

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

12th April 2023

Present:

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

Apologies:

7. Councillor Paul Ainsley
8. Councillor Edward Baines
9. Councillor Nick Begy

A presentation was received from Alex Gardiner. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- A discussion should be held with North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) as part of the groups included in the ‘broad engagement’.
- The nation’s economy grew between 2010-2019 but Rutland’s economy decreased.
- Only 1% of Rutland’s population has no qualifications. The national average is 6.4%
- Highly qualified people reside in Rutland. This is a major asset and should be used to greater effect.
- Rutland has a higher proportion of the population aged over 65 and this group is growing.
- A quarter of the young people recorded as living in Rutland attend the boarding schools in Oakham and Uppingham.

- Rutland needs industrial land and buildings for businesses to begin and grow.
- Rutland had more people travelling into the county to work than residents travelling out of the county to work.
- Four main objectives:
 1. New Technologies and Market Opportunities
 2. Productive Local Businesses
 3. Our Talent Pipeline
 4. Thriving Places and Communities
- Rutland has a skilled workforce available to work in the county but the problem is that it does not have suitable housing for the workforce to live in the county.
- We need to deliver high quality, energy efficient, mixed tenure and sized housing.
- Also need to focus more on establishing new businesses in the county and not just on growing existing businesses.
- Actions moving forward:
 - Build the Rutland 'brand' to promote Rutland.
 - Develop new relationships with businesses and partners.
 - Review existing businesses areas/premises and identify future potential.
 - Support all local businesses regardless of type.
 - Take forward the LUF proposal to enhance Rutland's visitor economy and grow emerging opportunities.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date tbc.

Meeting closed at 6.28 p.m.