperate with public bodies on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries.

7.2 Economic Growth Management have engaged with a wide range of partners and commercial interests in preparing the Spatial Economic Growth Strategy.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 Insufficient evidence to support the new Local Plan policies may result in the Local Plan not meeting the test of Soundness of being positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 The Committee notes the contents of the Spatial Economic Development Strategy as a technical study that will form part of the evidence base for the emerging new Local Plan and be published on the Council's website.

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);