

SLA Key Deliverables Progress Report for 2019/20

Business Theme – Plymouth City Council

Productivity Strategy/ LIS/ TOM	Outcome	2019/20 Deliverables	2019/ 20 Milestones	Achievements
PS: Business Leadership & Ideas LIS: Business Environment & Ideas TOM: commissioning & implementation	Stimulate business investment and competitiveness - a strong business support infrastructure, incl IDB, entrepreneurship & scale ups - support for inward investment and exporting - support businesses to manage resources more efficiently to achieve clean and inclusive	1. Deliver existing business support proposition. To include		
		a. Growth Hub delivery: 5,900 businesses engaged	End Feb 20	For 2019/20 the Growth Hub were asked to continue delivery against the same outputs, but new stretch targets were put in place. At the point where the Growth Hub transitioned to Devon County Council the Total number of businesses engaged stood at 7544 against the 5900 target. In addition the targets for <i>Businesses Referred</i> and <i>Businesses receiving more Intensive Support</i> were also exceeded.
		b. Commission and launch a scale up service	Somerset May, Devon Oct 19	Inspire, a Chamber of Commerce organisation, were commissioned to deliver their Inspire Elite programme of Scale Up support across the region. The model is based on a combination of one-to-one support, peer-to-peer networks and a strong ecosystem of partner organisations to which business leaders can be referred to for specialist guidance. The LEP area is served by two Directors from Inspire, one covering Somerset and the other Devon The start of the programme was marked with a launch

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	growth			<p>event during May at the Haynes International Motor Museum in Somerset with over 150 attendees. A launch event in Devon, with over 100 attendees, took place in October at the Deer Park Country House, near Honiton.</p> <p>Working with a wide range of strategic partners Inspire tailor bespoke support to help businesses achieve their growth ambitions. Initial fact finds and diagnostics determine whether the programme is right for a business, and quarterly review meetings ensure that those businesses engaging on the programme progress towards their identified goals.</p> <p>In addition, workshops have been delivered on a number of different subjects.</p>
		c. Transfer of the Growth Hub service in-house	End Feb 20	The Growth Hub was bought in-house, delivered by Devon County Council under a Service Level Agreement, on 25 th February.
		d. Respond and support Brexit response: note unknown scale at time of writing and may affect above deliverables	Ongoing	The Growth Hub gained recognition from BEIS and the national Growth Hub network for leading the way in putting together comprehensive online resources to direct businesses to Brexit preparedness support and guidance. Towards the latter part of 2019, further EU Exit resilience support was provided including an EU Exit Resilience Support Service delivered by a local Adviser and facilitated by the Heart of the South West

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				<p>Growth Hub.</p> <p>Government provided additional funding to LEPs for BREXIT support, business readiness and business intelligence. The business readiness activity was bespoke and targeted to those businesses likely to be most affected by leaving the EU. Several pieces of work were commissioned to gather information on the potential impact of leaving the EU to help inform future business support.</p> <p>An evaluation of the programme has been commissioned and will be finished June/July 2020.</p>
		e. Support strength in Places bid development	Ongoing	Strength in places bids were predominantly supported by the Marine opportunities lead with support from us. See below.
		2. Develop a revised business support proposition by end March 2020 to deliver the ambition in the LIS and productivity strategy, with specific focus on start-ups, scale-ups and value of exports and considering suitable funding opportunities. To include:	By end Mar 20	
		a. Evaluate Growth Hub &	Evaluation	Growth Hub Evaluation was completed during Q1

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		use lessons learned in design of future business support	by end June 19	<p>2019, with a presentation to the Business Leadership Group in March and the final version of the report published shortly afterwards. The report has been shared on the LEP website and shared with BEIS as an example of best practice.</p> <p>The Evaluation was generally positive " <i>The Growth Hub has delivered - and in some cases over-performed - against its contractual targets. The service delivery has also, for the most part, been well received by businesses and stakeholders</i>", although a number of recommendations were made. These were included as part of the Service Level Agreement with DCC, for delivery of the Growth Hub...<i>In 2019 the Heart of the South West LEP commissioned an evaluation of the Growth Hub, which was published in March 2019. We require DCC to develop an improvement plan for the recommendations made by the evaluation. Updates on progress of the development of the improvement plan and its delivery should be included in their regular reporting.</i></p>
		b. Map Business Support Landscape – June 2019	End June 19	The Growth Hub Mapping Report for 2019 was completed in May 2019 and shared with the BLG. The report sought to build on the reports issued in the previous two years and avoid duplicating the comprehensive work contained within the Growth Hub

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				Evaluation.
		c. Assessment of business support landscape, What works what doesn't	End Oct 19	<p>Building on the work of the Growth Hub Mapping and Growth Hub Evaluation Report, in September a meeting was held at Cullompton with a number of key stakeholders and support providers from the region. The aim was to learn from their experience what worked and what didn't.</p> <p>The discussion was very insightful with some of the key takeaways being "businesses don't know what they don't know". Awareness raising of the Growth Hub is considered very important, as well as a good initial diagnostic to identify the needs of each business. (This aligns with the finding of the Growth Hub evaluation that our penetration rates are slightly below comparable areas.)</p> <p>It was also highlighted that currently there is little support available for agricultural businesses.</p> <p>The providers did not voice a preference whether future funding for programmes should be made available through tenders or as grants.</p> <p>The opportunity to continue the discussion with the LEP was welcomed, and a follow-up discussion took place in January. This was delivered online, to trial this approach of delivery across the LEP area and as a recognition of the LEPs commitment to reducing the</p>

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				<p>carbon footprint of the region. Because there was still a lack of detail around the future direction of government spending on business support, the meeting was used to give an update on messaging from Government on Growth Hubs, the LEP's understanding on future direction and leaving the EU.</p> <p>Due to the impact of Covid-19 we have not been able to explore further meetings at present.</p>
		<p>d. Gap analysis in business support going forward – how it is delivered (Dec 2019) and what is needed going forward.</p>	<p>End Mar 20</p>	<p>This work was being undertaken as part of the regular delivery plan refresh. The delivery plan identifies what business support is currently being delivered, sources of funding and timelines. It also includes a list of asks where gaps or potential gaps in delivery have been identified.</p>
		<p>3. Work with universities and other key partners to develop an innovation proposition for the area. To including learning from the Brainport example, consideration of appropriateness of an innovation board, implementing findings of the Belmana report on SMEs accessing IUK funding</p>	<p>End Mar 20</p>	<p>PCC has – on behalf of the LEP – successfully bid in to be part of BEIS' Regional Entrepreneurship & Acceleration Programme (REAP) 'Lite', delivered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Business School. Selected onto the programme in January 2020, the LEP is one of only six regions across the UK on the programme. The pilot is part of BEIS' wider Business Basics programme, which looks at new ways to raise firm-level productivity through the adoption of innovative solutions. Whilst the programme has now been temporarily paused after a first series of</p>

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				<p>workshops, our participation has already catalysed the wider work around setting up a HotSW Innovation Board and developing an Innovation Strategy, and the early emerging lessons taken from the programme are already beginning to shape up some initial prospective recommendations towards the LEP's Recovery Plan. The team representing the LEP continue to engage in regular conversations and are planning more evidence gathering to help us better understand the innovation and entrepreneurship environment across the region, and are planning to run consultation exercises with different stakeholder groups. Ultimately, the team will form part of the Innovation Board and suggest recommendations for policy around innovation, based on solid evidence gathering that builds on work already undertaken, such as the Belmana report. The team aims to identify gaps in support, market failures, and solutions to driving innovation and entrepreneurship across the region. Currently, the time frames for this are uncertain. Originally, the was due to run until mid-September, which is now likely to be extended until the end of the year. However, work is progressing in the meantime around evidence gathering and the team's emerging findings will be shared with the LEP Board.</p>
TOM: Thought	Develop LEP's	1. Establish a HotSW		

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Leadership	reputation for thought leadership, supporting the creation of better informed business cases across the wider partnership	Observatory function, working with other local authority partners as needed. To include:		
		a. Operational approach agreed with SAP Observatory, Serio & Marchmont	End Dec 19	Achieved. SERIO and Marchmont (inc. SAP) agreed to support, regular meetings (twice per year) ad-hoc discussions (when specific issues arise) agreed.
		b. Forward programme of research agreed with Leadership Groups and LEP management team	End Feb 20	The urgency of this has shifted, but specific requests for urgently required economic research (for example, SW-wide economic impact modelling of Covid19; tourism impacts of Brexit; MIT Regional Entrepreneurship & Acceleration Programme participation to inform an Innovation strategy) have all been agreed through this process.
		c. LEP website contains library of LEP research created to support partners' work	End Jan 20	The research is available on the LEP website, but more needs to be done to add interactive content to the website.
		2. 2018/19 impact report completed by end September 2019	End Sep 19	Achieved
		3. LEP Board report revised by November Board meeting	End Nov 19	This will be presented to the July Board.

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		4. Support LIS development through developing a robust evidence base. Completion by end Sep 19	End Sep 19	Achieved
LIS: Engineering PS: Advanced Engineering (marine), Bedrock (defence)	Increase value & productivity of HotSW engineering and high value manufacturing sector - secure designation of Plymouth as a national centre for excellence in Marine Autonomy - work with Maritime UK and partners to capitalise on the opportunities for the South West cluster of	1. Lead the HotSW work on advanced engineering (marine). To include:		
		a. Agree new strategic priorities with SW Marine Board	End Oct 19	Done – Strategy and action plan signed off by board at Nov 19 Meeting.
		b. Agree action plan with SW Marine Board	End Dec 19	Done – Strategy and action plan signed off by board at Nov 19 Meeting.
		c. Secure SW Marine cluster status within Maritime UK	End Oct 19	South Coast Marine Cluster joined Maritime UK and rebranded to Maritime UK SW in Dec 19.
		d. Agree 2020-21 funding model and secure the funding for the cluster including LEP contributions and contributions from Catapults	End Feb 20	Board agreed to Sponsorship and Strategic Partnering model. Model successful in attracting circa £30,000 in additional revenues (pending all invoices being paid). Cluster also secured £14,000 PA from contract with ORE Catapult.
e. Building on marine autonomy paper for Navy X and working with the	End Feb 20	MUKSW established an Autonomy and Geospatial Leadership group Chaired by PML and UoP. Created		

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	MUK's Coastal Powerhouse network	Observatory, map the cluster's marine autonomy assets and opportunities across the cluster		high level mapping and strategy exercise, further mapping/promotional material will be delivered through the delivery of the DIT High Potential Opportunity bid (or if unsuccessful through the group)
		f. Target minimum of two applications to funding opportunities to deliver the cluster's objectives	End Mar 20	SIP Floating Offshore Wind submitted. SIP Industrial Digital Technology Hub submitted. Smart Sound 5G RGF. TIGER Interreg Contract. DIT High Potential Opportunity.
		2. Lead the HotSW work on the defence business sector. To include:		
		a. Defence study mapping the HotSW opportunity within its wider SW and national context	End Dec 20	PCC run an open procurement to commission a consultant to deliver a defence mapping study for the region. Bar Associates have been the successful bidder for this work and work started in autumn 2019. BAR Associates presented at the LEP conference 2019 and gave an update to the LEP Board in January 2020. The mapping report was slightly delayed but has now been finalised and a detailed summary report is due to be circulated to LEP MT in May 2020 and the Board thereafter. A draft vision statement which will begin to prioritise the recommendations and set out a strategic vision for the sector in HotSW is also being drafted.

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		b. HotSW defence proposition developed and agreed (off the back of the LIS), HotSW partnership established	End Mar 20	Due to the delay of defence mapping report this work will now take place in Q1/2020. Following the agreement to the vision statement at the Board, a task and finish group will be formed to oversee delivery of the recommendations.
LIS & PS: People	Ensure a skilled workforce through the Skills Escalator approach, specifically improved levels and provision of skills in the construction sector	Build on existing Construction Skills Group, develop a clear pipeline of projects to grow levels of construction skills and engagement of SMEs in the supply chain, aligning with wider work across the HotSW area	By end Mar 20	<p>The following has been delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on leadership/ co-ordination of the 'Building' model family to better connect Plymouth, Exeter, Somerset (Under Construct) and Cornwall • Refreshed the current construction theme group with meetings and papers and appointed Chair from Industry • Reviewing the current action plan and opportunities with members and making it "live" with key objectives • Commenced development of a social value conference across the LEP and how this can be exploited across the sector in the Peninsula • Begun the development of a skills gap analysis across the LEP area based on current offer from FE/ HE and Private providers and looking at demand from LMI tools
Pre LIS & PS: Growth deal				Work continued on the programme management of all business theme Growth Deal projects. During

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Programme Management				<p>2019/2020 all GD 3 projects proceeded to funding agreement, with only one project left not having a signed funding agreement as of Q1/20.</p> <p>GD1 and GD 2 projects have all funding agreements and several projects have finished claiming. End of project visits were in planning but had to be delayed due to COVID 19. We appraised several change requests from existing projects and brought these before SIP for consideration.</p> <p>All UGF projects have funding agreements. We appraised several change requests from UGF funded projects and presented these to SIP for consideration.</p> <p>We worked with the PMO and the Accountable Body to update output & claims forecasts and contacted projects that were underperforming. We supported the Accountable Body on the quarterly claims.</p>

Key:

Complete	Work in Progress and On Schedule/No Issues	Work in Progress and Some Issues	Not Started or Behind Schedule/Issues to consider
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