

ECONOMIC STRATEGY SCRUTINY REVIEW

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Economic Strategy was the first scrutiny review carried out as per the 2019/20 scrutiny plan agreed by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on the 18 June 2019.
- 1.2 The Economic Strategy scrutiny panel comprised of Martin Caldwell (chair), Councillor Findlay and Councillor McGrigor with support provided by internal audit officers.
- 1.3 The Strategy was chosen for inclusion in our scrutiny priorities for 2019/20 as it had only recently been approved, therefore it was deemed to be an appropriate time to consider the process for creating the strategy and its associated action plan. The scrutiny review intended to examine the foundation of the strategy to assess whether the approach adopted was robust and whether the approach or the Strategy could be improved.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee to agree the Draft Economic Strategy Scrutiny Report
- 2.2 Committee to agree the most appropriate committee or other Council group for the economic strategy scrutiny report to be presented to for consideration.

3. DETAIL.

- 3.1 The agreed objectives of the scrutiny review were to consider whether:
- the Strategy had been informed by a suite of appropriate data and information
 - the process to create the action plan was properly aligned to the Strategy and priorities
 - the Strategy and action plan are achievable.
- 3.2 Throughout this review three panel meetings were held to gather evidence.
- Panel one – Council's Head of Economic Development and the Council's Senior Economic Growth Officer.
 - Panel two – representative from Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Scottish Enterprise (SE), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the Council's Economic Growth Manager.

- Panel three – Council’s Head of Economic Development

3.3 We would like to extend our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance received from all witnesses invited to provide evidence over the course of the review.

3.4 Based on the information obtained over the course of the review the panel has identified five recommendations specific to this review. These are detailed in the report attached as appendix 1.

3.5 The report has been discussed with the relevant Executive Director and the Head of Economic Development to confirm accuracy and it is now for the Committee to decide whether to approve the report and, if so, to agree the most appropriate committee or other Council group for the economic strategy scrutiny report to be presented to for consideration.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Committee is requested to agree the attached report and agree the most appropriate Committee or other Council group for the report to be presented to for consideration.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy - Internal Audit continues to adopt a risk based approach to activity

5.2 Financial -None

5.3 Legal -None

5.4 HR - None

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty - None

5.5.1 Equalities – None

5.5.2 Socio-Economic Duty – None

5.5.3 Islands Duty - None

5.6 Risk – A consistent audit approach helps reduce the Council’s risk exposure

5.7 Customer Service - None

Martin Caldwell

Chair of the Economic Strategy Scrutiny Panel

16 March 2021

For further information please contact:

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft Economic Strategy Scrutiny Report