

<b>Report on</b>	Mid South West (MSW) Region Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To note progress on the ongoing work in relation to the Mid South West (MSW) region.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The most recent MSW Region Update was presented to the Council for information in July 2020.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy (RES) &amp; Launch</u></b></p> <p>As reported to Council in July 2020, the content of the RES was reviewed to take account of the impact of Covid-19. Attached at Appendix 1 is a copy of the RES which was launched on 9 September 2020 by First Minister Arlene Foster MLA and deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA. The launch was hosted in an industrial setting at the premises of Edge Innovate. Edge Innovate, which is represented on the Business Reference Group, is located in the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p> <p>Numbers at the launch were restricted in adherence to Public Health Agency Guidelines with representation from the Mid South West Region Governance Steering Group, the Business Reference Group and invited guests including the First Minister, deputy First Minister, Robin Walker MP - Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Diane Dodds MLA - Minister for the Economy and Kevin Holland - Chief Executive of Invest NI.</p> <p>Guests who had been invited to attend the original launch back in March 2020 but who were unable to attend the physical launch due to restrictions in numbers, received an invitation to watch the event via a live stream. The launch included a promotional video showcasing MSW and an infographic video which provides a high level overview of the RES.</p> <p>Feedback following the launch of the RES has been positive with good media coverage to date.</p>

The RES, videos and a recording of the launch event are available to view/download from [www.midsouthwestregion.org](http://www.midsouthwestregion.org).

### **Update on Prioritisation of Interventions**

An exercise to identify and prioritise interventions under the four intervention areas detailed in the RES has been completed following discussions with the Mid South West Region Governance Steering Group. A summary of the prioritised interventions is attached at Appendix 2.

It is important to note that the RES is an ambitious 10-15 year plan which will require a number of economic levers to support its delivery. The interventions identified are broadly referenced in the RES however as a high level strategic plan, scope exists to take advantage of opportunities that may present over the 10-15 year delivery timeframe. Stimulating growth and increasing productivity were central considerations in the identification of interventions for inclusion in the Growth Deal proposition.

Following consideration and as detailed in Appendix 2, the Governance Steering Group has agreed to the prioritisation of strategic interventions in respect of:

- Mid South West Growth Deal – Infrastructure, Innovation, Tourism, Skills
- Executive Complementary Fund
- Other Funding Interventions (SEUPB, Shared Prosperity Fund, Innovate UK etc.)
- Longer Term
- Policy Change

### **Forward Work Plan**

#### **Business Planning – Development of Five Case Model Business Cases**

Having completed the identification and prioritisation of interventions, the business justification process in respect of the Growth Deal proposition can commence. As previously agreed, technical support and expertise will be required to develop strategic business cases in adherence to HM Treasury's requirements. This technical support and expertise will now be put in place.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Engagement with a range of stakeholders including the NIO, relevant Government Departments, Treasury as well as the Business Reference Group will continue in the period ahead.

#### **Governance Arrangements**

In parallel with the business planning process and stakeholder engagement referenced above, the Mid South West Region Governance Steering Group will

	<p>give consideration to the governance arrangements required to support the development phase of the Growth Deal proposition.</p> <p><u>Executive Complementary Fund</u></p> <p>No further information on the Executive Complementary Fund has been made available. Officers from across the three Councils are continuing to develop the interventions that will be pursued through this Fund.</p> <p><u>Promotion of the Mid South West Region</u></p> <p>Utilising the marketing assets developed in support of the RES, opportunities to promote the Mid South West Region will be pursued.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Financial contributions from the three respective Councils have been allocated to develop the growth deal proposition.
	Human: Officer Time
	Risk Management:
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	The RES was equality screened and it has been screened out. The Equality Impact Assessment was presented to the Committee at their meeting on 11 February 2020.
	Rural Needs Implications:
	The Rural Needs Impact Assessment was also presented to the Council on the same date.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members <b>note</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing work in relation to the Mid South West Region.</li> <li>2. The prioritisation of strategic interventions.</li> <li>3. The commencement of the development of business cases in pursuance of the Growth Deal proposition.</li> </ol>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix 1 – Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Appendix 2 – Prioritisation of Interventions