

COUNCIL:

DATE: 23 FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT: COUNCIL PROSPECTUS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To update members on progress against the Council's Prospectus.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Full Council is recommended to note the report.

BACKGROUND

3. The Luton Borough Council Prospectus, covering the period 2013 – 2016, was approved by the Executive on 3 December 2012. The document sets out the three major priorities for the Council:
 - Business and growth

- Education and lifelong learning
 - Safe, supported and healthy
4. It also identifies the key implications for service delivery in responding to these priorities. A presentation on progress against the Prospectus priorities was made by the Leader to Full Council on 15 April 2014.

REPORT

5. Luton faces significant challenges that affect the people who live, learn and work in the town. This means that during the timescale of the Prospectus, the Council has to:
- lead the borough to financial security and set it on course for future prosperity
 - deliver essential services that residents rely on
 - manage on much less funding from Government than in the previous three years.
6. There have been significant achievements in the past year including:
- 750 properties across the borough benefitting from energy efficiency programmes.
 - opening the Town Centre Transport Scheme which runs from the junction of Old Bedford and Hucklesby Way to St Mary's roundabout, and finally completes Luton's inner ring road after a wait of more than 40 years
 - successfully working with 525 troubled families, turning around lives of some of Luton's most vulnerable families; and putting Luton into the wave of high performing local authorities progressing into the second wave of Troubled Families programmes.
 - sustaining the decrease in the percentage of 16 -18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), currently at its lowest at 4.3%;
 - commissioning the Wellness service, bringing together services for diet and nutrition, physical activity weight management (for children and adults) and smoking
 - improving the collection rate for both council tax and non domestic rates to bring in over £2.5 million more than at the same time last year

7. Members will be aware that the airport has had a record year with real growth. Significantly, planning permission to grow our airport was finally approved last year which unlocks new opportunities for further growth in our economy for which the Airport Board are to be commended. This is a game changing opportunity for the town and has an impact far beyond the passenger numbers, in terms of jobs and prosperity well beyond Luton's boundaries. In light of this, we have commissioned work to develop an Investment Strategy for the Town, a working draft of which will be available at Council. This document sets out how Luton will achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth over the next 20 years.
8. The Luton Investment Framework will ensure that we can deliver a number of benefits to support the Prospectus priorities including:
 - 15,000 new jobs
 - 5,700 of new homes
 - improved skills enabling people to access employment opportunities
 - two new schools
 - over £100 million investment in the voluntary and community sector to enable it to provide the services local people need
 - additional support for 5,000 families with young children
 - increased business rate base leading to 17.5% increase in revenue
 - 18 million passengers using London Luton Airport each year
9. These outcomes are linked and the Investment Framework sets out how they will be achieved in both the shorter term (to 2025) and longer term (to 2035). The Investment Framework builds on the draft Local Plan, Skills and Employability Strategy, the Flying Start Strategy and other key documents, presenting a coherent plan to the local community, partners and potential investors.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

10. There are no background papers relating to this report.