

Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan

Purpose

1. This paper sets out the latest position on delivery of Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan and presents a series of questions on the implementation of key policy changes to Council members.

Background

2. The Economic Action Plan was published on 12 December. An executive summary of the Plan is attached to this paper.
3. The plan seeks to grow our economy inclusively, spread opportunity and promote well-being. It has been developed in line with Prosperity for All our national strategy and contains actions to grow the economy and reduce inequality. It has been developed to meet the needs of today and to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the future.
4. The Plan presents a major shift in policy, delivery and ways of working as part of a whole government approach. In the context of ongoing financial pressures, the Plan focuses on those priorities that matter most and the deployment of existing resources to secure greater impact.

Implementation of the Economic Action Plan

5. Following publication, our focus is on implementing the actions contained within the Plan and delivering its agenda for change.
6. The Plan contains over 100 actions which impact on almost every area of government activity. In order to maintain momentum and drive progress, implementation will be undertaken across two phases:
 - Phase One – January to April 2018
 - Phase Two – From April 2018
7. Implementation of Phase One will be through an agile approach focussed on key new policy initiatives. In the first instance this will focus upon four key blocks of policy development:
 - a. Block One: Economic Contract and Calls to Action
 - b. Block Two: Economy Futures Fund
 - c. Block Three: National Thematic Sectors and Foundation Sectors
 - d. Block Four: Regional Economic Development.
8. The second longer term phase will further develop and embed those changes as well as focussing on wider actions.

9. To focus activity, implementation will be driven through three work areas:
- **Engagement and Communications** will deliver internal and external engagement required on the Plan.
 - **Policy Changes and Implementation** will implement the new policy changes set out in the Plan.
 - **People (Functions, Structure and Culture)** will consider and determine the organisational changes required to deliver the Plan.

Engaging on implementation

10. The Economic Action Plan is Welsh Government policy and sets our future direction and approach on a number of key policy changes. In implementing these changes we want to work with stakeholders to inform delivery of our new approach.
11. This will include using existing mechanisms and structures to discuss implementation of key pillars of the Plan, including the Council for Economic Development and Social Partners Strategy Group. A stakeholder engagement plan is being developed to scope and set out wider engagement activity.

Discussion Points for Council Members

- a) *The Economic Contract will apply to our direct support to business and will set the relationship between business and government to stimulate growth, increase productivity and make Wales fairer and more competitive. How can we engage with stakeholders to get buy-in to this new approach? Who should we engage?*
- b) *The Contract requires businesses to demonstrate commitment to four conditions before their proposals will be considered for funding. Do Members have a view on how we should define these and what the minimum level of evidence that would be need to demonstrate compliance?*
- c) *Similarly, there are five Calls to Action and applying businesses need to align against one. Do Members have a view on how we should decide the criteria for assessing and monitoring these Calls to Action?*
- d) *How can a balance be best achieved between establishing criteria that set the bar too low and criteria that stretch businesses without being overly bureaucratic or burdensome?*