

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 14 March 2018	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and Social Regeneration
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Council's response to consultation on the draft Mayor's Economic Development Strategy for London	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Chief Executive's Office	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and Social Regeneration

1. Notes the consultation response.
2. Submits the formal consultation response as provided at Appendix 1.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Mayor of London launched the draft Mayor's Economic Development Strategy for London for consultation on 13 December 2017. The draft strategy vision is that London continues to grow as a world city but also has a fairer and more inclusive economy. The strategy discusses aims until 2041.
4. The council approved the refreshed Economic Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022 at December 2016 cabinet. This is aligned to the Mayor's draft strategy for London and will be submitted to the Greater London Authority (GLA) as part of the council response to this consultation. The council's Skills Strategy, approved at December 2017 cabinet was also considered in the response and will also be submitted to the GLA as part of the council response to this consultation.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Mayor articulates the following 12 aims in the draft strategy:
  - Londoners are living healthier and happier lives.
  - Living standards are improving with real incomes growing year on-year.
  - London has a fairer and more inclusive economy.
  - London is a more affordable city to live and work.
  - Londoners who want to work, and are able to, have access to quality employment.
  - London has the most talented workforce in the world.

- London is a global leader in innovation and creativity.
  - London is the world capital for business, trade and investment.
  - London is the best city in which to start and grow a business.
  - More people are walking, cycling and using public transport to travel, helping London to grow sustainably.
  - London is one of the greenest, cleanest and most resource efficient economies in the world.
  - London has the highest productivity among global cities.
6. The Economic Wellbeing Strategy has four key themes aligned to the council plan:
- Employment and skills: A full employment borough with a job opportunity for every Southwark resident who wants to work.
  - Business: A growth borough, where business thrives and prospers.
  - Thriving town centres and high streets: Dynamic, diverse, digital centres that are great places to visit, spend time and enjoy.
  - Financial wellbeing: Helping people to grow their incomes and ensuring a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.
7. The Southwark Skills Strategy includes three overarching aims:
- Residents have the opportunity to gain the type and level of skills they need to access local opportunities and progress in the labour market.
  - Employers invest in their workforce and have access to training provision that responds to their needs and allows them to recruit locally.
  - Employers and providers work collaboratively to develop a local skills offer that is responsive to the needs of the local economy.
8. The council therefore welcomes the Mayor's draft Skills for Londoners Strategy which mirrors local aims for economic growth, equality and delivery of services. In particular it endorses the following areas:
- Southwark Council concurs with the Mayor's vision to create a fairer, more inclusive economy. We note the Economic Evidence Base that underpins the Mayor's strategy, which finds that the benefits of London's huge economic success are tempered by the growing inequalities in the city.
  - In August 2017, the Southwark Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and Social Regeneration endorsed the Mayor of London's proposed Good Work Standard, noting that the council met the proposed criteria and reaffirmed the council's commitment to promoting good employment practice across the borough. The Mayor should continue his work supporting the Good Work Charter, the Living Wage Foundation, and the

London Healthy Workplace Charter but also examine emerging trends in business such as the gig economy and opportunities to ensure that employers share their success in these new fields with their staff.

- Following the Mayor's pledge to work with schools, colleges, providers, businesses, universities, and local boroughs, Southwark will support a local offer that allows learners of all ages to improve their skills to prepare for and find work, change careers and progress in work.
  - The Mayor should continue to support responsible business operators who contribute towards a vibrant business and night-time economy, while ensuring that the quality of life of those who live and work in the borough is protected and enhanced.
  - The full piloting of business rate retention discussed in the Mayor's strategy under 'making the case for devolution' is a model Southwark supports to keep London competitive and support local opportunities for innovation and business growth. We agree with the fair, inclusive growth agenda with equality of opportunity at its heart - it chimes with our economic well-being strategy, something we describe as a partnership for local growth.
  - Economic development needs to be seen in the round as an enabler of effective growth thinking about the links across to housing, transport, infrastructure, quality of environment and place.
  - Southwark is a significant strategic borough for the delivery of the strategy including key sites such as Old Kent Road being drivers to the future success of the city.
9. As the draft strategy is developed the council recommends further consideration is given to the following:
- We would welcome further discussions with the Mayor and GLA on how Southwark secures best value for its residents from s106 and CIL obligations relating to employment and skills.
  - The strategic aims must be translated into delivery to complete the Mayor's objectives. Individual boroughs, including Southwark, will invariably have examples of local delivery, local partnerships of two or more boroughs (both formal and informal), and the range of delivery mechanisms that can fulfil much of the London Economic Development Strategy.
  - We would welcome conversations with the Mayor and the GLA to share best practice and explore how any of the programmes developed by Southwark to support a strong local economy can be replicated on a larger scale.

### **Consultation**

10. This response was co-ordinated across the council and included consultation and input from a range of teams, including Local Economy, Regeneration, Arts and Culture, Housing, Modernisation, Public Health, and the Communities

division. This reflects the wide range of service areas economic development affects and is affected by.

11. A range of external and internal stakeholders have been consulted during the process of refreshing the Economic Wellbeing Strategy. Formal consultation has taken place at two key stages. Firstly initial research in September 2016, to group achievements against the original strategic aims, consideration of new strategic trends and thinking, and the format and presentation of ambitions and planned actions. Secondly, consultation on the strategy draft was held in October and November 2016, in writing and through face to face meetings including with the Business Forum and targeted discussions with council services.
12. External consultation partners for the Economic Wellbeing Strategy included: DWP, Southwark Business Forum, Better Bankside BID, Blue Bermondsey BID, Southbank BID, Team London Bridge BID, We Are Waterloo BID, Southwark Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Federation of Small Businesses, Lambeth Council, Lewisham Council, Lewisham Southwark College, University of the Arts, London College of Communication, Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau and delivery partners on our Southwark Works Framework. Further engagement will take place as the refreshed strategy is implemented.
13. In addition, a range of external and internal stakeholders have been consulted during the process of developing the Southwark Skills Strategy. Formal consultation has taken place at two key stages. Firstly initial scoping session in July 2017, to develop the four themes and present the challenges and opportunities in the skills system. This then informed further research and consultation with stakeholders. A further stakeholder session was held in October 2017. A range of external and internal stakeholders have been consulted during the process of refreshing the economic wellbeing strategy. Formal consultation has taken place at two key stages. Firstly initial research in September 2016, to group achievements against the original strategic aims, consideration of new strategic trends and thinking, and the format and presentation of ambitions and planned actions. Secondly, consultation on the strategy draft was held in October and November 2016, in writing and through face to face meetings including with the Business Forum and targeted discussions with council services.
14. External consultation partners for the Skills Strategy included: DWP, Southwark Business Forum, Better Bankside BID, Blue Bermondsey BID, Southbank BID, Team London Bridge BID, We Are Waterloo BID, Southwark Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Federation of Small Businesses, Lambeth Council, Lewisham Council, Lewisham Southwark College, University of the Arts, London College of Communication, Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau and delivery partners on our Southwark Works Framework. Further engagement will take place as the refreshed strategy is implemented.

### **Policy implications**

15. The draft Mayor's Economic Development Strategy for London is ambitious and creates a vision of London until 2041. The aims align with the Southwark Economic Wellbeing Strategy, Skills Strategy, and other council strategies and therefore are in line with current council plan ambitions and Fairer Future Promises.

16. The London and Southwark strategies emphasise the need for an inclusive economy alongside addressing skills shortages in the labour market, and meeting the needs of the economy now and in the future. The council supports the Mayor's aims to boost the technical and adult education offer and the sub regional priority for the skills system to focus on employment outcomes.
17. The Mayor's strategy mirrors Southwark's support of the Good Work Charter, the Living Wage Foundation, and the London Healthy Workplace Charter
18. Southwark is well placed to help shape the priorities and outcomes of the devolved AEB when this transfers to the GLA from 2019/2020. Southwark endorses the Mayor's focus on quality learning and employability skills and progression routes in the delivery of the AEB.

**Community impact statement**

19. Not applicable

**Financial Implications**

20. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

21. Not applicable.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Mayor's Economic Development Strategy for London		
Economic Wellbeing Strategy	Local Economy Team	Richard Pearce 020 7525 51325
Southwark Skills Strategy	Local Economy Team	Elaine Gunn 020 7525 55479

**APPENDICES**

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Council's response to consultation on the draft Mayor's Economic Development Strategy for London

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Stephen Gaskell, Head of Chief Executive's Office	
<b>Report Author</b>	Richard Pearce, Senior Strategy Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	15 March 2018	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional</b>	15 March 2018	