

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

06 July 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 'BUILDING OUR INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY' GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION

To endorse the Council's consultation response to the Government's 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper, the deadline for which closed on 17 April 2017.

1.1 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper

1.1.1 In January 2017, the Government launched a consultation on its 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper. This document sets out a vision for a modern strategy that aims to improve living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country.

1.1.2 In short, the Green Paper has three areas of focus:

- To build on our economic strengths and extend excellence into the future
- To close the gap between the UK's most productive companies, industries, places and people and the rest; and
- To make the UK one of the most competitive places in the world to start and grow a business

1.1.3 These three areas of focus are supported by 10 pillars which the Government believes are important to drive forward the industrial strategy across the entire economy:

- Investing in Science, Research and Innovation
- Developing Skills
- Upgrading Infrastructure
- Supporting Business to Start and Grow
- Improving Procurement
- Encouraging Trade and Inward Investment
- Delivering Affordable Energy and Clean Growth
- Cultivating World-leading Sectors

- Driving Growth Across the Whole Country
- Creating the Right Institutions to Bring Together Sectors and Places

1.1.4 The document explains the opportunities and challenges under each pillar, and sets out its approach to addressing these.

1.2 Response from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

1.2.1 The Council's consultation response to the Green Paper is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

1.2.2 As set out at the end of the consultation response, the main points made were:

- To succeed, the strategy needs the right mechanisms at the local level to ensure effective delivery. The West Kent Partnership, feeding in to the Kent & Medway Economic Partnership, should have a key role to play in this.
- Although rebalancing the national economy is important, it should also be recognised that there are clear opportunities for building upon the successes of the South East economy, and addressing its areas of underperformance.
- Consideration needs to be given to greater protection of commercial premises and land to ensure local businesses and inward investors have the supply and range of available accommodation in order to enable local economic growth.
- Recognition of the role that R&D plays in economic growth is much welcomed, and this should be backed up by much greater investment in research facilities across the country, not necessarily just those areas with a strong University presence.
- The local impacts of national infrastructure policy need to be incorporated into the business cases and overall value for money assessments in order to ensure they are properly considered through a holistic approach to investment decisions.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 These are no financial implications arising from the report.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Not applicable.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That the consultation response to the 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper **BE ENDORSED**.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and the Chief Executive confirm that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

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