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| <b>Report on</b>         | Mid South West Region Growth Deal Report            |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>   | 23 July 2020  |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities |

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

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| <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 region.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Background</b>   |
| 2.1        | <p>The most recent MSW Region Update was presented to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at which Council approved the 'final draft' Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy and the endorsement of ongoing engagement with central government in Whitehall and Stormont.</p> <p>The Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy was approved by the respective Council of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The strategy was also approved by the Council of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.</p> <p><u>MP and MLA Information and Engagement Event</u></p> <p>A successful Information and Engagement Event was held with MPs and MLAs on 28 February 2020. Professor Gordon Matheson CBE inputted on political leadership in City/Growth Deals before those in attendance received a high level overview of the Strategy. The event concluded with a 'Question and Answer' session facilitated by the three Council Chief Executives and Professor Matheson.</p> <p><u>Strategy Launch Event Postponed</u></p> <p>Plans to launch the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy were at an advanced stage with an event scheduled to take place on 27 March 2020, however, as a result of Covid-19 the launch event had to be postponed. With the oversight of the MSW Governance Steering Group, it is hoped that it will be possible to launch the RES in an appropriate manner later this year.</p> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |

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| 3.1 | <p><b><u>Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy (RES) – Impact of Covid-19</u></b></p> <p>Prior to launching the RES (later this year) the content is currently being reviewed to take account of the impact of Covid-19.</p> <p><b><u>Forward Work Plan</u></b></p> <p><u>Prioritisation of Interventions</u></p> <p>Alongside reviewing the RES to take account of the impact of Covid-19, the MSW Region Executive Officer Team is progressing an exercise to identify and prioritise interventions under the four intervention areas as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future-proofing the Skills Base</li> <li>• Enabling Infrastructure</li> <li>• Boosting Innovation and Digital Capacity</li> <li>• Building a high-performing visitor/tourist economy</li> </ul> <p>The outcome of this exercise will identify which interventions could be taken forward through a Growth Deal proposition and will be considered in the first instance by the Governance Steering Group at their next meeting on 21 July 2020. The outcome from the Steering Group meeting will then be reported through the respective Councils in July/August 2020 following which the business planning process can commence.</p> <p><b><u>Growth Deal Match Funding &amp; Executive Complementary Fund</u></b></p> <p>Match funding for the Mid South West Region Growth Deal was confirmed by the Executive on 4 May 2020. The Executive will match fund the contribution from the Treasury in the amount of £126 million. Total funding to date is £252 million.</p> <p>At this time, the Executive also announced a Complementary Fund of £100 million which can be accessed through a bidding process by three of the four City/Growth deals i.e. Belfast Region City Deal, Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid South West. The MSW Region Executive Officer Team is working to identify interventions that could be accelerated through this Fund to support the recovery from Covid-19. Interventions to be prioritised through this Fund will also be considered by the Governance Steering Group at their meeting on 21 July 2020.</p> <p>Further information on the Fund, including in relation to the bidding process, has not yet been made available by the Department of Finance (DoF) however in order to be in a state of readiness, relevant Officers from across the three Councils are working to develop the interventions in parallel with pursuing the relevant approvals.</p> |
| 4.0 | <b>Other Considerations</b>   |
| 4.1 | <b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>   |

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|            | 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>   |
|            | <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>The RES has been equality screened and it has been screened out. The Equality Impact Assessment was presented to the Council on 27 February 2020.</p>   |
|            | <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>The Rural Needs Impact Assessment was also presented to the Council on the same date.</p>   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Recommendation(s)</b>  |
| 5.1        | <p>It is recommended that Members note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing work in relation to the Mid South West Region.</li> <li>2. Allocation of match funding of £126 million from the Executive resulting in a £252 million allocation to the Growth Deal.</li> <li>3. Further information on the Complementary Fund will be provided at a future Committee meeting.</li> </ol> |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>  |
|            | None  |