

# Productivity Strategy Delivery Plan

## LEP Board Paper 6.1

*March 2019*

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**Report theme:** Productivity

**Author:** Eifion Jones

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### **Purpose of report**

To update the Board on progress in the Productivity Strategy's delivery plan and associated communications document.

### **Recommendations**

That the LEP Board

- endorses the delivery plan
- recognises and acknowledges the contribution of a wide range of partners across the area in developing the plan
- notes the request for feedback by 17.00 on 3 April
- notes the on-going work to resource the delivery plan.

### **Background**

The September LEP Board and HotSW Joint Committee endorsed the first draft of the delivery plan which set out the first set of detailed actions across the HotSW partnership to realise the ambition of the Productivity Strategy. The version attached now covers the opportunities that were not developed at that time. The LEP has led on developing the plan and supported this with dedicated resource through the autumn into 2019; the detailed content has been developed by a wide range of partners working in task & finish groups and bringing in expertise where needed; in all, well over 100 people from the local authorities, universities, National Parks and other organisations have worked on the plan in the last few months. The support, commitment and input of a comprehensive range partners across the area in developing this should be warmly recognised.

### **Delivery Plan**

As before, the plan broadly divides into two sections – the 'core offer' concentrating on business support, skills and infrastructure; and a section focussing on the opportunities specific to the LEP area which were agreed in spring 2018. The plan will continue to evolve as actions set out are funded and delivered and to

that end the LEP will lead a 6 monthly refresh of the plan to update content, reflect developments in the Local Industrial Strategy etc.

The plan has been developed with a two stage process in mind; the first to capture the breadth of the partnership's activity both current and for the future, resulting in an extensive and comprehensive plan. The second stage is to identify leads for each part of the plan who refine the actions and take the lead on implementation – set out below.

To incorporate Board members' feedback on the plan, **members are requested to send any points not raised at the Board meeting to Emma Buckman at [emma@buckmanassociates.co.uk](mailto:emma@buckmanassociates.co.uk) by 17.00 on Wednesday 3 April.**

### Resourcing

The Productivity Strategy and this plan are jointly owned by the LEP and the Joint Committee and each has particular areas of expertise and responsibility, in some cases statutory. The recommended approach is therefore that the LEP will be the primary lead for the themes of Business Leadership & Ideas and Employment Skills and Learning, supported by Joint Committee. The Joint Committee will be the primary lead for the theme of Housing, Connectivity & Infrastructure supported by the LEP – a paper is going to the March Joint Committee setting proposals for the JC. In all cases, whilst the LEP or Joint Committee will 'hold the ring' for a particular area of the delivery plan, there will be a wide range of partners involved in developing and delivering the detailed activity; the primary lead role is around convening and commissioning rather than direct delivery.

The LEP's target operating model (TOM - see separate paper) has been developed with this in mind and the LEP's Business and People groups will oversee the activity across the LEP's two lead themes, with the Place group overseeing the LEP's work on Housing, Connectivity & Infrastructure. For the opportunities, resource is either in place or under development as part of the TOM; outside the existing secondees that cover nuclear, marine and aerospace and which the LEP hosts, this is likely to take the shape of service level agreement-type arrangements with a partner(s) who together fund the position with the LEP. The two exceptions to this are healthy ageing where scoping research is under way to understand the full breadth of the opportunity and which will then shape the resource need, and digital creative where further discussions with partners are needed. With the exception of these final two, it is intended to have resource in place for all the remaining opportunities by the summer.

Clearly, as the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) work develops the resourcing will need to be kept under review.

### Communication

The plan is primarily intended as a working document for the partnership though it will be available on the LEP's website. The main communications work will focus on a revised version of the autumn's prospectus to be published after purdah and the local elections and which will be based on the plan. The updated prospectus will include the broad range of the partnership's offer and the primary audience will be MPs and other influencers as the comprehensive spending review gets under way. Final timing of the prospectus will need to be sensitive to the circulation around the same time of the first HotSW draft LIS.

### **Fit with Local Industrial Strategy**

The Productivity Strategy and its delivery plan set out the broad range of interventions the partnership will pursue to raise productivity in the area and ensure prosperity for all. Implementing this will require the LEP and partners to pursue multiple channels – the Local Industrial Strategy is one, the Sub-National Transport Board another and there will be more. The delivery plan will therefore feed into the LIS and provide much of the content, though as noted previously, not everything in the plan will be in the LIS, hence the multi-channel approach.