

Report of the Chief Executive

LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER UPDATE1. Purpose of report

This Committee has requested a further update on the Levelling Up White Paper (LUWP). Originally the government scheduled its release for January. A verbal briefing to be made on the 27 January 2022 had been anticipated. This was not so; the LUWP came out on the 2 February 2022. This report serves a companion piece to the project update given at the last meeting on the Borough's prospective bids for Kimberley and Eastwood.

2. Detail.

The LUWP undertakes a thorough analysis of geographic economic inequalities in the UK. The East Midlands performs well on social capital but poorly on productivity and London-dependent investment. Broxtowe performs broadly well against this analysis, but there is a recognition of local "cold spots" even in better performing areas.

Appendix 1 is a high level interrogation of the LUWP. It explains the LUWP's 12 ambitious medium-term missions due to be achieved by 2030, all aimed to help lagging areas of the UK 'level up'. It advises that successful LUF bids and policies must prove they will increase physical, human, social, financial, intangible or institutional capital. Another overarching aim is to address three national economic challenges: hit carbon net zero targets, adapt to the technological transformation, and tackle the ongoing effects of COVID-19. Appendix 2 is an extract from the LUWP on the East Midlands. The LUWP announces nine new devolution County Deals, including one in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire which could potentially incorporate the D2N2 Local Economic Partnerships. An East Midlands Levelling Up Director who will report back to a Central Government Committee. It is important to note that the LUWP does not contain any information on the next round of the Levelling Up Fund.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE this report.

Background papers

Nil.