



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

Private and Confidential: No

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Transfer of LEP Responsibilities to Local Democratic Institutions

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Executive Summary

It is right and proper that the members of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Board express their views as to how the remaining functions of LEP can best be discharged if LEPs are no longer recognised by government after that the current financial year.

Working with the Members of the Company, Lancashire's three upper tier authorities (Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Blackpool Council), officers have initiated work with LEP staff and legal and finance colleagues to scope out the main functions of LEP activity which need to be transferred to local democratic institutions. The activities/funds to be considered include:-

- Growth Fund Grants (largely spent but still being monitored)
- Getting Building Fund Grants (largely spent but still being monitored with some potential scope for clawback due to failure to report)
- Samlesbury EZ District Agreements
- Growing Places Fund as a Capital sum or as a going concern
- Operation of Business Growth Hub and Skills Hub and accountability for on-going grants
- Any residual reserves left at end March 2024.

Given recent announcements about the commencement of conversations with government officials on securing a devolution deal for Lancashire, these responsibilities and resources fit well with the development of structures and activity within a potential Combined County Authority. As this is yet to materialise, our initial working assumption is to plan for the transfer of these assets to LCC as the accountable body for much of the LEPs activity.

Recommendation

LEP Board Members are recommended to note this update, comment and discuss their wider experience of how LEPs have been successfully integrated into new structures in other areas.



Background and Advice

Details of this report are fully set out in the Executive Summary and Recommendation

List of Background Papers

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

N/A