



LEP STRATEGY COMMITTEE – AGENDA ITEM 4

Subject: Strategy Work Programme Update

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Meeting date: Wednesday 25th April 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) Consider the draft Energy Strategy and the recommendation that it be published for wider consultation
- c) Consider the draft Quality of Place Strategy and the recommendation that it be published for wider consultation

Background

1. Progress on the development of the supporting strategies and delivery plans that support the refreshed SEP has been reported to the Strategy Committee over recent months. The majority of the work programme is now complete or at a draft stage and ready for wider consultation, with the Science and Innovation and Digital themes the final two areas to be progressed.
2. The LEP Executive also committed to undertake a light touch review of the SEP during the first quarter of 2018 to ensure that changes in national policy (such as the launch of the Industrial Strategy) and updated GVA figures were reflected.

Discussion

3. The first four sub-strategies / delivery plans covering **Transport, Skills and Education, Energy and Quality of Place** are either completed or at a draft stage ready for sign off prior to wider consultation, whilst the initial draft of the **Housing** Strategy was received in early April. Progress on the **Digital** and **Science and Innovation** Strategies are running a little behind schedule but should be at draft stage by late May. The current position for each of these workstreams is set out below.

Transport

4. The draft Transport Strategy for public consultation was considered and approved by the Local Transport Body at its meeting on 6th April. The Strategy will be published for comment as part of a wider consultation exercise being undertaken from April 2018.



5. It is expected that the final version will be signed off by the LEP Board in Autumn 2018.

Skills and Education

6. Work on developing this Strategy is now complete, with the document available on the LEP website. Activity is now switching towards implementation, overseen by the Employer Skills Board.

Energy

7. The main evidence report by Mickledore has now been received. The draft cover report, which is designed to be a higher level, public-facing document is substantially complete in draft form was circulated to Strategy Committee members for comment on 3rd April 2018. The includes a series of proposed priorities, actions and interventions over the course of the next 1 – 2 years including the roll out of the proposed Low Carbon Energy Innovation Fund (LGF3). Following initial feedback the delivery plan section has been ‘sharpened up’.
8. The draft Strategy is also to be considered by the main LEP Board at its April Discussion Forum. Subject to feedback from the Strategy Committee, local authority partners and BEIS, it is proposed to design up the document (in a similar format to the other supporting strategies) and publish it on the LEP website as a ‘Draft – for comment’. Subject to feedback a final version would then be available for consideration by the LEP Board at its meeting in July.

The Strategy Committee is asked to consider the draft Energy Strategy and the recommendation that it be published for comment.

Quality of Place

9. The initial recommendations from the Quality of Place Strategy work were presented to the LEP Discussion Forum in February. Whilst the overall view was positive, there was an extensive debate around some of the main points in the presentation, which reflected the challenges of trying to summarise a larger document into a slide presentation. A key take away from the discussion was the prime importance for the Strategy to reflect the diverse range of places within the sub-region.
10. The detail of the draft Strategy has been refined to reflect the views expressed by the Board and was circulated to the Strategy Committee for comment on 3rd April 2018. As with the Energy Strategy, the draft will also be considered at the LEP Discussion Forum on 25th April and subject to approval the draft would be worked up into a format suitable for publication as a ‘Draft – for consultation’.
11. There was also a suggestion at the Discussion Forum that a further workshop involving members of the Board might be beneficial in finalising the key messages within the Strategy. To this end planning is underway for a half-day workshop in May with members of the Board and key stakeholders including CHALC, Place Team Boards, Rural Strategy Board and the National Trust to discuss the emerging priorities and potential interventions identified within the Strategy.
12. The feedback from the workshop and wider consultation would be used to refine the draft prior to consideration of a final draft by the LEP Board at its July meeting.



The Strategy Committee is asked to consider the draft Quality of Place Strategy and the recommendation that it be published for comment.

Housing

13. An initial draft of the **Housing Strategy** has been received from the Consultants (GL Hearne) and is currently being reviewed by LEP Officers. To date, three round table sessions have been held along with a number of 1-2-1 meetings to inform the development of the Strategy. It is planned to bring the draft to the next meeting of the Strategy Committee for consideration.

Science and Innovation, Digital

14. Development of the **Science and Innovation** and **Digital** strategies is currently behind schedule. As has been reported previously, there are a number of studies currently underway related to Science and Innovation at the North West / Northern Powerhouse level and the LEP Executive is conscious of the potential for 'consultation fatigue'.
15. However, a presentation outlining the key aims and the process for developing the Science and Innovation Strategy was given to the January meeting of the LEP's Science and Innovation Board (copy attached as **Appendix A**) and a facilitated workshop has been arranged for Friday 27th April 2018 to kick start the process.

SEP review

16. The light touch review of the SEP has been undertaken with comments from the LEP Executive and others collated and reflected in a revised draft to be considered by the LEP Board at its Discussion Forum on 25th April.