

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board **Date:** 29 November 2017

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Draft Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? By 14 December 2017

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1. Purpose and Introduction

- 1.1 The Heart of the South West (HotSW) Partnership consists of the County, Unitary and District Councils covering Devon and Somerset as well as the two National Parks, three Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Enterprise Partnership. Whilst there remains a lack of clarity over future devolution deals, the Partnership is continuing to work together to pursue its objective of increasing prosperity in the region.
- 1.2 The Partnership has produced the HotSW Draft Productivity Strategy which outlines a vision for driving productivity and prosperity for all in the Heart of the South West. This has been prepared taking account of the evidence base which formed the Green Paper “Driving Productivity in the Heart of the South West” and the feedback received during that phase of engagement.
- 1.3 The overall aim of the Productivity Strategy is to increase productivity and prosperity for all. Within this there are three objectives:
- Leadership and knowledge
 - Working and learning
 - Connectivity and infrastructure.
- In addition, there are three cross cutting themes:
- Inclusive growth
 - Golden opportunities
 - Natural capital

1.4 The Partnership is seeking the views of those in the private, public and third sector on the draft Productivity Strategy. Engagement events, lead by both local authorities and the LEP, are being held across the region. In addition a questionnaire is available at www.torbay.gov.uk/devolution. The consultation ends on 14 December and the Partnership (through the newly established Joint Committee) will consider feedback in early 2018.

1.5 The framework of a Torbay Council response to the consultation is attached for the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Board ahead of the Executive Head – Business Services formally submitting the response.

2. Proposed Decision

2.1 **That the Board consider identifying any issues it wishes to see included in a Torbay Council response to the draft Productivity Strategy.**

3. Reason for Decision

3.1 To enable non-executive members to share their views.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Productivity Strategy

Appendix 2: Draft Torbay Council response