

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 November 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ♦ approve the South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2022 to 2027

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2022 to 2027 be approved.

3. Background

3.1. The draft South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2022-2027 was approved at the South Lanarkshire Council meeting held on 15 June 2022. Prior to finalising the document, an online consultation exercise was to be undertaken to inform the Strategy and action plan.

3.2. The South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy and associated Action Plan have been drafted to take account of a rapidly changing economy at international, national, and local levels which is increasingly influenced by a number of key economic policies and emerging funding streams at UK Government, Scottish Government and City Region level.

3.3. The draft Economic Strategy was shared with partners and stakeholders within and outwith the Council. An online community consultation survey was completed at the end of September 2022. Comments received from this activity have helped define the finalised document.

3.4. The Economic Strategy executive summary is attached as Appendix 1 and the Action plan is at Appendix 2. The Strategy is also appended, at Appendix 3

4. Economic Strategy 2022-2027

4.1. In the new Strategy 'Our Vision' for South Lanarkshire is:-

- ♦ to make South Lanarkshire a flourishing, green, dynamic and equitable place for all

4.2. The Strategy takes an evidence-based approach to inform its actions and activity going forward, including baseline data generated by the City Region Intelligence Hub.

This will make the proposed Action Plan agile and responsive as the economic landscape that we live in inevitably changes over the next 5 years.

- 4.3. The Strategy promotes the unique selling points (USP) of South Lanarkshire as an outstanding place to live, work and visit, with thriving towns and villages, good transport links, a wide range of good quality, affordable housing and a varied supply of employment land and commercial and industrial property. Our skilled and talented population continues to grow, and our excellent transport links to local, regional, national, and international markets reinforce our position as an attractive business location.
- 4.4. South Lanarkshire has a unique economic identity that is influenced by factors such as demographics, health and wellbeing, key employment sectors, educational attainment, productivity levels and the opportunities that exist to drive growth and future prosperity.
- 4.5. In summary, the Strategy includes the following sections:-
 - ◆ *Foreword* – This briefly sets out the background and the focus of our proposed activity around the 3 themes of sustainable, inclusive economic development – People, Place and Business.
 - ◆ *South Lanarkshire Means Business* – This section highlights and promotes our strengths as a business location, our key business sectors and exceptional natural, cultural and historic locations across the length and breadth of our area.
 - ◆ *The Strategy in Context* – South Lanarkshire has launched a suite of key strategies and plans including our Council Plan ‘Connect’, our Community Plan, our Community Wealth Building Strategy, our Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and our Tourism Strategy, all of which are inherently linked and informed by our communities. Our Council Plan priorities are:
 - ◆ **People** – we need to put people first and reduce inequality
 - ◆ **Progress** – we need to recover, progress and improve
 - ◆ **Planet** – we need to work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
 - ◆ Our Economic Strategy dovetails with these priorities and seeks to promote inclusive growth and maximise opportunities across all our communities as we intensify our activity on the journey to net zero.
 - ◆ *Policy Framework* – This sets out the policy framework that has developed over recent years by the UK Government, Scottish Government, at City Region level and at a local authority level. Alignment with these will maximise the Economic Strategy’s impact.
 - ◆ *Our Key Themes* –We set out the key themes of **People, Place and Business**, define our ambitions for the future, make a series of bold ‘We Will’ action statements and explain the difference these actions will make as we seek to meet our strategic goals.
 - ◆ *Delivering on our Ambitions*: The key actions and areas of activity are set out in the Strategy’s Action Plan (attached in Appendix 2) which defines our priorities, outcomes, actions and how we will measure success. The Council cannot, by itself, direct all of the activities set out in the Strategy and will rely on partners and stakeholders to lead on some aspects of its delivery. Nonetheless, the objective is to show that the Council, as the democratic institution covering the area, has a pivotal role – not only as a direct provider and deliverer of economic development activity but also as a co-ordinator, influencer and facilitator of activity led by others. The action plan is a dynamic document, designed to be agile and updated using an evidence and data driven approach to recognise and meet changing economic circumstances.

- 4.7. Monitoring Framework - We propose to measure progress in delivering the action plan on a 6-monthly basis with our 'measurement of success' results being reported annually. The Strategy refers to other associated strategies and action plans. Existing monitoring and reporting arrangements to monitor those action plans will remain in place to avoid duplication and ensure consistency.

5. Next Steps and Timescales

- 5.1. Following approval, the Strategy is going through a graphic design process to introduce infographics and images for ease of reading and to ensure the document is user friendly. On the basis this Strategy is approved, we intend to finalise the graphic design of the content and communicate it via publication on the Council's website.
- 5.2. During the implementation phase, annual updates on measuring the success of the Strategy and Action Plan will be provided to relevant committees. Officers recognise that we will require to respond to ever changing economic challenges that are influenced by national and international factors and consider how we can enhance the level of activity in any of the key thematic areas to mitigate negative economic impacts to our local economy.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct employee implications. Existing resources within Enterprise and Sustainability Development will be utilised to promote the Strategy, deliver the action plan and measure its success going forward.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. External revenue and capital will also be sought from UK Government and Scottish Government funding streams to maximise the impacts of our activity across the People, Place and Business themes.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The action plan identified in this report will be delivered having regard to best practice both in terms of how we deliver those actions and our commitment to net zero.
- 8.2. A pre-screening statement was prepared and submitted to the statutory Consultation Authorities (Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot and Scottish Environment Protection Agency) at an early draft stage in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It was agreed that the South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy was unlikely to have significant environmental effects and, therefore, a full Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. The key risk associated with the promotion, delivery and monitoring of the strategy is the potential for further national and/or international economic shocks. This could constrain recovery and economic growth both locally and nationally.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. An Equality Impact Assessment is currently being reviewed and will be shaped by outcomes from the series of internal, external and community consultations which were undertaken and concluded in September 2022.
- 10.2. Council Resources and external partners have been consulted. An online public consultation exercise was completed in September 2022.

David Booth
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

8 November 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Promote economic growth and tackle disadvantage.
- ◆ Supporting the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth.
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration.

Previous References

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council 15 June 2022 - Draft South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy.

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please
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