



Mid Suffolk District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Review Scoping Document

Review Topic (name of review)	Supporting Business Growth	
Lead members	John Ward, and Gerard Brewster – BDC and MSDC Portfolio Holders for Business Growth and Increased Productivity	
Officer Support	Lee Carvell – Corporate Manager – Open for Business; Ben Staines – Project and Research Officer	
Rationale Key issues and reason for the review. Include how it relates to the Joint Strategic Plan.	<p>Following on from previous report to Joint Scrutiny, both Councils' O&S committees decided they wanted a further examination of measures for supporting micro and small businesses.</p> <p>Relates to the following outputs from the JSP: Engage with and support businesses to thrive; Increased understanding of our local businesses and their needs; and Further develop local economy and market towns to thrive.</p>	
Purpose of the review/Objective (quantify the outcomes the review will seek to achieve)	The committee needs to be assured that the Council has in place measures or plans to support the establishment or growth of all types of businesses in the districts, including small and micro businesses.	
Success measures	What are the expected outcomes?	
	What are the likely benefits to the council and its community?	
	What value is O&S adding to the process?	
	Are there any barriers/dangers/risks?	
	How are you going to know that you have reached the end of the O&S activity?	

<p>Background information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Councils are about to implement a new piece of software that will assist in understanding the data we hold and have access to and also in turning this into intelligence that will help target and deliver support to promote business growth and development. • The New Anglia Local Economic Partnership have been working to develop a new Economic Strategy – providing the blueprint for how the LEP and its partners will work together to deliver economic growth across Norfolk and Suffolk. Papers on this were presented to both Cabinets in October. One of the risks identified in the paper was: ‘That the Economic Strategy is too focused on the ‘big ticket’ and that rural needs including infrastructure are underplayed – e.g. micro and SME economy support for sectors/sites, which are vital for BMSDC are marginalised’ The mitigation for this is: ‘The East’s business offer needs cohesion and co-ordination in a global investment context. A thematic approach and evidential analysis to place interventions should support inclusive growth. Alignment with local and national delivery strategies is a crucial part of this. Local strategies to pick up local priorities and delivery actions which demonstrate the contribution our places make to regional economy’. <p>BMSDC Councils have paused their local strategic work to allow the economic development team to take full account of the new regional strategy. Work on developing the local strategy/strategies will resume shortly so this review is an opportunity for the O&S committees to consider how they can input into that process, specifically with regard to small and micro business development.</p>
<p>Methodology/ Approach (what types of enquiry will be used to gather evidence and why)</p>	<p>In 2016 an Open for Business survey was carried out. The committee would like to know if the results from this are available and, if so, what actions have taken place or are planned. Has the Account Manager as a point of contact approach been effective? Does the business pack play a part in this? If so, has it been effective?</p>
<p>Resource requirements</p>	
<p>Project parameters</p>	<p>This item is targeted to look at the support the Council gives</p>

	to the development of micro and small businesses in their districts. A separate report will examine the 100% business rates retention scheme.		
Specify Witnesses/ Experts/ Stakeholders (who to see and when)- subject to review as evidence becomes available.			
Specify Evidence Sources for documents	New Anglia Strategic Economic Plan presented to BDC and MSDC Cabinets in October.		
Specify Site Visits (where and when)	None		
Barriers/dangers/risks Identify any weaknesses and potential pitfalls			
Projected start date	BDC O&S Committee 23 October 2017. MSDC O&S Committee 19 October 2017	Draft report deadline	BDC O&S – with Committee services by 9 November 2017 MSDC O&S: - with Committee Services by 5 December 2017
Meeting frequency		Projected completion date	