



## Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

**Private and Confidential: NO**

**Date:** Tuesday, 13 December 2022

### **Chief Executive's Update and Business Planning 23/24**

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides the LEP Board with a range of updates on progress with key LEP initiatives, the wider monitoring and governance of the LEP and the process by which we start to think about the Business Plan of the LEP in 2023/24 financial year.

A more detailed presentation will accompany this item at the board meeting.

#### **Recommendation**

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to note the update contained within this report.

### **Background and Advice**

**LEP Oversight** – mid-year reviews by the Communities and Local Growth Team have given the LEP continued endorsement for its delivery and composition. There is a requirement to make the 22/23 Business Plan available on the website and this is being actioned.

**Actioning the recommendations of completed sector strategies** – Energy and Environment and Digital strategies are now fully complete, whilst the remainder of sectoral action plans are nearing completion. We are now looking to mobilise LEP and wider partner resource to action the work programmes arising from this private sector led work.

**Major Commissions** – The feasibility study on an Innovation Hub at Samlesbury to complement the National Cyber Force investment has now been completed and a draft final report has been received from Plexal. Once reviewed by the project steering group this will be brought back to an informal or main LEP meeting early in the new year.

**National Policy on LEPs** – Since the September Board meeting Michael Gove has returned as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and



Minister for Intergovernmental Relations and Grant Shapps as Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy. As yet, there are no additional announcements in terms of the role of LEPs moving forward, leaving the advice from last year's LEP review and the framework of the Levelling Up White Paper as the prevailing policy position for LEPs. This describes a differentiated position for LEPs locally dependent on the maturity of local devolution arrangements. As Lancashire is yet to formally engage with the devolution deal process (despite the Lancashire 2050 preparing the ground for this), the LEP remains an important part of the local dialogue with national government.

**Convention of the North 25<sup>th</sup> January Manchester Central** – All LEP Board members have an invitation to this event, tickets secured through this self-service link <https://na.eventscloud.com/cotn2023?categoryid=4693881&subcategoryId=4702943> To date we have 5 confirmed attendees from the LEP and 21 further nominations from public, private and voluntary sectors.

**Business Planning 23/24** – We are now entering the part of the year when we begin to plan the activity of the LEP in the coming financial year. This is obviously contingent on understanding the level of revenue funding available to the LEP. Inevitably the LEP may need to consider focussing down activity on a smaller number of priorities where activity, lobbying and the leverage provide by LEP resource can provide the most change. The LEP board is asked to consider how it wants to approach this prioritisation.

**Integration** – The Communities and Local Growth team have now provided the LEP with a template to complete showing how the LEP will approach the process of integrating with new devolved structures. This is a welcome challenge, which offers the opportunity to preserve the LEPs unique private sector voice and influence in key policy areas, whilst potentially offering more resource to pursue those priorities identified by the LEP. This topic will be brought back to the LEP Board for further guidance in the New Year.

**Growing Places Investment Policy** - The work to update the investment policy for the Growing Places fund has now been completed. We are now in consultation with a wider range of stakeholders to confirm the final detail of this work. This will be brought back to the LEP in the New Year.

### List of Background Papers

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