

**Rutland County Council
Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group**

21st February 2023

Present:

1. Councillor Andrew Brown (Chair)
2. Councillor Paul Ainsley
3. Councillor Gale Waller
4. Penny Sharp (Strategic Director – Places)
5. Ingrid Hooley (Head of Sustainable Economy and Place)
6. Alex Gardiner (Director, Metro Dynamics)
7. Jane Narey (Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies:

8. Councillor Edward Baines
9. Councillor Nick Begy

A presentation was received from Metro Dynamics which gave an outline of the draft economic strategy. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The final draft of the economic strategy was hoped to be ready for review before the county elections with it then being presented to Council after the elections.
- Slide 6 highlighted the key items for the strategy to be built around.
- Slide 11 identified the 4 main priorities:
 1. Supporting Local Businesses To Grow
 2. Enhancing Rutland's Reputation
 3. Accelerating Green Transition
 4. Inclusive For All

- The strategy needs to be focused and play on Rutland's strengths.
- Engagement with local businesses was needed to identify what they said they needed to grow and prosper.
- We need to encourage young people to live and work in Rutland so the strategy should emphasise the opportunity for prosperous careers and affordable housing.
- Work with partners needs to include all neighbouring councils and not just Leicestershire e.g. North Northamptonshire, Harborough, Melton Mowbray, South Kesteven, Peterborough.
- The A1 was currently not counted as an Economic Growth Corridor by Midlands Connect.
- Agriculture was the biggest industry in Rutland so more emphasis was needed of this within the strategy.
- Rutland was small but agile – the strategy needed to be bold and exciting but also realistic. We don't need a strategy that we can't put into practice.

AGREED

Agreed 1: 'Enhancing Rutland's Reputation' should be re-named 'Attracting Business to Rutland'.

Agreed 2: 'Inclusive for All' should be re-named 'Opportunities for All'.

Agreed 3: The economic strategy document should be titled 'Much in Little' (Multum in Parvo) as per the county's motto.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was proposed for early April – exact date tbc.

Meeting closed: 6.28 p.m.