

## Economic Strategic Review Summary 2018

### 1. Underlying evidence and drivers for change

Priority programmes relating to communities, the economy and infrastructure development have been formulated from research and evidence that include the development of the SDNP local plan, SDNP Economic profile 2018, rural development programmes such as LEADER, national industrial and green growth strategies and regional LEP strategic plans.

Continued uncertainty around Brexit and the impacts on the economy remain. Major concerns for the landowners and farmers include replacement of the rural repayments subsidies and labour requirements.

### 2. Key issues

- High cost of housing (to rent and buy) impacts on residents and businesses.
- Shortage of good quality, flexible, and affordable office, industrial and specialist space. Linked to high number of micro businesses and lower numbers of scaling and medium size businesses.
- Connectivity improvements required for National Park region (transport and digital)
- Broadband coverage is variable, superfast broadband is accepted norm to attract high value business.
- Ageing population and SE population growth impact on delivery of future services, infrastructure and labour market.
- Large gap between resident and workplace wages, impacting on commuter patterns and infrastructure needs.
- Loss of rural community services and facilities
- Commuting residents with loss of local work opportunities

### 3. Strategic outcomes

- Outcome 9: Communities in the National Park are more sustainable with an appropriate provision of housing to meet local living and working needs and improved access to essential services and facilities
- Outcome 10: A diverse sustainable, dynamic economy has developed that provides a wide variety of business and employment opportunities, many of which are positively linked to the special qualities of the National Park and local people have access to skilled employment and training opportunities

### 4. Partnerships and delivery mechanisms

- Sector support - Rural diversification, Farming, horticulture, accommodation, active tourism, creative and digital industries
- Collaborate to secure investment for economic development
- Create new funding opportunities, post March 2019 for rural business, including micro and small businesses in the National Park
- Initiatives to improve connectivity of the National Park – digital and transport
- Knowledge sharing, signposting, facilitation and networking opportunities
- Business support programmes.
- Tourism, leisure and entertainment are potential growth areas as are wine and other crops such as renewable energy.

