



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Council
15 December 2022

<u>Item</u>
<u>Public</u>

SHROPSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Responsible Officer

[Email](#)

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1. Synopsis

This report recommends the establishment of an advisory Shropshire Economic Partnership board to provide the mechanism for delivery of the Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27 and provide the required oversight for the delivery of the UKSPF government funding in Shropshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Subject to the approval by Cabinet on 14 December 2022 of the Economic Growth Strategy (EGS) 2022-2027, the proposed Shropshire Economic Partnership Board ("SEPB") will provide a robust framework for ensuring that the EGS is implemented across partners, stakeholders, businesses and organisations and take collective ownership of the delivery of the EGS and Action Plan.
- 2.1 The proposed SEPB will bring together partners and organisations to work collectively to develop, drive and own the strategy.
- 2.2 The SEPB will help develop the Action Plan and appropriate Key Performance Indicators to measure the outcomes and impacts of the strategy which will create a unique set of KPI's to support the EGS and feed into the Shropshire Plan Healthy Economy priority.
- 2.3 The SEPB will assume the role of the Partnership Board for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), providing oversight for the delivery of this government funding in Shropshire as per the requirements for the administration of this fund set out by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

- 2.4 The SEPB will make recommendations to the Section 151 officer of the Accountable body (i.e. Shropshire Council) in relation to how UKSPF and other agreed funding sources could be invested to support the delivery of the EGS and Shropshire Plan priorities.

3 Recommendations

Council to:

- 3.1 Approve the establishment of an advisory Shropshire Economic Partnership Board
- 3.2 To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing to establish a Shropshire Economic Partnership Board to drive forward the Economic Growth Strategy, develop and agree the associated Terms of Reference.
- 3.3 To delegate to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing to develop through the Shropshire Economic Partnership Board, produce the Action Plan to support the Economic Growth Strategy to delivery and the appropriate KPI's to support the Economic Growth Strategy and the Healthy Economy priority of the Shropshire Plan.

REPORT

4 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The establishment of the Shropshire Economic Partnership Board provides an opportunity for positive impact across a variety of organisations, people and businesses. Through the proposed Governance approach provides the opportunity to ensure an inclusive agenda for the economy across Shropshire, via the Partnership representatives.
- 4.2 The Economic Growth Strategy (EGS) itself is anticipated to contribute towards improving on Shropshire's position as one of the healthiest places to live which will positively influence people's mental and physical wellbeing. This is not least through improving prospects of employment and therefore prosperity across age ranges and for people with disabilities and/or caring responsibilities, alongside upskilling and further education opportunities, as well as potential for greater social mobility across our rural county.
- 4.2 Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) screening for the EGS indicates that positive impacts would thus be

intended for a variety of intersecting Protected Characteristic groupings as defined by the Equality Act 2010 (Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, Sex) through future engagement process and through the delivery of specific projects developed within the Action Plan. This would be due to an emphasis within the EGS on developing the County as a better place in which to live, learn, and do business, as well as to access for leisure, environmental and hospitality pursuits and endeavours. Additionally, positive impacts are anticipated to accrue for our tenth grouping of consideration in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion. This is not least due to improvements anticipated for vulnerable individuals and households such as young people leaving care, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces, as well as low income households, rural households, and people living in fuel poverty.

- 4.4 As such, the Shropshire Economic Partnership as envisaged should prove to be a crucial component of the delivery vehicles for the EGS, linking as it does into subregional and national policy imperatives around levelling up, as well as our own aspirations as a Council to work in collaboration across sectors for the benefit of all those who live in, grow up in, work in or visit Shropshire.

Risks

4.6 Do Nothing option

By not having a relevant governance in place to support and drive the EGS for Shropshire and oversight of the UKSPF as required by Government, would seriously impact on delivery and impact that the EGS has for businesses and residents of the County. It would also have a detrimental impact on the delivery of the Shropshire Plan-Healthy Economy delivery.

- 4.7 Failure to deliver the EGS is a strategic risk for the Council and the implementation of the SEPB is a mitigating factor towards achieving this.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of this paper. However, the SEPB will provide [oversight for](#) funding streams such as UKSPF. However, all funding allocations are subject to the appropriate Council financial procedures for assessment and decision making

6 Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The EGS will support the challenge of climate change through clean growth with increased investment in low carbon innovation and

industries with a focus on sectors that support the environment and local green job growth.

6.2 Key areas of focus for the economic strategy in terms of climate change and aligning to the climate change strategy are:

- renewable energy development;
- energy efficiency retrofit measures for existing buildings (both domestic and non-domestic);
- low carbon vehicle fuels;
- Waste, materials and resource management;
- Land management, carbon capture & storage.

6.3 As the action plan and KPI's are developed and activities are finalised, these will be thoroughly investigated and appraised against the key Climate Change considerations.

7 Background

7.1 The development of the EGS is the outcome of ongoing collaborative work between Shropshire Council and the Economic Taskforce, Shropshire business community, along with partners and key stakeholders. This report provides Council with more details on appropriate governance to ensure that the EGS is collectively driven forward with our partners and stakeholders and co-owned and delivered for the prosperity of Shropshire.

7.2 UKSPF is a government fund that has been awarded to all local authority areas to support the delivery of the Levelling Up agenda. Shropshire's approach to the local delivery of UKSPF was covered in the Cabinet Report of 8 June 2022. Government requires that each local authority area establishes a Partnership Board to provide oversight of the delivery of UKSPF in their area. Due to relationship between UKSPF and economic growth, the governance arrangements for the delivery of the EGS will assume the Partnership Board role for UKSPF.

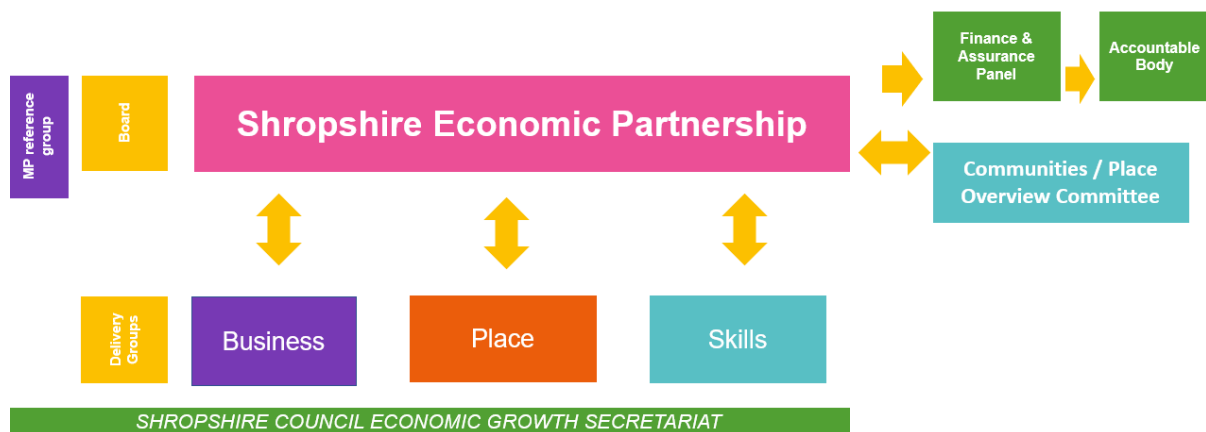
8 Additional Information

Governance

8.1 The current Economic Taskforce and the Shropshire Business Board have resolved to merge and form a Shropshire Economic Partnership which will work to collectively champion, drive and deliver the EGS for Shropshire, working to resolve challenges and issues as they emerge, ensuring Shropshire is in the best position to respond and be resilient.

Proposed Governance Structure

8.2 The governance structure represents the overarching role of the SEPB and the sub delivery groups for the key themes which are reflected in the EGS. These delivery groups also align with the UKSPF and the approach for funding, which Shropshire Council has submitted in its investment plan to government. The new governance, which includes a finance and assurance group, will be able to effectively manage, monitor and review spend of this and other future funding as it becomes available. This aligns with and reflects the Healthy Economy theme of the Shropshire Plan and will help to deliver against the targets and ambitions outlined.



Action Plan

8.3 A significant amount of work has been undertaken on the development of the draft Action Plan Framework, with the help of the current economic taskforce and utilising the logic model approach which was undertaken for the EGS. The draft framework for this has been agreed by Cabinet as part of the suite of documents for the EGS. However, the SEPB will be developing up the details, activities and projects which will populate the Action Plan to be agreed as per the recommendations set out in this paper.

8.4 The approach has been to look at structuring an action plan to reflect the key themes of the Strategy - Local Business, Strategic Locations and Employment and Skills and looking at two levels of actions, Ambitions and Projects, to ensure that the right level of detail and approach is undertaken (see Appendix A). The full details, actions, activities, outcomes, outputs, and impacts need to be developed through the governance and groups outlined above. This will include many projects and activities that will contribute to the overall impact of the EGS but that will be delivered by partner organisations. The

development and ongoing monitoring of the Action Plan will be a key role of the SEPB and the subgroups and a priority for them to produce.

- 8.5 Community Overview Committee will have an on-going role in reviewing and monitoring the development of the Action Plan and KPI's for the EGS as these develop and align to the Shropshire Plan – Healthy Economy priorities. Place Overview Committee will also support this work, through the invitation to Community Overview Committee by the Chair as appropriate.

Key Performance Indicators

- 8.6 The EGS 2022-2027 has set out some high level KPI's as part of its overall ambition. However, further work is needed through the SEP to develop a fit for purpose set of KPI's which effectively capture the impacts that the EGS is aiming to achieve. This will include ensuring that targets from other strategies and work streams across the Council and organisations are captured such as climate and culture for example.

- 8.7 The development of these KPI's will feed into the Healthy Economy dashboard for the Shropshire Plan performance. Community Overview Committee have been involved in the development of the EGS and will have an ongoing role and input into the review and monitoring of the development and delivery of the KPI's and this is reflected in the governance diagram.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 The Shropshire Economic Partnership Board will provide a robust and collaborative approach to drive forward the growth and economic aspirations for Shropshire and have oversight of funding streams. It will provide a truly co-owned and developed economic agenda for the County, one which is held to account by all those partners and stakeholders involved for the betterment of the businesses and residents of Shropshire

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet report January 2021 - Shropshire's economic recovery, transformation and resilience framework report.

http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s26358/Economic%20Recovery%20Committee%20Report%20Jan%202021_08012021.pdf

Communities Overview Committee report March 2022 - Economic Growth Strategy Review and refresh 2022-2027

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s29898/Community%20overview%20report.pdf>

Communities Overview Committee report May 2022 – Economic Growth Strategy Review and Refresh.

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=738&MId=4667&Ver=4>

Cabinet report 8th June 2022 Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s30576/Economic%20Growth%20Strategy-13042022%201211.pdf>

Communities Overview Committee report November 2022

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s33037/Agenda%20Item%207%20-%20Economic%20Growth%20Strategy%202022%20-%202027.pdf>

Cabinet 14th December 2022

Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Dean Carroll

Local Members

All

Appendices

Appendix A – Governance, KPI development, Action and Delivery Plan