



LEP STRATEGY COMMITTEE – AGENDA ITEM 4

Subject: Strategy Work Programme Update

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Meeting date: Wednesday 19th September 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 minor revisions to the Energy Strategy and approve its release for public use
- c) Note progress on the development of the draft Science and Innovation Strategy and discuss the initial recommendations and action plan
- d) Note the appointment of consultancy support to undertake development of the Digital Strategy
- e) Note the appointment of Metro Dynamics to provide support in development of the Local Industrial 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.
2. Since the last formal meeting of the Strategy Committee in June, it has been confirmed that Cheshire and Warrington has been selected as one of six LEPs being asked to develop a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

Discussion

3. Work is now underway or completed on all of the supporting strategies to the SEP.
4. The light touch refresh of the SEP itself has been completed and is now available on line via the LEP website. A small number of hard copies have also been produced.
5. The draft **Energy Strategy** was released for consultation in mid-July for a four-week period. Only four formal responses were received, all of which were supportive of the key elements of the Strategy, but some pointing out minor errors or omissions. These have been addressed and the final version of the Strategy is now ready for publication (**see Appendix A**).



The Strategy Committee is asked to note the minor revisions to the Energy Strategy and approve its release for public use

Quality of Place

6. The draft public-facing version of the **Quality of Place** Strategy will shortly be available for review by the Strategy Committee.
7. An informal meeting of the Strategy Committee was held on Thursday 26th July to look at the emerging Science Corridor investment propositions, marketing propositions and messaging.

Housing

8. An initial draft of the **Housing Strategy** has been received from the Consultants (GL Hearne) and has been reviewed by LEP Officers. Work is now underway to refine the key points to be highlighted through the Strategy and to condense the detailed, 80-page report into a more accessible format.

Science and Innovation

9. Development of the **Science and Innovation** strategy is nearing completion with the initial draft document attached for information at **Appendix B**. A further stakeholder session has been arranged for Thursday 20th September to gather feedback on the draft from those attendees at the previous workshop programme. A draft version for publication will be presented to the November Strategy Committee.

The Strategy Committee is asked to note the progress in the development of the Science and Innovation Strategy and discuss the initial recommendations and action plan.

Digital Strategy

10. Following a competitive tender process, the LEP has appointed PCSG to provide support to develop our **Digital Strategy**. The company has extensive experience of developing such strategies for government departments, local authorities and businesses. An inception meeting is due to take place w/c 17th September with a draft of the strategy prepared in time for consideration at the November Strategy Committee meeting.

The Strategy Committee is asked to note the consultancy support for the development of the Digital Strategy.

Local Industrial Strategy

11. Government announced shortly before the parliamentary recess at the end of July that Cheshire and Warrington is one of six areas invited to be part of the second wave of development of Local Industrial Strategies.
12. The LEP has moved quickly to engage external consultancy support to review our evidence base in the context of the industrial strategy priorities. Metro dynamics, who supported the refresh of the SEP in 2017, have been appointed and a copy of their proposal (minus financial data) is attached as **Appendix C**.



13. Work has already started on developing a finer grain understanding of our economic performance and initial findings will be shared at the LEP Board Away Day at the end of September.