

**CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON LEP
STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN CONSOLIDATED DELIVERY PLAN**

Updated: 27/03/2020

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 scheme 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.	Roy Newton	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	Roy Newton	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 £1,200,000 over three years towards the development of business cases/studies for infrastructure to support the Local Industrial Strategy. C&W LEP has worked with the 3 Cheshire Authorities to identify priority schemes for business case development to be reported to Strategy Committee for consideration of financial contribution. 2019/2020 budget has been fully allocated and the first allocations from the 2020/21 budget were approved at the February Strategy Committee	Roy Newton	G →

Skills & Education	<p>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</p>	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>	Roy Newton	A →
	<p>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</p>	Q3 2019-20 Q3 2020-21	<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 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.</p> <p>A workshop was held with bus operators in December 2019 to identify key issues. Timing for delivery likely to be impacted by emerging national bus strategy. Timescale revised to end of Q3 2020-21</p>	Roy Newton	A →
Skills & Education	<p>A more coherent and 'outstanding' curriculum offer – an 'Institute of Technology' for Cheshire and Warrington</p>	Q3 2019-20 Q4 2019-20	<p>Final sign off by Government on the Virtual Institute of Technology has been received and contract signed. A Service Level Agreement is being negotiated with the University of Chester as accountable body for the programme. The University is working with the LEP's Employers' Skills and Education Board to establish operational priorities – these include a strong focus on digital and science, technology, engineering and maths skills.</p>	Pat Jackson	A ↗
	Economic & Clean Growth	<p>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.</p>	Ongoing	<p>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. The revised business case has been partially accepted by BEIS and work is now underway to address any remaining issues</p>	Andy Hulme

Energy

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 was originally scheduled for publication in September 2019 but will now be launched at the MDA Board once the Coronavirus situation has eased. LEP has to date contributed £30k towards development of the Strategic Outline Business Case, as part of a wider

Andy Hulme

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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

Innovate UK-funded project (E-Port Smart Energy). Further funding has been secured for an Industrial Decarbonisation Roadmap and the Innovation District is a central feature in the LIS

Andy Hulme

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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.

Andy Hulme

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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.

Andy Hulme

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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

Initial thinking undertaken as part of the development of the LIS. This includes the potential for developing a Nuclear Technology Catalyst at Birchwood

Andy Hulme

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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

Initial conversations held with SP Energy Networks about the roll out of their Zero Carbon Communities initiative to Cheshire and Warrington

Andy Hulme

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Quality of Place

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~~
Q2 2020-21

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. Brief currently being developed to procure external consultancy support for the production of a Cultural Strategy for the sub-region.

Andy Hulme /
Mark Livesey

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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~~
Q4 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-Q3, 2019-20 for procurement Q3-Q4, 2019-20
Deadline for submission of tenders extended by one week to 6th April due to disruption caused by Coronavirus

Andy Hulme

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Housing

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

Q2
2020-21

Draft sub regional investment pipeline has been completed and was reviewed and supported by the Sub Regional Housing Board at its meeting in February 2020

Andy Farrall

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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

Q2
2020-21

Work underway between the LEP and Local Authorities to develop mechanisms for raising the profile for housing opportunities and associated support programmes for developers

Andy Farrall

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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

Q2
2019-20

Sub Regional Housing Board has been established and met has now met twice. A series of initial priority actions have been identified and work is underway to progress these including development of proposals for a series of pathfinder projects in conjunction with Homes England

Andy Farrall

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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

This work will be directed by the new Sub Regional Housing Board - timescales to be agreed

Andy Farrall

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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

Updating of the Marketing and Investment propositions is behind schedule, pending the wider LEP place marketing exercise currently underway. £30m investment pipeline is in place covering 13 projects. This will be converted into a sequenced investment plan by Q4, 2019-20.
A Future Directions paper has been prepared for consideration by the EZ Board.

John Adlen

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Science and Innovation

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~~
Delayed to Q2 2020-21
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
Andy Devaney / John Adlen

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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~~
Delayed to Q2 2020-21
Initial conversations have taken place in respect of Life Sciences. Other sectors to be reviewed and agreed. Advised January 2020 that Transport for the North is commissioning work into northern innovation systems to support the refresh of the Independent Economic Review.
Andy Hulme / John Adlen

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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~~
Delayed to Q2 2020-21
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. The Local Industrial Strategy process is seen as a potential vehicle for supporting closer collaboration between LEPs on science and innovation and an initial workshop to this end was held in Leeds on June 2019.
Andy Hulme

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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 December 2019 113 Cheshire and Warrington companies have engaged with the programme, with six having projects developed and signed off (potentially creating 40 new and upskilled jobs and two student placements).
Andy Devaney

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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.
TBC

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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
Initial thinking undertaken as part of the work to develop the Ideas chapter of the LIS
Andy Hulme / John Adlen

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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~~
Q4
2020
Growth Directors held a workshop on 5th December to scope out requirements in developing a digital infrastructure plan. Consultants have been selected to undertake development of the DIP and an inception meeting is scheduled for 2/4/2020
Roy Newton / Andy Hulme

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Digital

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 NW Made Smarter pilot is being actively promoted through the Growth Hub and as of December 2019 113 Cheshire and Warrington companies have engaged with the programme, with six having projects developed and signed off (potentially creating 40 new and upskilled jobs and two student placements).

Andy Devaney

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The LEP will progress the development and roll out of its Virtual Institute of Technology (Accelerate), investing up to £30 million of funding between 2019 and 2022.

~~Q3~~
~~2019-20~~
Q4 2019-20

Final sign off by Government on the Virtual Institute of Technology has been received and contract signed. A Service Level Agreement is being negotiated with the University of Chester as accountable body for the programme. The University is working with the LEP's Employers' Skills and Education Board to establish operational priorities – these include a strong focus on digital and science, technology, engineering and maths skills.

Pat Jackson

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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.

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