

<b>Report title: Planning a Growing Economy</b>	
<b>Report to:</b> Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Steve Evison, Director Sustainable Growth	
<b>Date:</b> 21 September 2023	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> <a href="#">Steve Evison, Director Sustainable Growth</a> and <a href="#">Tristan Smith, Head of Sector Development, Business and Innovation</a>	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All	

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 From 1 July 2023, Cllr Tom Cunningham has held the position of Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy (having previously been Deputy Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning).
- 1.2 The remit of PSEG covers many areas under this portfolio. These include: the economy of Essex; economic development and regeneration; employment related skills and apprenticeships; planning; and housing.
- 1.3 In April 2023, the Committee requested an update on what ECC is currently doing to support economic growth and specifically work to help create and attract high-quality jobs to Essex and retain graduates.
- 1.4 Under the revised Cabinet-Scrutiny Protocol, as presented to Council in May 2023, it is recommended that following Annual Council every year there will be a process whereby Cabinet Members and Policy and Scrutiny Committees (PSCs) meet to discuss their priorities and programmes for the coming year.
- 1.5 Noting the above, the Cabinet Member is therefore requested to provide an update to scrutiny on work to create and attract high-quality jobs (paragraph 1.3) and a more general update on his portfolio priorities for the coming year (paragraph 1.4).

## 2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider the presentation and identify any follow-up scrutiny activity.

## 3. Links to Everyone's Essex

Action in this area supports several elements in the Strategy including the 5 commitments specifically focused on the Economy:

*Good jobs - We will work hard to address the impacts of the Covid pandemic on unemployment by supporting business recovery and building a stronger economy for the future, enabling people to build the skills they need to be part of it, and working alongside Essex businesses to help reduce barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups.*

*Infrastructure - We will deliver and maintain high quality infrastructure to improve opportunities for people living in Essex as well as supporting a growing economy and the delivery of new homes and communities by investing in the region of £1 billion by the end of this council.*

*Future growth and investment - We will help grow existing businesses and the economic sectors of the future in Essex, including the arts, and secure high levels of new investment by working with partners to promote the county, by creating the conditions for growth and by maximising the impact of public sector spend within the county.*

*Green growth - We will develop Essex as a centre for innovation, supporting new technologies and business models to enable our economy to transition to net zero and secure green jobs for the future by ensuring we have the right local skills and drawing in investment opportunities.*

*Levelling up the economy - We will work to level up the economy by addressing the drivers of socioeconomic inequality (including income, education, employment, health and housing), based on the foundation of good jobs and a higher skilled and healthier workforce.*

#### **4. Next Steps**

This is an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the Council's activity in this area and understand the priorities of the new Cabinet Member.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

- Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Tom Cunningham – Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy
- Officers:  
Steve Evison – Director, Sustainable Growth  
Tristan Smith – Head of Sector Development, Business & Innovation

#### **5. Appendix**

**Presentation - Planning A Growing Economy – Supporting Jobs and Growth**