

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF BUSINESS SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

Summary

As part of this first evidence-gathering session, the Committee will consider a report from Local Authority Officers in relation to several of the review's key lines of enquiry.

Detail

1. To supplement the evidence presented at this Committee meeting, Members are directed to the following (links provided):
 - SBC: *Economic Strategy 2017-2032* (sets out the Council's long term vision and ambitions in relation to economic growth and is reviewed and approved annually by Cabinet)
<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/877397/economic-strategy-2017-2032.pdf>
 - SBC: *Economic Growth Plan 2017-2020* (sets out what will be delivered in the next three years to deliver the outcomes and ambitions in the Economic Strategy and is also reviewed and approved annually by Cabinet)
<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/877398/economic-growth-plan-2017-2020.pdf>
 - SBC: *Local Economic Assessment (Executive Summary)* (highlights the key insights that can help to inform policy, delivery and strategy – the Assessment has been undertaken against the chapters of Business, Place and People, recognising these as a series of inter-connected economic factors)
<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/876377/local-economic-assessment-2017-executive-summary.pdf>
2. Local Authority Officers have been asked to provide information on the following:
 - Key functions of the Council's Business and Enterprise Team, and any changes over time.
 - Definitions of business 'support' and 'engagement'.
 - How local businesses find out about the Council's support service; how this is communicated.
 - Types of business within the Borough; key sectors.
 - Types of businesses (and where are they sited) that approach the Council and what they seek. Types of enquiries (local issues or the wider national / international environment).
 - Types of support the Council provides to businesses (including the mediums used); feedback from business.
 - How the Council links in with the TVCA and wider partners.
 - SBC Peer Review feedback – any learning from this recent Council review in terms of support for local business?

3. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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