

LEP STRATEGY PROGRAMME BOARD – AGENDA ITEM 8

Subject: Strategy Programme Board - Work Programme 2021-22

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Purpose

To outline the approach to defining the Strategy Programme Board's work programme for 2021-22, to ensure it remains current and appropriate to the changing external environment e.g. new LEP/subregional Vision and Strategy, Covid, Brexit and the national LEP Review.

Recommendations

The Strategy Programme Board is asked to: -

- i. Note the contents of the report.
- ii. Confirm agreement to the approach to receive an updated work programme for discussion at a forthcoming Strategy Programme Board meeting.

Background

The new draft Recovery Strategy is heavily focused on a new subregional/LEP vision, responding to the twin external events of Covid and Brexit. Alongside this, the recently announced national LEP Review will consider LEP strategy and delivery functions. In the light of this, and the recent changes to the LEP's Strategy Programme Board membership and staffing, now is a good opportunity to review and update the Strategy Programme Board's work programme.

This will include a review of the LEP's 'Strategic Economic Plan Consolidated Delivery Plan', which the Board monitors alongside a programme of strategy development. The existing delivery plan stems from the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which is now not current, and will therefore need to be updated in line with the new draft Recovery Strategy.

In 2020-21, several suggested priorities for the 2021-22 work programme were considered. These include:-

- A review of our strategic positioning on **science and innovation**, including to consider a specific group to provide oversight to the science and innovation work.
- Further work as part of the **Quality of Place** Strategy including
 - the potential of the cultural, creative and digital economy to drive growth and support levelling up (also taking forward the Digital Infrastructure Plan).
 - specific work to look at the future of high streets and town centres.
- Reviewing and reflecting on the emerging recommendations of the **Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission** for the LEP's growth/recovery plans (NB the SIGC will take forward the Natural Capital Work).
- Potential reframe of the Local Industrial Strategy as the position on the national Industrial Strategy becomes clearer.
- To progress activities related to Energy and Net Zero ambitions:

- Commission consultants to enable the LEP to engage with existing industry groups and local authority partners in production of a series of action plans for each of the four areas of focus agreed (Green Industrial Revolution).
- The LEP's Employer Skills Board should work with industry and providers to put in place plans to respond to the employment opportunities and skills requirements of the Green Industrial Revolution, aligning with work being commissioned by the Mersey Dee Alliance on the same agenda (under way).
- Develop a Comms Plan specifically for Energy and Clean Growth to identify and deliver our objectives e.g. for COP26 in November 2021, focused on the readiness and deliverability of current project proposals, including a showcase of the area's strengths.
- Engage other north west LEPs via NZNW in the development and support of the strategic and economic case for investment in industrial decarbonisation in the region e.g. on current plans for a pre-COP26 Energy Summit
- Consider governance and oversight to the sub-regional energy and clean growth activity/any decarbonisation roadmap, including SIGC recommendations for inward investment.

Suggested next steps

That the Strategy and Public Affairs Director considers and prepares an updated 2021-22 work programme for discussion at a forthcoming meeting of the Strategy Programme Board. It is envisaged that the process of this review and update will take 1-2 months.