

CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON LEP				Updated:	18/04/2019	
STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN CONSOLIDATED DELIVERY PLAN						
Strategy	Item	Target Date	Current Status	Action Owner	Rating	
Transport	We will work with partners to ensure our road network contributes to the improved economic performance and growth in Cheshire and Warrington. This will include through the following:					RAG
	Working with Highways England to develop schemes that facilitate growth and address key constraints on the Strategic Road Network	On-going	C&W sub-region input into Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) via Transport for the North working group. Highways England invited to attend Transport Advisory Group and Local Transport Body meetings. M6 smart motorway junction 16 to 19 completed. M6 smart motorway junction 21a to 26 delayed due to need to complete M62 smart motorway scheme first. M53 smart motorway scheme being reviewed.		A	
	Working with Local Authorities and TfN to define and enhance a Major Road Network	On-going	Major Road Network has been defined. C&W sub-region continuing to engage via TfN highways working group		G	
	Working with the three local authorities to prioritise Local Highway Measures that provide access to key strategic development sites, enhance town centre access and address congestion.	On-going	C&W LEP has allocated £400,000 towards the development of business cases/studies for infrastructure to support the Local Industrial Strategy. C&W LEP is currently working with the 3 Cheshire Authorities to identify priority schemes for business case development to be reported to Strategy Committee for consideration of financial contribution.		G	

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	We will work with the rail industry to maximise the potential for rail to contribute to economic development and performance, including in relation to freight movements. This will include capitalising on the unique opportunities for rail afforded by the arrival of HS2 at Crewe Hub and development of the Northern Powerhouse Rail Network	On-going	<p>Work continuing on Crewe Hub. Government has accepted the concept of 5-7 HS2 trains per hour calling at Crewe and Network Rail has designed a track and signalling layout to accommodate these plus provide capacity for future enhanced regional services into Crewe. Work on-going to identify potential funding sources including a possible Enterprise Zone to deliver an enhanced station.</p> <p>The LEP has worked with regional and sub-regional partners to identify rail enhancement aspirations and is currently working with Network Rail to identify a practical sequencing of these aspirations</p>		A
	We will collaborate with the bus industry in order to improve bus services that support access to employment, education and services. We will work with partners to ensure the bus network supports and is integrated with growth	Q3 2019-20	C&W LEP is currently working with the local authorities and bus companies to develop a draft bus strategy. This work will also include engaging with Merseytravel and Transport for Greater Manchester.		G
Skills & Education	A coherent programme of action around employers inspiring, informing and communicating via a network of pledges				
	A more coherent and 'outstanding' curriculum offer – an 'Institute of Technology' for Cheshire and Warrington				
	Communications Hub				
ean Growth	Support for local implementation of the Nuclear Sector Deal which sets out a secure long-term future for the nuclear industry locally and in the wider area. This will also include identifying potential programmes to support SMEs to enter the nuclear supply chain.	Ongoing	The LEP has been working with NAMRC, Cumbria LEP and LEPs in the SW & SE of England to develop a business case for a nuclear sector supply chain programme, as proposed in the Nuclear Sector Deal. Draft business case is now with BEIS to review.		G

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Energy & Cl	The LEP will provide a 'critical friend' role to existing industry forums and encourage greater cooperation and joint working between these groups to develop a strong, consistent narrative on the expertise and potential for the Cheshire and Warrington energy sector to help Government address the challenge of Affordable Energy and Clean Growth. This narrative will also highlight the opportunities and benefits of collaboration across boundaries and borders on key energy projects	Ongoing	The LEP has been engaging with the Cheshire Energy Hub in the development of its high level messaging and also to a degree with the North West Nuclear Forum based at Birchwood. Officers have also been heavily involved in the development of an industry-supported cross border Energy and Clean Growth prospectus which is scheduled for publication in June 2019.		G
	Understanding and responding to the key skills needs for the sector	Ongoing	TBC		
	Support to develop the concept of the Cheshire Energy Innovation District. This includes developing phased proposals for early intervention for energy-intensive industries in Ellesmere Port.	Q2 2020-21	LEP has to date contributed £30k towards development of the Strategic Outline Business Case, as part of a wider Innovate UK-funded project (E-Port Smart Energy)		G
	Working with colleagues in Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester LEPs to support development of industry-led proposals for utilisation and distribution of hydrogen as an alternative fuel for industrial and domestic use	Q2 2020-21	LEP officers have been actively engaging with Liverpool City Region (via Halton Council) as well as industry (North West Hydrogen Alliance and North West Business Leadership Team) to promote the opportunity for hydrogen as part of the wider energy mix and as a key component in the work to develop a low / zero carbon industrial cluster. Meeting held with LCR Metro Mayor and Chief Executive of Halton Council on 16th April to discuss how to further develop political understanding and support. LEP has committed £2.5k towards a 'hydrogen summit' on 5th June in Runcorn.		G
	Support for the development of proposals for district heat networks, including the potential for geothermal heating linked to the Crewe Masterplan. It will also work with local authority partners and house builders to promote district heating networks in new housing schemes and look at other opportunities to tackle fuel poverty as part of our inclusive growth agenda	Q4 2020-21	District Heating Networks will be eligible for the LEP's Low Carbon Energy Innovation Fund.		G

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	Support development of cross-border energy sector opportunities including inputting to the development of an Energy Prospectus in conjunction with the Mersey Dee Alliance and North Wales Economic Ambition Board	Q2 2019-20	LEP has been leading on the development of a cross-border energy prospectus, working with officers from the MDA and NWEAB, as well as an industry Steering Group. Document is currently at the draft stage and on target for launch at the Hydrogen Summit in June 2019		G
	Champion Cheshire and Warrington as a potential location for development of advanced modular reactor technology (including small and micro reactors), capitalising on the nationally-significant nuclear engineering cluster within the Cheshire Science Corridor.	TBC	The strength of Birchwood's nuclear cluster has been highlighted in the LEP's Energy and Clean Growth Strategy and will be further re-inforced in the Local Industrial Strategy and the Clean Growth Grand Challenge		G
	The LEP will develop and promote the Cheshire Science Corridor as a premier location for energy-related investment, and as part of this examine opportunities to improve the pathways linking industry and academia	TBC			
	The LEP will launch its Low Carbon Energy Innovation Fund to stimulate development and adoption of low carbon technologies by and for industry. Where possible we will look to align the fund with remaining ERDF Low Carbon monies and Innovate UK funding for maximum impact.	Q3 2018-19	Fund was launched within the original timescale (Q3, 2018-19) however the response received was below expectations in terms of quantity and quality. Further work has been undertaken to raise the profile of the Fund and its objectives, and subject to Strategy Committee endorsement a further round of calls will be made beginning June 2019.		A
	The LEP will look to increase its engagement with key national energy innovation assets including the Energy Systems Catapult, Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and the Advanced Propulsion Centre. We will also explore with Government opportunities to establish further centres of energy-related excellence within Cheshire and Warrington.	Q4 2020-21	Work yet to commence		
	The LEP will support the establishment and activities of a North West Energy Hub, utilising funding from BEIS to identify and progress key energy-related projects at a sub-regional and pan-regional level	Q3 2018-19	Complete. The Hub is now operational and the LEP is represented on the Management Board.		G

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	The LEP will engage key partners to evaluate options for developing an Electric Vehicle charging point network, centred initially on the Cheshire Science Corridor. Where feasible and viable, projects developed using LEP funds will be expected to achieve an above average level of energy efficiency and sustainability	Q4 2020-21	Work yet to commence		
Quality of Place	By September 2019 we will finish creating a branding framework and 'value proposition' that can be used to actively promote Cheshire and Warrington as a great place to 'Live, work, invest and relax'. During this period the LEP will also work with key partners to develop an agreed programme of Inward Investment marketing and promotion for the ensuing 18 months.	Q2 2019-20			G
	During 2019 we will work with partners to develop proposals for creation of a programme to enhance our cultural and leisure offer, including sporting activities and promotion of active lifestyles, and examine potential sources of funding to deliver	Q2 2019-20	LEP has been supporting Marketing Cheshire and other partners on their 'Cultural Destinations' project (part-funded by Arts Council England). The project is examining existing audiences and market potential for cultural and leisure activities to drive economic growth.		G
	The LEP will complete its review and establish new arrangements for the Growth Hub by October 2018	Q3 2018-19	Complete. Growth Hub brought inhouse and re-launched in October 2018		G
	The LEP will continue to support the development and roll out of Agri-Tech West	TBC	Current status of Agri-Tech West is unclear. Attempts are being made to establish who from within the wider sub-region is currently emgaged with this initiative		A
	During 2019/20 the LEP will, in collaboration with the Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature Partnership, review the implications of the Government's new 25-year Environment Plan for the sub-region. This will include developing proposals by September 2019 for establishing a Natural Capital Plan for the sub-region	Q3 2019-20	Underway. Working with Mersey Forest and LA partners (plus Local nature Partnership) proposals for a Natural Capital Audit to be finalised by Q2, 2019-20 for procurement Q3, 2019-20		G

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Housing	Examine options for developing and refining a Housing Strategy for the sub-region as a whole to engage government and investors with one voice	Q2 2019-20	The summary of the LEP Housing Strategy has been shared with the sub-regional leaders board and with Homes England. The reception has been very positive and will form the basis for further discussions around Place as part of the Local Industrial Strategy		G
	Identifying a clear portfolio of investment opportunities where there is scale and scope for growth (i.e. the Crewe proposition and Warrington town centre) and being clear about what role the private sector can play	TBC	To be agreed		
	Preparing a 'housing offer' to launch and promote at major property events (such as MIPIM) and an exciting media campaign to raise the profile of the sub-region and connect with new investment	TBC	To be agreed		
	Acting as a local 'signpost' for government development finance for housing to increase take-up and its application to the type of products and places that we recognise to be important	TBC	To be agreed		
	Give consideration to building a case for a bespoke sub-regional Land Fund aimed at accelerating the delivery of brownfield land for housing	TBC	To be agreed		
	Work with Homes England and Local Authority partners to review the ability to provide dedicated capacity to intervene on the ground to release or accelerate housing developments in a Brownfield setting	TBC	Work on developing a more strategic relationship with Homes England is underway following presentation of the LEP Housing Strategy to the Sub Regional Leaders Board. A meeting is being progressed between HE and the Strategic Growth Directors in May.		G
	Considering whether there are opportunities to create new vehicles focusing on housing or to adapt and expand the role of others within these areas to lever-in private (and public) sector funding.	TBC	To be agreed		
Innovation	The LEP will re-establish a dedicated Science and Innovation Board, made up of senior representatives from business, academia and government (BEIS / Innovate UK) to oversee the implementation of this Strategy and to ensure that it remains current and responsive to changes in policy for the science and innovation environment.	Q3 2019-20	Ongoing discussion regarding an amendment to this activity to move away from the idea of a formal board and towards more general 'thought leadership' to support development of key Science and Innovation sectors and clusters		A

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Science and	Supporting ongoing development of the Cheshire Science Corridor including marketing and investment propositions and an investment plan for the Science Corridor EZ	Q4 2019-20	Marketing and Investment propositions to be updated by middle of Q2, 2019-20. £30m investment pipeline is in place covering 13 projects. This will be converted into a sequenced investment plan by Q4, 2019-20		G
	Supporting the development of strong clusters focussed initially on energy and life sciences, including identification of options for resourcing development of the sub-region's science and innovation 'ecosystem'	Q4 2020-21	Work not yet initiated		
	The LEP will build better relationships with relevant regional and national assets (such as the Catapult Network) and innovation agencies to help better connect businesses to the resources and expertise available through those assets.	Q4 2019-20	Conversations initiated between the Growth Hub and Innovate UK plus other key innovation agencies in order to fully understand the support available and appropriate routes for sign posting to that support		G
	Linked to the development of a Local Industrial Strategy, develop a finer-grain understanding of our business base, sectoral strengths within science and innovation and the opportunities for smart specialisation	Q3 2019-20	Initial conversations have taken place in respect of Life Sciences. Other sectors to be reviewed and agreed.		G
	Understand the opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with other parts of the UK and internationally linked to our specific areas of strength	Q4 2019-20	Some level of understanding has been developed through the LEP's involvement in a number of Science and Innovation Audits and with the northern LEP's Innovation Group. This needs to be further developed and specific opportunities identified.		G
	Engaging and shaping the Made Smarter NW Pilot to support SMEs to innovate through adoption of digital practices and processes including securing appropriate sector-level engagement in the mentoring process for SMEs	Ongoing	LEP was fully engaged with the development of the Business Case and launch of the NW Made Smarter Pilot (launched January 2019). This is being actively promoted through the Growth Hub and as of April 2019 xx Cheshire and Warrington companies have engaged with the programme.		G
	Review how support for innovation activity is provided through the Cheshire and Warrington Growth Hub and consider options for either enhancing provision or making the current offer more effective	Q4 2019-20	Ongoing conversations between the Growth Hub and our Innovate UK Regional Lead to determine how best to achieve innovation support for SMEs		G
	Consider how to replace current ESIF for innovation post-2020 including influencing the shape and priorities for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Q4 2019-20	Still unclear when the HMG consultation on UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be launched.		A

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	Continuing to support activities to engage and inspire young people to pursue careers in science, research and development	Ongoing	Key priority for the LEP Employer Skills Board work programme		G
	Encouraging business to work with the LEP's Education and Skills Board to ensure skills needs are properly identified and that the education and skills system responds accordingly	Ongoing	Key priority for the LEP Employer Skills Board work programme		G
	Identify and encourage stronger links with FE / HE institutions to link research, innovation and skills needs for business	Ongoing	TBC		
Digital	The LEP will commission support to develop a Digital Infrastructure Plan, which will, by July 2020, set out the current digital infrastructure position for the sub-region, consider the digital infrastructure needs to support a "£50 billion economy", create smart and connected places and at the steps required to maximise digital connectivity to support economic growth.	Q2 2019-20	Plans being developed for an initial Digital Infrastructure workshop at the end of May, although this may be pushed back subject to a further strategic discussion between the LEP and the Economic Growth Directors		G
	The LEP will work with Transport for the North and other relevant stakeholders to understand the data requirements to support integrated journey planning	TBC			
	The LEP, through its Growth Hub, will continue to support the roll out of programmes such as Made Smarter which aim to increase awareness and uptake amongst businesses of digital technologies and process to improve performance and productivity	Ongoing	The Made Smarter Programme is operational - at the start of April, 36 companies were being engaged		G
	The LEP will progress the development and roll out of its Virtual Institute of Technology, investing up to £30 million of funding between 2019 and 2022.	TBC	Work ongoing, however still awaiting final sign off by Government.		
	The LEP will undertake a study by July 2020 to explore how UK Shared Prosperity Fund can be used to continue the legacy of European Structural Funds in the creation of innovation centres and hubs to support development of the creative and digital community within Cheshire and Warrington	Q2 2020-21	Still unclear when the HMG consultation on UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be launched.		A