

Local Enterprise Partnership Update

What is your request of the LSP Board?	The LSP Board is asked to: Note the progress of the Local Enterprise Partnership
What do you want from the Theme Delivery Partnerships?	To consider impacts on their work in particular for the Sustainable Growth Alliance
Background material	Appendix 1- Joint Letter from Secretaries of State for CLG and BIS to local Authority and Business Leaders Appendix 2- West of England Local Enterprise Partnership Proposal

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Board on the progress made to establish a West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

Background

2. At its meeting on 14th June 2010, the West of England Partnership Board agreed to establish a Local Enterprise Partnership based on the boundaries of the four Unitary Authorities (UAs). The four UA Leaders and Vice-Chairman of the Partnership wrote to the Secretaries of State for CLG and BIS to inform them of the Partnership's intentions.
3. A project team was set up to develop an outline proposal to establish a West of England Local Enterprise Partnership. The project team was made up of business representatives from the Skills & Competitiveness Board and representatives from the four UAs, the West of England Partnership Office, the Regional Development Agency and the Homes and Communities Agency. The Government Office for the South West has acted in an advisory capacity.
4. The Secretaries of State for CLG and BIS sent a joint letter to local authority leaders and business leaders on 29th June, asking them to consider how they wish to form Local Enterprise Partnerships and setting out some key characteristics that the Government expected such Partnerships to exhibit. **Appendix 1.**
5. The submission was made to Government on 6th September 2010.

The proposal

6. Attached is a copy of the submission **Appendix 2**. The aim is to build upon the strong private/public sector partnership already established and successful within the West of England, and focus on creating the optimum conditions for businesses to flourish in the short term, which will lay the foundations for a long-term prosperous and sustainable economy in the West of England.
7. A range of meetings took place to engage with appropriate representatives from the business community including the high growth sectors, and representatives from higher education and further education
8. The proposal focuses on those areas of activity where the Local Enterprise Partnership can make a significant contribution to the national economic recovery and will put in place the building blocks for long term prosperity. Namely:

Creating the optimum conditions for businesses to flourish, which will:

Create private sector jobs and unlock substantial private sector investment, which will:

Contribute to the national economic recovery

9. The LEP proposal sets out delivery priorities under the headings of “business”, “people” and “place” :

BUSINESS

- To provide targeted support to the West of England’s five key and emerging sectors
- To sustain the conditions for innovation and the development of new technologies, products and services
- To encourage high levels of business start-up and growth of small businesses

PEOPLE

- To facilitate the supply of a readily available workforce with the skills that businesses need

PLACE

- To secure the improved transport, environmental and broadband infrastructure that our businesses and communities need
- To provide access to a range of employment land and premises
- To facilitate new housing and community infrastructure

10. The key sectors identified for support, Creative and media, Advanced engineering, Micro-electronics and silicon design, Environmental technologies and Tourism, fit well with those where Bath & North East Somerset has specific strengths.
11. In addition there are specific actions related to support for the Bath Transport Package and realising the potential of Bath City Riverside, including BWR, as a key sub-regional employment location.

Next steps

12. The proposal to create a LEP has been submitted to Eric Pickles, secretary of state for communities and local government and Vince Cable, secretary of state for business, innovation and skills. The Government will consider submissions from across the country to create LEPs before deciding on the next steps. In all 56 bids were submitted to government, a joint press statement from the ministers stated that they only approve LEP bids showing "the strongest commitment to enterprise and to working in partnership".
13. There is unlikely to be a dedicated funding stream for the LEPs from government rather they will be expected to bid for the two year Regional Growth Fund worth £1bn nationally covering 2011-13

Recommendation:

The Local Strategic Partnership Board note progress of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

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