



LEP STRATEGY COMMITTEE – AGENDA ITEM 4

Subject: Strategy Work Programme Update

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Meeting date: Wednesday 14th November 2018

Purpose

To update the Strategy Committee on progress with the Strategy Work Programme associated with the refresh of the SEP and development of its supporting strategies and delivery plans, including proposals for wider consultation and stakeholder engagement on emerging drafts.

Recommendations

The Strategy Committee is asked to

- a) Note the content of the report
- b) Note the publication of the LEP Energy and Clean Growth Strategy, plus supporting evidence base
- c) Note progress on finalising the Quality of Place and Housing Strategies
- d) The Strategy Committee is asked to note the progress in the development of the Science and Innovation Strategy and discuss the proposal to reconstitute a specific sub-group to provide leadership on the Science and Innovation agenda
- e) Discuss and give its views on the emerging Digital Strategy

Background

1. The SEP work programme is now nearing completion, with the revised version of the SEP now available on line (and a limited supply of hard copies). Work is progressing on the remaining supporting strategies with updates provided on the housing, science and innovation and digital strategies.

Discussion

2. Work is now nearing completion on all of the supporting strategies to the SEP.
3. Following approval at the September Strategy Committee meeting the final version of the **Energy and Clean Growth Strategy** has been uploaded to the LEP website along with the Evidence base work that was funded by BEIS.

Quality of Place

4. Following feedback from the Committee and other stakeholders, minor amendments are being made to the narrative within the Quality of Place Strategy. A more comprehensive review is being undertaken of the 'look and feel' of the Strategy so that it will be more impactful and reflective of the content. It is expected that this near-final version of the Strategy will be available towards the end of November.



Housing

5. The key messages and emerging areas for priority within the draft Housing Strategy were presented to the Committee in September. Work is nearly complete to provide a public-facing summary document to present the high-level housing story for the sub-region from the LEP's point of view. The more detailed report produced by GL Hearn will also be made available.

Science and Innovation

6. The draft Science and Innovation Strategy was considered by the Strategy Committee at its September meeting. The progress and initial recommendations for action noted and agreed subject to further work to develop the detail and ensure alignment with the Local Industrial Strategy.
7. One key issue which was highlighted at the final science and innovation strategy stakeholder consultation workshop in September was the lack of any formal group or Board to provide leadership across the sub-region on the science and innovation agenda. The LEP did previously have a Science and Innovation Board which developed out of the work on the original SEP, however this group hasn't met for more than a year and was starting to struggle in terms of purpose and direction, as well as membership.
8. The development of the Science and Innovation Strategy has reinvigorated interest and provides and opportunity to establish a new Board to oversee delivery of the Science and Innovation Strategy and comprising senior representatives from some of the key science and innovation businesses and assets from across the sub-region.
9. The latest draft of the Strategy (not yet in its published format) is attached for discussion at **Appendix A**.

The Strategy Committee is asked to note the progress in the development of the Science and Innovation Strategy and discuss the proposal to reconstitute a specific sub-group to provide leadership on the Science and Innovation agenda.

Digital Strategy

10. The appointment of consultants to support in the development of a Digital Strategy was noted at the September Committee meeting. Since appointment the consultant team has been undertaking a series of consultations with key stakeholders including the Board of Connecting Cheshire. A workshop, attended by around 20 stakeholders from a range of businesses and organisations, was held in Warrington on 19th October and the output from these conversations and the workshop are being drawn together to inform the Digital Strategy.
11. An initial draft (around 70% complete) of the Strategy is attached as **Appendix B**. A further workshop and action planning session is currently being organised for mid-December.

The Strategy Committee is asked to discuss and give its views on the emerging Digital Strategy.