



## **Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited**

**Private and Confidential: No**

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 June 2019

### **Lancashire's Local Industrial Strategy**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

**Report Author: Andy Walker, Head of Service – Business Growth**

**Tel: 01772 535629, [andy.walker@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.walker@lancashire.gov.uk)**

#### **Executive Summary**

Further to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) update reports presented at the last two LEP Board meetings, this report provides LEP Board Members with an update on LIS development work since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 and provides context for the accompanying presentation from Steer Economic Development, who will share their thoughts on the emerging strategic priorities for Lancashire.

The report details progress to date, the developing approach to consultation and the emerging best practice from other areas such as the LIS trailblazers.

#### **Recommendation**

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to:-

- (i) Note the report and presentation provided and contribute to the development of strategic priorities for Lancashire.
- (ii) Consider how they might individually be able to support policy development and consultation activity through professional networks or through supporting wider engagement events.

## **LIS Development – Progress to date**

- 1.1 Since the last Board on 1<sup>st</sup> May a considerable amount of work has been done to develop, collate and verify an evidence base which describes the strengths and weaknesses of the Lancashire economy. In addition to a considerable body of desk research, this process has also included the initial consultation activities on the Lancashire LIS. (see Table 1. below) There is also greater clarity on how government wants to engage and co-design activities within the LIS, bringing with it its own deadlines and requirements which need to be built into the LIS development plan.



<b>Table 1. LIS Lancashire Engagement Activity to date</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Telephone interviews	Key Stakeholders	20
LEP Sub- Groups	Business Support Management Board	10
	Skills and Employment Advisory Panel	15
SWOT Workshop	Economic Development Organisations Businesses (large) HEIs / FE, Local Authorities	50
ELC Event	Businesses (large and SME) FE Local Authorities	110
UCLAN	staff awareness event	48

- 1.2 As illustrated by the numbers above, the appetite of local partners to engage with LIS consultation has been considerable. LEP officers have reacted to this by establishing a number of alternate communications channels including an online questionnaire, LIS web page, and a specific programme of marketing activity to raise awareness and understanding of the LIS development process. A mailing to local MPs is also taking place to make them aware of this specific activity programme.
- 1.3 Requests/suggestions have also been made that specific consultation activity for young people and black and minority ethnic groups should also form part of the consultation process. These lie beyond the current brief of Steer, but could be led LEP by officers or Board member volunteers.
- 1.4 The main output of the initial Evidence Base / SWOT phase of LIS development activity is a "data vault" which presents the evidence base which Steer have collated. This is presented as Appendix 1 to this report. Steer will detail key finding as part of their presentation.
- 1.5 Although comments and evidence are still being received, we need to progress the work to a second phase which will start to set out the emerging strategic priority areas for Lancashire.

## **2. Emerging Best Practice**

- 2.1 Of the three trailblazer areas, West Midlands are the first to publish an agreed Local Industrial Strategy on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, this is available through this [link](#). A LIS for Greater Manchester is anticipated shortly.
- 2.2 As set out on the government's own LIS website:

*"The West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy is a long-term plan aimed to increase productivity. It is locally led and developed in partnership with government, based on clear evidence and aligned to the national Industrial Strategy".*

Unsurprisingly, given the structure of their local economy, the LIS has a focus on addressing the Future of Mobility Grand Challenge as the centre of transport innovation in the UK, but it also sets an aspiration to develop new market opportunities in data driven health and life sciences; modern services; and through the application of creative techniques and technologies in future industries.

- 2.3 The document itself is relatively short and organised around 5 foundations of the national LIS. These foundation chapters focus on each is involved in driving productivity, including targeted action on skills, housing and transport with plans to drive up levels of business innovation and the commercialisation of research and development. There is also a clear focus on inclusive growth defined as making sure all communities can contribute to and benefit from economic prosperity.
- 2.4 The document stops short of making specific regulatory, organisational or financial asks of government, although its launch by Andrew Stephenson the Small Business Minister did coincide with the announcement of a further £28m of funding for the Battery Industrialisation Centre in Coventry. Whilst clearly the document is indicating particular strengths and capabilities which might be the subject of further investment, it also sets out how the priorities addressed will be championed via the existing devolved resource.

### **3. Next Steps in Lancashire**

- 3.1 Whilst we need to consider how additional requests for consultation will be met, the current key milestones on timetable relating to the production of the Local Industrial Strategy are set out below:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
17/07/19	Online questionnaire closes
24/07/19	Strategic Stakeholder Workshop to develop Strategic Priorities
01/08/19	Lancashire Local Authority Leaders
08/19	Develop theme-level actions/proposition/national and local 'asks'
09/19	Action planning consultation workshop
09/19	Co-design of key propositions begins with HMG departments
11/11/19	Presentation of findings and recommendations to LEP Board
23/12/19	Draft final LIS with LEP



## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Lancashire LIS Evidence Base	May 2019	Andy Walker / 01772 535 629
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		