



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Business Support Management Board

Private and Confidential: No

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Business Support and Emerging LEP Sector Studies

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Executive Summary

Over the course of the last year, the LEP has seen the work of six sector groups move forward with two sector strategies now published and the remainder due shortly.

Each strategy contains a range of recommendations some of which will be pertinent to the delivery of business support and business finance with Lancashire. Rather than develop six new sector-based business support programmes it is suggested that the Business Support Management Board starts to think about a process to scrutinise these sector-based asks, determining how best they can be delivered and resourced moving forward.

Recommendation

The Business Support Management Board is recommended to note this report and agree a way forward in terms of assimilating further suggestions from sector groups as the final strategies are completed.

Background and Advice

The LEP Strategic Framework put six sector groups at the heart of its thinking about the future of the Lancashire economy, these were:

MANUFACTURING - The Lancashire Aerospace Task Force

In the early stages of the pandemic, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Manufacturing Group took the decision to undertake a deep dive into the aerospace sector when it became clear that the industry was experiencing difficulties due to the impact of Covid-19. As a result, the Lancashire Aerospace Task Force was convened comprised wholly of senior business leaders operating within the sector in Lancashire. The recommendations of this group have led indirectly to the establishment of the £1m



AEM Watchtower Programme providing support for the sector to find innovation, diversification and skills support.

ENERGY & LOW CARBON

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has published its Energy & Low Carbon Sector Plan. Written by business leaders and industry experts from across Lancashire's energy and low carbon sector, the plan sets out an ambitious vision for the county and are being further updated and refreshed at this time.

DIGITAL

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Digital Strategy outlines our vision for the county as a globally significant hub of technological and digital innovation. It also places the digital industries at the heart of the LEP's economic growth ambitions for Lancashire, with the aim of being the UK's fastest-growing digital economy by 2035.

TOURISM, CULTURE & PLACE

Perhaps including the sector hardest hit by the pandemic, the Tourism, Culture and Place group has been driving thinking around its role as a key employer in coastal and rural locations and with a wider impact in terms of the perceptions of Lancashire as a place to live work and study.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Repeatedly cited as a key sector for Lancashire and of critical importance to rural areas and populations within the county, this group comprises representatives of both the agriculture, food processing and retail sector. What provision has typically existed has been funded through European resource or ad hoc initiatives from DEFRA, the Rural Payments Agency and local authorities.

Conclusion

Rather than develop six new sector-based business support programmes it is suggested that the Business Support Management Board starts to think about a process to scrutinise these sector-based asks, determining how best they can delivered and resourced moving forward.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		