

Paper for: The LEP Board

Title: Agenda Item 8 – Delivery Plan 2022-23

Date: 18th May, 2022

Board: To review updated Delivery Plan for 2022-23

Summary

Following the draft delivery plan that was shared with the board in March, the plan has now been updated to take into account the impacts of the budgets now confirmed by Government, and now capture SMARTer based targets.

The delivery plan has placed the LEP's vision, to be the UK's healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy, and the purpose of our Board and sub-boards at its heart. The delivery plan was therefore drafted utilising the purpose pyramids for each of our delivery boards.

However, the March delivery plan had made the assumption that the core funding of the LEP would be comparable with what was received in the previous year. Considering the principle to retain staff and capacity throughout this financial year, with the LEP utilising the financial reserves, the scale of the delivery plan can also be broadly maintained for this financial year. The scale of the delivery plan therefore does not look to pre-judge the outputs from the wider LEP and MC review and the delivery priority and scale of future years, which has a deadline of submission to Government by 25 November 2022.

Substantive Changes

The following substantive changes have been made to the delivery plan:

- A reduced scale of delivery regarding Business Growth, as a direct impact of funding and resource reductions within the Growth Hub. It is important to note that we are still expecting further direction from Government on their priorities and KPIs for the Growth Hub, and therefore we are hopeful that further scale and specific metrics will be added in the final draft.
 - A deliverable regarding establishing a peer network legacy has been removed. A legacy initiative was intended to maximise the benefits of the peer network, while minimising the resource requirements, following the direct funding for the peer network being withdrawn. The legacy initiative has been deprioritised due to the constraints.
 - The development of an innovation finance model has been removed. The scale and involvement of the Growth Hub in the development of an innovation finance model, designed to allow SMEs in the sub-region to access, will be significantly affected by the financial and resource constraints. This doesn't impact the British Business Bank and North West Business Leadership Team still developing such a model.
 - The account management of the Growth Hub has been significantly reduced in scale. The deliverable is now focussed on the agreed targets with DiT on foreign owned businesses. DiT have only been able to agree the targets for the first 6 months of the financial year.
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was not previously captured within the delivery plan. However, since March the allocation for the Cheshire and Warrington for the UK Shared



Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership

Prosperity Fund has been confirmed for each of the local authorities. The LEP therefore has a role in facilitating and supporting the local authorities in the development of their local investment plans, for the 30th June – 1st August deadline, across the three investment priorities (community and place; supporting local business; people and skills).

- The additional requirement, as set in the Government's 31st March letter, to produce a deliver plan for 23/24 as connected to our internal LEP and MC review, has also been added. Future provision of core funding will be subject to agreement of these plans with Government.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The Board is asked to confirm the overall approval to finalise the plan, incorporating any comments.

We will produce a final version of the plan, which will include the Chair's foreword, an executive summary and the document will be professionally finished. The final version of the plan will be submitted to the 15th June Board.