

Appendix B

Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2016-2020 Action Plan Update

This document provides Members with an update on work undertaken from April 2019 to March 2020 including ongoing initiatives, in order to fulfil the aims of the Action Plan of the Economic Regeneration Strategy 2016 – 2020.

Update in Respect to Projects

Key Aim 1- Local Investment in Place

Summary and Highlights of Local Investment in Place

- The Hinckley Town Centre Public Realm Masterplan has been completed and sets clear ambitions for phased schemes with evidence of costs. It will assist the council in preparing evidence to apply for future funding initiatives and when seeking developer contributions through Section 106 Agreements.
- The application for funding from Historic England to deliver a High Streets Heritage Action Zone for Hinckley Town Centre was successful. The award of over £880,000 will be used to match fund the delivery of a programme of works over a four year period.
- At Stockwell Head, the retailer Aldi has completed its new store scheduled which opened in Autumn 2019 whilst Lidl have acquired the former HJ Hall factory site at Coventry Road and constructed a food store that also opened in Autumn 2019.
- The LEADER programme has recently been completed. It has awarded £665,073 of grants for projects in the Hinckley and Bosworth area. This programme and the LEADER funded 'Destination Heritage Project' will be the subjects of a separate report
- An event 'Better Environment Better Business, the Importance of Public Realm and Heritage', was held on 29 October as part of the Leicester Business Festival. Speakers outlined exciting projects related to heritage tourism and how the look of places is so important to attracting both local residents and visitors to our towns and villages.
- The Environmental Improvement Programme 2019/2020 within budget delivered 12 schemes. Highlights include: completion of heritage nameplates in Hinckley Town Centre Conservation Area, installation of the final two heritage street lights in Sibson, borough wide rural heritage trail, Hinckley and District Museum signage and John Sketchley Blue Plaque.

Key Aim 2- Local Investment in Business

Summary and Highlights of Local Investment in Business

- The Investor Prospectus is regularly updated and recent site additions include Tungsten Park, Lime Kilns, Hinckley, a prime logistics location on the A5, with two units suitable for light and general industry; storage and distribution.

- Using the business database the Council continue to signpost businesses to the latest business support, events, news and grant funding information. In particular the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub Business Gateway free expert advice and Business Growth Grant.
- A flyer has been included in the business rates demands with one side promoting the LLEP Growth Hub and the other promoting the Councils #Hinckleybusiness initiative on Twitter promoting business support available.

Key Aim 3: Local investment in People

Summary and Highlights of Local Investment in People

- The Local Employment & Training Strategy drawn up with IM Properties in respect to its development at Hinckley Park adjacent Junction 1 of the M69 has proved effective in the promotion of jobs, training, apprenticeships and local business opportunities. 140 local people have secured work as a result of this site as at the end of February 2020. It has also enabled innovative training by piloting an on-site groundworks training facility with North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College, supported by local business W K Construction. Two groundwork courses have taken place benefitting 21 people.
- The council has organised a successful programme of apprenticeships, placements and interns working across departments and currently there are 9 apprentices.
- A careers speed networking event for Hinckley and Bosworth Secondary Schools was held on the 18 June 2019 at MIRA Technology Institute (MTI). More than 80 students aged 12 to 14 attended and had the opportunity to gain careers advice in one-on-one, five minute networking sessions with professionals from 40 local businesses.
- On 8 November 2019 a Teen Tech event was arranged in partnership with North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College and North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Councils. Hosted by TV scientist Dallas Campbell it took place at MTI. 160 Year 9 students from local schools attended and participated in workshops that offered an insight into the exciting engineering and technology industries. They had the unique opportunity to explore the transport solutions of the future, from driverless vehicles to cybersecurity. Organisations including HORIBA MIRA, Triumph, Autins and the University of Leicester provided career advice. The feedback from both students and teachers was very positive.
- On the 10 March 2020 an Engineering focused careers speed networking took place at the MTI with 36 students from 5 local schools given an insight into local engineering career pathways from 13 ambassadors.
- The Primary Engineer Programme, linking schools with engineers, held an event on the 26 June 2019 at which the children were able to display and race both mechanical and battery operated vehicles that they had created, helped by their teachers and engineers from local companies including J J Churchill's and Triumph

Key Aim 4: To work in Partnership to Fulfil the Economic Potential of the Area

Summary and Highlights of Working in Partnership

- The Hinckley & Bosworth Employment & Skills Taskforce has continued to go from strength to strength with an excellent representation from local businesses, LLEP, the college and secondary schools. Examples of achievements include surveys to understand the take-up and any issues related to apprenticeships in both small and larger companies; the promotion of the Employability initiative by Cadent that supports interns in the workplace aged 16-19 with special educational needs or disabilities supported by job coaches and Job Centre Plus have held regular successful job fair events at the Hub
- Regular meetings are held between officers and Job Centre Plus to exchange information on new employment site job opportunities and the number of people seeking work and what help they might need to do to take advantage of these posts
- The Hinckley & Bosworth Tourism Partnership has continued to meet quarterly. The Bosworth Rural Tourism Partnership has flourished with the small businesses networking and supporting each other and the group has created a new visitor map
- Working in partnership to promote business support packages and grant opportunities available to local businesses.
- Officers attend the Leicestershire Economic Development Officers Network and Market Towns Sub-Group and have worked on joint initiatives e.g., free town centre Wi-Fi to the benefit of all the districts

Regular meetings take place with Earl Shilton and Barwell Town Teams to discuss relevant regeneration and economic development items and monitor the progress of the respective Barwell and Earl Shilton Delivery plans. The team is also represented on Hinckley BID and Market Bosworth Business Group.