

AGENDA ITEM 8.



Committee: Strategic Growth Partnership
Date: 22nd February 2018
Agenda Item: Strategic Growth Plan – Easy Read Version
Officer presenting: Business Support and Change Manager

1 Purpose of this report/recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief members of the Strategic Growth Partnership on the development of an 'Easy Read' version of the Strategic Growth Plan/Community Plan.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the Partnership:
 - Consider and approve the Easy Read version of the Strategic Growth Plan/Community Plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 Section 10 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 places a duty on Local Authorities to initiate, facilitate and maintain community planning in their area and on partners to fully engage with the process. The Act also places a duty on statutory organisations to have regard to the Community Plan in the delivery of their functions and contribute to its monitoring.
- 2.2 In accordance with this new legislative duty and framework, Derry City and Strabane District Council commenced a significant 24 month engagement and co-design process to develop a draft Strategic Growth Plan for the City and District which will lead to the social, economic and environmental transformation of this city and region up to 2032. Following a 16 week public consultation the final Derry City and Strabane District Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan was approved by the Partnership on 19th November 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 8.

Key Issues

- 3.1 In line with council's commitment to make information available in a range of formats and following a request from the *Equality Assurance & Oversight Group* an 'Easy Read' version of the Strategic Growth Plan/Community Plan has been commissioned and developed.
- 3.2 'Easy Read' information is for people who have difficulty reading and understanding written information.
- 3.3 It is a means of making information more accessible to people who:
 - have a learning disability;
 - have low literacy levels;
 - use English as a second language;
 - are elderly;
 - are Deaf.
- 3.4 As a minimum standard Easy Read information should be:
 - information that is clear and easy to read and understand;
 - developed to support people with learning (intellectual) disability better understand written information;
 - different from plain English and plain language but use the same principles and build on them;
 - written information, supported by pictures;
 - use everyday words without any jargon or acronyms.
- 3.5 *Easy-Read-Online* Limited have been commissioned to develop the Easy Read version of the Strategic Growth Plan/Community Plan. *Easy-Read-Online* Limited are a leading company in creating easy read documents, having previously developed Easy Read versions of other corporate and strategic documents for the likes of the UK Home Office, NHS Health Trusts, a number of other Local Authorities and the NI Executive Office, having developed the Easy Read version of the draft NI Programme for Government 2016-2021.
- 3.6 *Easy-Read-Online* have developed the Easy Read version of the Strategic Growth Plan/Community Plan based on the original approved Plan and have worked closely with Mencap, one of the UKs leading learning disability charities in its development. A Mencap team, which included a number of people with learning disabilities, have independently reviewed early drafts of the document and made a number of recommendations which have been incorporated into the attached (as appendix 1) final draft of the Easy Read version of the Strategic Growth Plan/Community Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 8.

4. Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Partnership:

- Consider and approve the attached Easy Read Version of the Strategic Growth Plan/Community Plan.