



LEP STRATEGY COMMITTEE – AGENDA ITEM 7

Subject: Local Industrial Strategy Progress Update

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Meeting date: Friday 20th September 2019

Purpose

- a) To update the Strategy Committee on progress in developing Cheshire and Warrington's Local Industrial Strategy.
- b) To feedback on the presentations given to date to socialise the key LIS policy measures and approach with local authority members

Recommendations

The Strategy Committee is asked to

- a) Note the content of the report
- b) Discuss the activities needed to complete the production of the LIS and then deliver the commitments contained in it.

Discussion

1. Work has continued at pace since the July meeting of the Strategy Committee, with a number of key activities complete or started.
2. Work to complete the development of individual Policy Position Papers (PPPs) has progressed and a number used to support initial conversations with Government Departments centred on Place, Life Sciences and Energy and Clean Growth. These conversations went well and the LEP has been encouraged to start drafting of the LIS itself.
3. Initial drafts of all key chapters of the LIS have been shared with BEIS and the Cities and Local Growth Unit and feedback received. Revised versions are in train with the aim of having these resubmitted by the 20th September. An outline of the LIS Structure is provided at **Appendix A**.
4. As previously indicated, because the LIS is a joint production between the LEP and Government, it will need to go through an extensive process of checking and sign off within different departments before sign-off prior to publication. This process also limits the extent to which content of the LIS can be made public in advance of publication.
5. This presents some challenges in terms of providing local authority partners with opportunities to consider the LIS content and the implications for their places. To aid this process, the LEP has been invited to present to relevant Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees and sub committees. To date presentations have been given to Cheshire West and Chester's Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (4th September) and Cheshire East's Environment and



Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee (16th September). A presentation will be given to Warrington's Supporting the Local Economy Policy Committee on 1st October.

6. The LEP has also produced a briefing note (**attached as Appendix B**) which sets out as much of the current detail as possible to help support this process.
7. A publication date for the Strategy is still to be confirmed, as Officials are still to get a formal steer from the new Ministerial team in BEIS. It is unlikely to be before the end of October 2019, however the LEP is being encouraged to complete the content of the LIS as quickly as possible so that we are in a position to respond quickly once we have clarity.
8. This will require an effective means of agreeing a final text with Government at potentially short notice. One option is for the LEP Board to delegate authority to the Chair of the LEP Board and Chair of the Strategy Committee (supported by the Chief Executive and Head of Policy and Strategy) to sign off any final document.
9. Once the LIS is published, the LEP and its partners will need to have clear ideas on how the commitments made in it will be delivered. It is suggested that a paper be presented to the November Strategy Committee setting out options.



APPENDIX A

DRAFT LIS STRUCTURE

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