

Backing Thurrock

A roadmap for economic recovery, resilience and a return to growth.

Appendix 2

DRAFT

Part 2: Action Plan

Our Vision: is for Thurrock to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic and return to good growth that benefits our residents, businesses and the borough as a whole. We will work collaboratively with our anchor organisations and groups to consider new thinking, new ideas and new approaches to strengthen and grow our economy so that it is sustainable and inclusive, making Thurrock a more resilient place and positively contribute to securing the well-being of everyone in our community.

Goal 1: Enabling Economic Recovery

We want to enable recovery by understanding the impact of the pandemic and providing advice and support to help residents to find work, to help our businesses adapt and our economy to reopen safely

Goal 2: Building Resilience

We want to build a stronger economy where residents and businesses can help themselves adapt to change, focus on their strengths and take advantage of new opportunities

Goal 3: A Return to Growth

We want to build on our strengths, collaborate with our anchor organisations and the community to tackle inequalities, generate wealth and ensure people have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our economic success

Our priorities for the next 12 months are...

1.1 Continue to gather information to understand the impact of COVID, provide a stronger evidence base for actions and for monitoring progress and impact.

1.2 Provide information, advice and guidance to our business community directly and through the local Growth Hub to help them adapt and survive the pandemic.

1.3 Make prompt payments to businesses entitled to financial support and promote early invoice payment to help businesses through the COVID pandemic.

1.4 Help protect the community and local businesses from COVID by encouraging COVID safe practices, introducing local track and trace systems and supporting the vaccination programme.

1.5 Help local people, particularly those from vulnerable groups or who have lost jobs through the pandemic, to re skill and upskill and find work.

1.6 Developing and implementing new initiatives that support the reopening of the economy and encourage residents and organisations to buy locally, recruit locally, supply locally and to train locally.

2.1 Help people understand and access careers advice and opportunities to retrain - building on the You Train You Gain initiative.

2.2 Promote the safeguarding and development of apprenticeships to support particularly young people and vulnerable people.

2.3 Take a holistic approach to supporting the most vulnerable in the community, tackling inequalities and integrating skills and employment projects with for example DWP, NHS, criminal justice, wellbeing and support services.

2.4 Promote business networking opportunities and identify new initiatives to encourage business to business sales.

2.5 Explore a work place wellbeing programme to support companies

2.6 Deliver the LOCASE scheme to help businesses reduce their carbon emissions.

2.7 Improve access to fast broadband and to digital skills training for businesses and for residents through LFFN and other initiatives.

2.8 Support the development of a bid to form a Thames Estuary Freeport.

3.1 Work with our Business Board and anchor institutions to establish new ways of working together by building on our strengths and collaborating to increase local recruitment, develop local supply chains, attract public and private inward investment and make best use of assets.

3.2 Working with our key growth sectors to develop sector specific action plans to help address challenges and encourage growth.

3.3 Examine the need for a refreshed employability programme specific to the needs of Thurrock.

3.4 Work with neighbouring local authorities and with ASELA to develop and implement growth initiatives across south Essex.

3.5 Work with partners to identify strategic interventions in Thurrock and develop a project pipeline ready to submit bids for funding as opportunities arise (e.g. Towns Fund).

3.6 Promote publicly funded business growth initiatives and grants programmes with our local business community.

3.7 Work with developers to secure benefits for local businesses and jobs for local residents.