

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 7 March 2017

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: East Sussex County Council's Response to the Government's 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper

Purpose: To agree East Sussex County Council's proposed response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper

RECOMMENDATION: Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposed response to the Government's the 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper.

1 Background Information

- 1.1. On 23 January 2017 the Government released their much anticipated Green Paper on Building our Industrial Strategy. This is a public consultation with responses requested by 17 April 2017. Whilst we will respond as a County Council, we will also be engaging with other partners to help formulate their responses, including South East 7 (SE7), 3 Southern Counties (3SC), Team East Sussex and the local universities, to ensure common perspectives are reflected as appropriate.
- 1.2. The strategy sets out how the Government propose to build a modern industrial strategy with the aim of improving living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country.
- 1.3. The Government have identified 10 'pillars' that they believe are important to drive forward this strategy. These pillars are explained in Appendix 1.

2 Supporting Information

- 2.1. The Industrial Strategy Green Paper asked 38 questions covering each of the pillars. Although the County Council has responded to the questions, the specific nature of the questions does not allow us to reflect what we need from an Industrial Strategy, so it is also proposed that a covering letter is submitted with the response which outlines East Sussex County Council's wider perspective. The proposed covering letter can be found in Appendix 2.
- 2.2. The County Council's response to the consultation questions is outlined in Appendix 3.
- 2.3. The principle focus of the County Council's response is reiterating what has been outlined in the County Council's Growth Strategy, citing in particular the infrastructure and skills needs in the context of local growth.
- 2.4. In addition, the County Council's response stresses the importance that Local Authorities need to be given the tools to unlock growth in their areas, with specific reference to the devolution proposals developed by 3SC.

2.5 We anticipate that a white paper will emerge later in the year which should reflect consultation responses in this green paper. There will, therefore, be further opportunity for the County Council and our partners to respond accordingly.

2.6 We are also anticipating further papers on related areas, including Skills & Employability and replacements for EU Structural Funds, which will provide further opportunities for the County Council to reflect its specific needs in the context of the local economy. The recently published Housing White Paper and forthcoming Environment Strategy also need to be linked to the Industrial Strategy, these are also key to economic development in an area.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. The Industrial Strategy will act as the framework for delivering growth nationally, and it is important that the County Council reflects its priorities for economic growth when responding to the consultation. Cabinet is therefore recommended to agree the proposed response to the 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Building our Industrial Strategy Green Paper – January 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/586626/building-our-industrial-strategy-green-paper.pdf