

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - UPDATE

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a report from the Chamber of Commerce on the economic opportunities and challenges facing the city in the years ahead.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for 2020/21, it was suggested that a representative from the local Chamber of Commerce be invited to outline the main economic opportunities and challenges facing the city.
- 2.2 The North East England Chamber of Commerce is the North East's leading business membership organisation and represents more than 3,000 businesses in Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, Durham and Tees Valley. Its members are drawn from all sizes of business across all sectors and employ about 30% of the region's workforce.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 Natasha McDonough (Chair of the Chamber of Commerce in Sunderland) and Jonathan Walker (Policy Director North East Chamber of Commerce) will be in attendance to discuss the economic opportunities and challenges facing the city including:-
- The effect of Covid 19 on the city and its longer term impact
 - national and regional economic climate
 - prospects for economic growth and employment
 - development of workforce skills
 - infrastructure and communications
 - economic vibrancy of the city centre
 - future of the retail sector

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the issues raised during the discussion.

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