

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Gedling Economic Growth Framework 2026-2030

Date: Thursday 16 July 2026

Author: Assistant Director for Economic Growth & Regeneration

Wards Affected

All Wards

Purpose

To seek approval of the Economic Growth Framework and Plan for Gedling, which sets out an ambitious strategy to accelerate Gedling's local economy, through collaboration with private, public and third sector partners. It outlines a shared vision for economic growth, informed through extensive consultation, analysis of the local economy and strategic goals of Gedling Borough Council and stakeholders and identifies actions required to achieve it.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision as it is likely to have an impact on residents and communities working in more than two wards.

Recommendation(s)

THAT CABINET:

- 1. Approves the Gedling Economic Growth Framework (2026–2030).**
- 2. Notes the findings within the appendices which have been considered as part of the Gedling Economic Growth Framework (2026–2030).**
- 3. Endorses the delivery of the Framework through continued partnership working with local, regional and national stakeholders.**
- 4. Delegates authority to the Director of Place in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy to make minor future amendments to the Economic Growth Framework 2026-2030, including typographical, formatting, imagery and non-material changes required to keep the document accurate and up to date.**

1. Background

- 1.1 In November 2024, Gedling Borough Council appointed Focus Consultants to support the development of a refreshed Economic Growth Framework (“the Framework”) for the period 2026–2030.
- 1.2 The strategy establishes a collaborative approach with partners and stakeholders to deliver targeted business support, strengthen the visitor economy, and create employment and skills opportunities for local residents.
- 1.3 The development of the Gedling Economic Growth Framework (2026–2030) formed part of a wider programme of work, including the preparation of a Visitor Economy Destination Management Plan. Together, these strategies are intended to strengthen Gedling’s position within the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) area and maximise opportunities for economic growth, investment, and regional collaboration.
- 1.4 The Framework provides a strategic response to the Borough’s economic context, including population growth, shifts in employment patterns, and the need to improve productivity, connectivity and access to opportunities.
- 1.5 A comprehensive range of activities have informed the development of the Economic Growth Framework, including:
 - Analysis of the strategic priorities of Gedling Borough Council and key stakeholders at local, regional and national levels.
 - Detailed economic data analysis.
 - One-to-one consultation with over 50 Council officers and external stakeholders.
 - Engagement sessions with more than 10 stakeholder organisations.
 - An online public consultation, completed by 71 respondents.
 - A prioritisation workshop with representatives of the Council.
- 1.5 The evidence-led approach has ensured that the Framework reflects local needs, stakeholder priorities, and wider strategic objectives.
- 1.7 The Framework has also been developed through a structured process that included:
 - Understanding the Borough’s economic context.
 - Undertaking a gap analysis of existing strategies and projects.
 - Identifying key themes and opportunities for growth.
 - Prioritising projects based on impact and deliverability.
 - Developing an implementation plan with clear actions and outcomes.

1.9 The Strategy is supported by a clear and shared vision to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth that enhances prosperity, supports thriving communities, and reinforces Gedling as a desirable place to live, work and visit.

1.10 Three core themes underpin the Framework, which together provide a comprehensive approach to delivering sustainable economic growth across the Borough.

Place

Focusing on creating a high-quality environment for residents, businesses and visitors through the development of the visitor economy, investment in heritage, culture and leisure assets, and the regeneration of town and local centres.

Investment and Growth

Focusing on enabling economic growth through the delivery of housing and supporting infrastructure, improving connectivity and transport links, and attracting inward investment to the Borough.

Business and Skills

Focusing on strengthening the local economy by supporting start-ups and SMEs, enhancing workforce development and skills provision, and improving access to employment opportunities for residents.

1.11 The development of the Framework has identified eight key objectives which directly reflect the opportunities and challenges highlighted through the evidence base and stakeholder engagement activity.

These objectives are to:

- Develop a sustainable visitor economy
- Enhance Gedling as a place to live, work and visit
- Support town and local centres to thrive
- Facilitate housing and infrastructure growth
- Attract new investment and businesses
- Deliver the Council's net zero ambitions
- Support business growth and enterprise
- Improve skills provision and employment outcomes for residents

1.12 As a result of the findings set out within the Framework, a number of priority interventions have been identified in the action plan to support the Council in delivering its economic growth objectives and achieving sustainable outcomes for residents and businesses. These include:

- The delivery of regeneration programmes, including Ambition Arnold, Carlton Active and the proposals within the Greater Carlton Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board's Regeneration Plan.
- The expansion of business support provision, including SME and start-up support.
- Investment in tourism, visitor economy and green infrastructure

- The strengthening of skills provision and employer engagement.
- Improvements to transport connectivity and active travel networks.

1.13 The Framework does not set out an exhaustive list of projects; instead, it establishes a flexible structure through which a range of activities and initiatives can be developed and delivered over time. This approach ensures the Framework remains adaptable to changing priorities, funding opportunities and external conditions. Whilst a number of projects identified are longer-term in nature and may extend beyond 2030, their inclusion ensures continued progression as opportunities arise, including alignment with wider programmes and access to external funding.

1.14 **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Implications**

The Economic Growth Framework has been developed within the context of the Government's Local Government Reorganisation agenda, which is expected to result in significant changes to the structure of local government across Nottinghamshire during the lifetime of the Framework. The Framework has therefore been designed to provide both a clear delivery programme for the remaining period of Gedling Borough Council and a strategic foundation that can inform the economic priorities of any future unitary authority. The themes, objectives and actions within the Framework align with regional priorities, EMCCA's Inclusive Growth Framework and wider economic ambitions for Nottinghamshire, ensuring that they remain relevant and transferable within a future governance structure. Adoption of the Framework will also help ensure that Gedling's opportunities, challenges and investment priorities are clearly articulated and can continue to influence future economic policy, funding decisions and growth programmes regardless of future local government arrangements

3 Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet approves the Gedling Economic Growth Framework (2026–2030).

3.2 Notes the findings within the appendices which have been considered as part of the Gedling Economic Growth Framework (2026–2030).

3.3 Endorses the delivery of the Framework through continued partnership working with local, regional and national stakeholders.

3.4 Delegates authority to the Director of Place in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy to make minor future amendments to the Economic Growth Framework 2026-2030, including typographical, formatting, imagery and non-material changes required to keep the document accurate and up to date.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not to approve the Economic Growth Framework.
This option is not recommended, as it would:
- Limit the Council's ability to coordinate economic activity.
 - Reduce opportunities to secure external funding.
 - Result in fragmented delivery of initiatives.
 - Weaken alignment with EMCCA and national priorities.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The development of the Framework has been undertaken utilising UKSPF funding and officer time.
- 5.2 Delivery will be supported through a range of funding sources, including:
- Existing Council resources.
 - External funding (e.g. UK Shared Prosperity Fund, EMCCA funding).
 - Developer contributions (CIL and Section 106).
 - Private sector investment.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from approval of the Framework.
- 6.3 All delivery activity will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and procurement processes.

7 Equalities Implications

- 7.1 The Framework promotes inclusive growth by:
- Improving access to employment and skills.
 - Supporting disadvantaged communities.
 - Addressing inequalities across different areas of the Borough.

8 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

- 8.1 The Framework contributes to the Council's climate commitments through:
- Supporting low-carbon business growth
 - Promoting sustainable development
 - Enhancing green and blue infrastructure
 - Encouraging active travel

9 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix A Gedling EGF Consultation Main Findings
- 9.2 Appendix B Consultation Survey Analysis
- 9.3 Appendix C Gedling EGF Strategic Alignment
- 9.4 Appendix D Travel to Key Employment Sites
- 9.5 Appendix E Travel times
- 9.6 Appendix F - Gedling Economic Growth Framework - June 26
- 9.7 Appendix G - EGF EIA

10 Background Papers

- 10.1 None identified.

11 Reasons for Recommendations

- 11.1 Approval of the Economic Growth Framework will provide a clear and coordinated strategy for economic growth across the Borough.
- 11.2 It will enable the Council to align priorities and investment, strengthen partnership working, maximise opportunities for external funding and deliver sustainable and inclusive economic outcomes for residents.
- 11.3 Failure to approve the Framework would limit the Council's ability to effectively plan and deliver economic development activity.

Statutory Officer Approval

Approved by:

Date:

Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

Monitoring Officer