

## **REPORT TO EXECUTIVE**

**Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018**

**Report of: Chief Executive & Growth Director**

**Title: Local Industrial Strategy**

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

\* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

No

### **Is this an Executive or Council Function?**

Executive

#### **1 What is the report about?**

- 1.1** To inform Members on the progress with the development of an Industrial Strategy for the Greater Exeter area based on the transformational opportunity around environmental science and big data. The Strategy is the culmination of work that was started under the initiative led by Sir Steve Smith and supported by the City Council entitled Innovation Exeter.

#### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Executive welcomes and supports the decision of the Greater Exeter Growth Board to endorse the Greater Exeter Industrial Strategy document and to promote the strategy to the Heart of the South West LEP Board on the basis of this being incorporated within the Local Industrial Strategy for the Heart of the South West area

#### **3 Reasons for the recommendation**

- 3.1** The Government has published the National Industrial Strategy and has confirmed that the Heart of the South West LEP will be a wave 2 Local Industrial Strategy. Work on supporting a transformational economic growth strategy to meet the aims of the national strategy was begun some time ago under the leadership of the University of Exeter with the support of the Greater Exeter Authorities. The Greater Exeter Industrial Strategy captures a place based approach to supporting growth and aligns with the regional work that has identified the key opportunities for supporting the transformational economic agenda at Greater Exeter based on data and environmental intelligence. It is important that we seek endorsement for the strategy by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Board so as to find expression within the forthcoming Local Industrial Strategy for the Heart of the South West

#### **4 What are the resource implications including non-financial resources**

The strategy is supported by business cases for the key proposals and we are seeking Government support to deliver the strategy. However, this strategy is not binding and this report is not seeking any commitment to fund the strategy. Should

a proposal emerge to take any of the initiatives forward, a separate report with business case would need to be presented to the authorities.

## **5 Section 151 Officer comments**

5.1 There are no additional financial implications contained in this report.

## **6 What are the legal aspects?**

None identified.

## **7 Monitoring Officer's comments**

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer

## **8 Report details**

8.1 Members have been briefed on the work that was being undertaking to develop the Exeter Industrial Strategy. The foundation for this work was the potential to harness the economic opportunity presented by the unique and globally recognised strengths in environmental science and big data analytics. Described as the Exeter Pitch further work has been undertaken over the course of the summer to develop detailed business cases for each of the proposed 'asks' of Government. The Strategy is appended to the report.

8.2 A considerable body of work has been undertaken over the course of the summer to develop detailed business cases for the 'asks' in the Industrial Strategy document. This is summarised in the attached document which highlights that a whole 'place-making' approach has been adopted in formulating a locally distinctive industrial strategy.

8.3 The original intention was for this document to form the basis for a more intensive period of engagement with Whitehall departments prior to the next Budget in November. It is now clear, following confirmation that the Heart of the South West will be the in the second wave of Local Industrial Strategies, that this work needs to be fed in to and find expression through the co-creation process that will be undertaken with Government to develop this strategy across Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay.

8.4 It is also clear from various announcements that an ambitious and robust industrial strategy needs to sit at the heart of the overall approach to promoting future growth including in relation to housing and infrastructure delivery. It is important that the work that has been undertaken to develop an industrial strategy for the Greater Exeter area, based on the role of city as economic and utilising unique strengths in environmental science and big data, is utilised in support of various allied areas of activity. To ensure that the potential local growth benefits have been considered the guidance makes it clear that it will be desirable for proposals to have the support of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

8.5 The Greater Exeter pitch has landed positively with partners and civil servants and there is recognition that the Exeter city region is driving the regional economy. It is important that the Pitch document continues to form the basis for a clear and compelling offer for productivity-led growth that can then be pursued through a

variety of supporting and complimentary avenues over the course of the next 12 months.

**9 How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?**

**9.1** The Industrial Strategy seeks government support for infrastructure necessary to deliver on the ambition of the Council's priorities of building neighbourhoods and tackling congestion.

**10 What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

**10.1** The risks would be identified in the course of any discussion with Government or the LEP regarding business cases and funding opportunities.

**11 What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?**

**11.1** The thrust of the strategy is to deliver on inclusive growth and to tackle unequal growth.

**12 Are there any other options?**

**12.1** N/A

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**Chief Executive & Growth Director.**

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

**Background papers used in compiling this report:-**

None

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