



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES
DATE:	4 DECEMBER 2014
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JULIAN RUDD
TITLE OF REPORT:	2014 REVIEW OF ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN AND MAJOR PROJECTS
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on progress made in implementing the Ryedale Economic Action Plan 2012-15 and agree the proposed update to the priority actions to reflect this progress and current circumstances, in advance of a full review of the REAP in 2015.
- 1.2 To update Members on progress with the 'Major Economic Projects' approved at Policy and Resources Committee in 2013/14 (minutes 9, 72 and 73 refer).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

Members note the progress made in implementing the Ryedale Economic Action Plan 2012-15 and agree the updated priority actions, in advance of a undertaking a full review of the REAP in 2015.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To update Members on progress made in the implementation of the Ryedale Economic Action Plan and 'Major Projects' and update to the priority actions to reflect this progress and current circumstances.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 As detailed in Annex A, there are no significant risks associated with this report given that no funding allocations are being proposed to particular projects at this stage.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

5.1 Council Aim 2: To create the conditions for economic success in Ryedale:

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 The Ryedale Economic Action Plan was adopted by Council in July 2012. (Minute 66 refers.) The Plan is operational for the period 2012-2015, after which it will require a full review as part of rolling forward the Plan. It can be accessed via:

[http://www.ryedale.gov.uk/attachments/article/433/Ryedale Economic Action Plan Final web.pdf](http://www.ryedale.gov.uk/attachments/article/433/Ryedale_Economic_Action_Plan_Final_web.pdf)

6.2 The Action Plan contains 46 individual actions (with an additional 5 Visitor Economy specific actions, Community and Community Transport actions in the Unit's Service Delivery Plan.) Progress and performance on all these individual actions is monitored via the Council's *Covalent* performance management system. A summary report generated from this system is attached in Appendix B. Members are able to view this utilising the weblink and password at any time, which will also enable previous 'latest notes' to be viewed.

6.3 Significant progress has been made in achieving many actions during the last calendar year. Notable highlights include:

- Significant investment by employers to expand in Ryedale, with strong support provided by Ryedale as the planning and economic development authority. McKechnies (Pickering), the Yorkshire Baker (Norton), the Edenhouse Business Park and Agri-Business Park (including relocation of Malton's Livestock Market), Swinton Grange Business Park and the Ryedale Exhibition and Leisure Village (Pickering) have all been key examples where the Council's support and partnership approach has or is leading to major investment and jobs.
- Use of £25K of New Homes Bonus funding to contribute to the costs of developing a business case is allowing important progress to be made in unlocking 800 potential jobs at the NAFIC (National Agri Food Innovation Campus, previously referred to as FERA) site at Sand Hutton. This Ryedale 'Major Projects' funding is also allowing a partnership approach with North Yorkshire, Scarborough and York Council's to identify improvement schemes on the A64 following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Authorities and the LEP and Highways Agency to progress investment in this key route. (£20K NHB invested in this project.) Alongside this initiative, officers are working with the Highways Agency to support their current Study of upgrading options between Hopgrove and Harton on the A64.
- The Ryedale Employment Initiative (grants to external organisations for apprenticeship support), which has led to the employment of 15 apprentices in Ryedale, to date.
- The Ryedale Business and Skills Initiative (to deliver the actions identified at the 2013 Ryedale Skills Summit), including the hugely successful 'Opportunity Knocks' event in November 2014, which was attended by over 400 local students from all of Ryedale's secondary schools and by over 20 local businesses. However, several companies continue to express concern regarding difficulty in recruiting apprentices locally.
- The RDC Apprenticeship scheme (to employ apprentices at the Council.)

RDC originally employed 8 apprentices, of which 1 went on to secure employment with the Council and 4 are continuing to work on their apprenticeship courses. A further 2 have left to further their college education after gaining their NVQ2 at RDC.

- Funding to support the expansion of Derwent Training Association and enhancement of training equipment. This will support a 27% increase in the number of apprentices starting at DTA each year.
- Continued improvements in close working and communication between the Council and Ryedale businesses.
- Net completion numbers for new homes are 208 in 2012/13 and 224 in 2013/14.

6.4 Officers and Members have ensured that Ryedale issues have remained central to the LEP and Government agendas. Two RDC officers are currently seconded on a part-time basis to the LEP. RDC has continued involvement in issues of importance to local businesses including high speed broadband, York Potash planning application (and associated visitor economy, supply chain and skills strategy) and local schools careers advice and guidance activity.

6.5 There is an amendment at SDP EC 1.2c 'Develop managed workspace and training services at York Road (Malton) potentially in partnership with Derwent Training Association (DTA)'. The development of the managed workspace provision is no longer required. However, Council has recognised that the expansion of DTA is critical to the success of the engineering sector in Ryedale and to skills development locally, through inclusion of DTA expansion as a 'major project'. (Policy and Resources Committee 2014 minute 73 refers.). This action will therefore be changed to reflect the current situation.

6.6 Some projects have become aspirational, rather than clearly or obviously deliverable in the current funding environment, such as public realm projects. However, it is important to retain reference to them in the REAP, to ensure that, should opportunities arise, RDC is ready to enable delivery.

6.7 Whilst most actions are being progressed in accordance with the REAP, some actions have been constrained by factors outside the control of the Council, such as the capacity of partner organisations. These projects will be reviewed as part of the preparation of the next Economic Action Plan.

6.8 **Major Projects**

The 'Major Projects' approved by Council were:

- Malton Livestock Market (£25K Interest Free Loan) (Economic Action Plan reference SDP EC 1.1f)
- Milton Rooms Improvement (£25K) (SDP EC 2.5bii)
- Fera Applied Innovation Campus (£25K) (SDP EC 1.2d)
- A64 Improvement Study (£20K) (SDP 1.4b)
- Malton to Pickering Cycle Route Feasibility Study (£3K) (SDP EC 1.4f)
- Derwent Training Association Expansion (£30K) (SDP 1.2c)

A summary of progress with the 'major projects' is in Annex C.

The Local Growth Deal

6.9 Officers have continued to work closely with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in preparation of submissions for the Local Growth Deal and the ESIF (EU Structural and Investment Fund) Skills Delivery Plan,

which officers anticipate will bring in additional resources in future.

- 6.10 The Growth Deal outcome was announced in July 2014. £110.1 million was secured for the LEP area, to 2021. The York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Growth Deal can be viewed via this link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/32760/2/39_York_and_North_Yorkshire_Growth_Deal.pdf
- 6.11 For specific projects in Ryedale, this translated as an investment of £8.3m in the National Agri-Food Innovation Campus, (based at the FERA site at Sand Hutton). LEP wide projects that will impact directly in Ryedale include £0.3 million revenue funding for a 'business support growth hub' across the LEP area, £24m provisionally allocated to maintaining Category 4 Roads in North Yorkshire Growth Towns (including Malton and Norton) and support for rural housing needs from the Homes and Communities Agency.
- 6.12 Officers are currently preparing a further submission to the LEP for £2.1 million towards highways infrastructure and servicing costs for the planned Eden Camp Livestock Market and Agri Business Park. This will be for submission to the next available round of Local Growth Deal. Officers have also brought together infrastructure information for the LEP's Growth Towns agenda, focussing on Malton and Norton's infrastructure requirements. This is expected to lead to further bids for Local Growth Fund and other sources of financial assistance towards economic growth in Ryedale.
- 6.13 The current Economic Action Plan covers the period 2012 to 2015. Over the next few months, officers will gather the necessary data, research and consultation activity (with businesses and other partners) to fully review the Economic Action Plan so that it can guide the activities of this Council and partners over the period up to 2020. This review will also take into account the priorities of the new local and central administration post May 2015, together with any changes in local governance for the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP area.
- 6.14 However, it is clear that there are a number of specific projects / needs where there is an urgent requirement for progress in advance of a new REAP for 2015-2020:

Priority Actions

- provision of land for local business expansion in northern Ryedale;
- local training and skills provision;
- completion of the two studies currently underway on A64 up-grading and development of business cases for the resulting road improvement schemes;
- funding bids to allow the early implementation of the Eden Camp employment scheme, including relocation of the Malton Livestock Market;
- identification and progression of highway infrastructure upgrade to facilitate the National Agri-Food innovation Campus at Sand Hutton;
- development of future projects to improve Ryedale infrastructure in conjunctions with developers and landowners.
- Continued roll out of high speed broadband access.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

There are no financial implications at this time. It is worth noting however, that

the work officers are undertaking now with the LEP will influence the availability of both capital and revenue funding for economic projects over the next 6 years. Project-specific reports will be brought forward that may require consideration of funding allocations by this Authority.

- b) Legal
There are no legal implications.
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
Two members of staff are currently seconded part time to the LEP to resource delivery and planning processes.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Officers will continue to work with the LEP and Ryedale businesses and other stakeholders to ensure that funding bids are submitted and initiatives are progressed to benefit the area and implement the REAP, in particular those projects identified in paragraph 6.14 above.
- 8.2 Preparation of the new Ryedale Economic Action Plan 2015 - 2020 will commence and a draft Plan will be brought forward for consideration by members during 2015.

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