

Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership

LEP Board Paper agenda item 9 iii)

Report title: Build Back Better Update

Date: 8 April 2022

Purpose: This paper is for **decision**.

Link to LIS: Indicate by **bolding** which area the paper links to.

Inclusive Growth		Clean growth		
Energy	Engineering		Digital	
Ideas/ Innovation	People/Skills	Infrastructure	Bus. Environment	Places

Timing: Ongoing

Financial Impact: None

Decisions requested: that the revised Build Back Better plan is approved

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Summary

This paper outlines the refresh that has been done of the Build Back Better Plan. A verbal update on progress towards delivering the transformational opportunities will be provided at the Board meeting.

1) Background

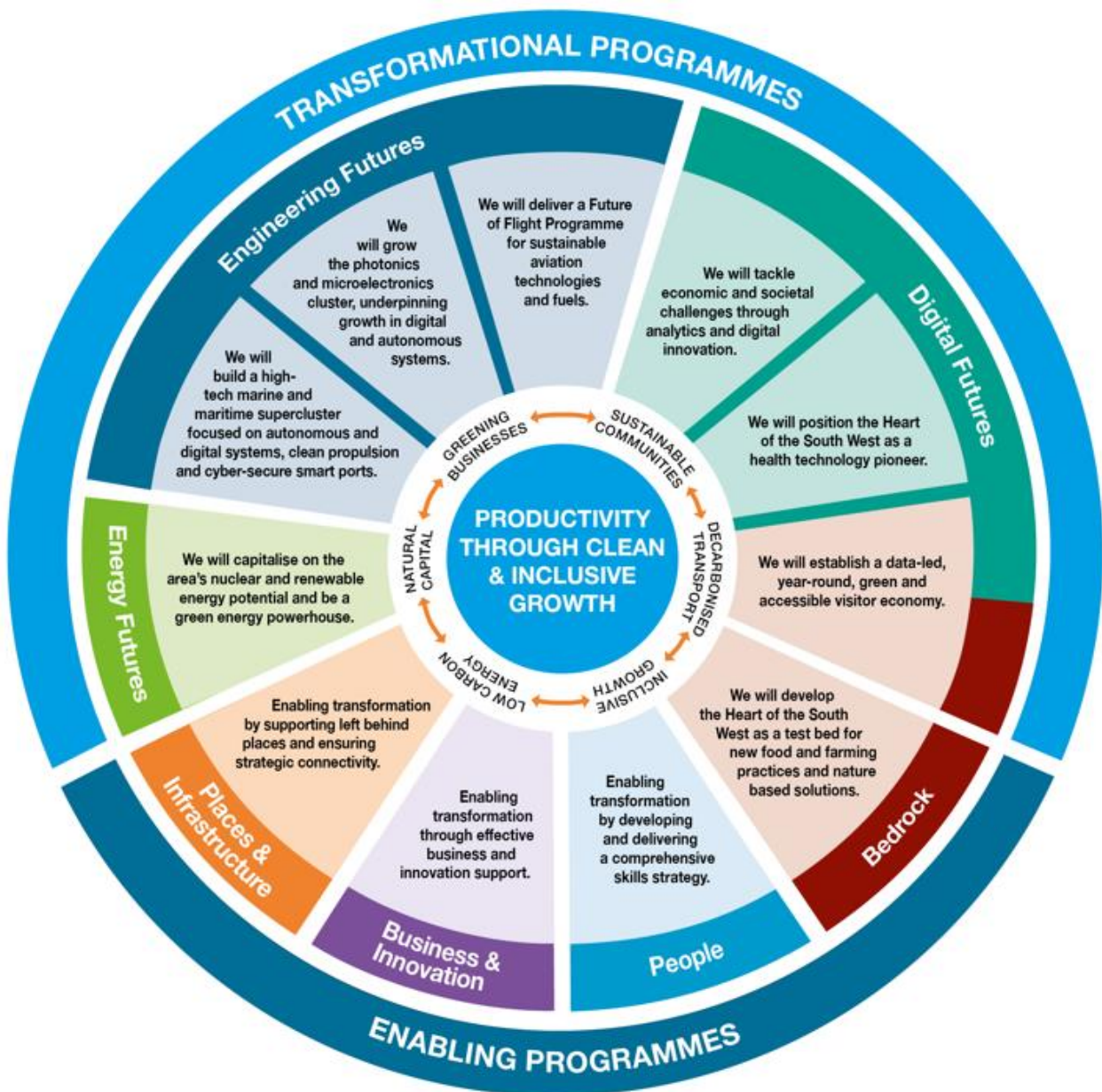
- 1.1 In April 2021, we published the Heart of the South West's Build Back Better plan following consultation with business and the 16 local authority, four university and 10 FE college partners.
- 1.2 Build Back Better is not on its own a recovery plan but is rooted in the ambitious vision of our agreed Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which identifies Energy, High Value Engineering and Digital as the dynamic heart of our local economy, with opportunities to drive clean and inclusive growth across multiple sectors. The plan focuses on accelerating these opportunities through the delivery of seven transformational programmes and four enabling programmes.
- 1.3 The Build Back Better plan is increasingly driving the LEP's delivery activity, particularly in relation to our priority sectors. As we develop our business plan for 2022/23 and reflect the emerging policy changes, it is considered the right time to review the plan and refresh it where necessary.

2) Refresh

- 2.1 We have undertaken a refresh of the Build Back Better plan to ensure we are focussed on delivering the right priorities going into the new financial year.
- 2.2 The first part of this review was to embed the Blueprint for Clean Growth into the plan, reflecting our increasing focus on this opportunity and our Race to Zero pledge to achieve net zero in the 2040s or sooner. Many of our clean growth priorities were already folded into the existing Build Back Better transformational and enabling programmes so this part of the refresh was relatively light touch.
- 2.3 The second part of the review was to reflect some policy changes since the plan was published in April 2021. This included the government's Net Zero Strategy published in October, the Innovation Strategy issued in July and Innovate UK's plan for Building the Future Economy published in November, and most recently, the Levelling Up White Paper published in February 2022.
- 2.4 The third part of the review was to reflect the growing recognition that if the agricultural transition underway is managed well and has the right provision of support for farmers and landholders, it could be transformational and should therefore be built into the plan. Consequently a new transformational programme has been added, also incorporating our natural capital activity.
- 2.5 Finally, other minor drafting points to update move the language on from 2020.
- 2.6 The main updates to the Build Back Better Plan are summarised below:
 - Energy – removal of the aim to be a net exporter of energy, new focus on being self-sufficient, updated text on the floating wind opportunity in the Celtic Sea.
 - Marine – updated text to reflect the Ocean Futures 10 year investment plan, increased focus on zero emission shipping.
 - Photonics – addition of microelectronics to better describe the sector, links with other priority sectors highlighted, new focus on providing additional grow-on space, explicit reference to delivery of the Electronics and Photonics Production Park.
 - Sustainable Aviation – additional text to reflect the agreed aim of the Sustainable Aviation Programme Board, broadening of the geographical extent of the demonstration zone, inclusion of activity to promote the cluster nationally and internationally.
 - Digital Innovation and Data Analytics – additional text to better illustrate the region's strengths, additional text to improve integration with the marine and environmental intelligence R&D programme developed by the Innovation Board, targeted key actions relating to the recent Build Back Better Digital Call.
 - Health Tech – enhanced text to describe the opportunity, updated information on the emerging plans for a new regional framework, inclusion of the Plymouth Health Technology Innovation Hub that the LEP is funding.
 - Tourism – updated text to reflect the new Towards 2030 plan, inclusion of the Tourism Data Hub as a key action, presented as both a digital opportunity and a bedrock sector.
 - Food, Farming & Natural Capital – new transformational programme for this bedrock sector to reflect the opportunity presented by the agricultural transition and the LEP's commitment to natural capital.

- Business and Innovation – a presentational change in merging of these programmes to keep the total at 11

The updated “wheel” is shown below and the full plan will be published on the LEP website



3) Governance

- 3.1 We have also been reflecting on a stronger governance framework for delivery of the Build Back Better Plan within our operating model. We have established programme boards for two of the transformational opportunities – Energy Futures and Sustainable Aviation – and are in the process of establishing a further two – Digital and Food, Farming & Natural Capital. We currently have three Board members to chair these boards and are keen to identify someone to chair the Sustainable Aviation programme board.
- 3.2 Where we are working with existing partnerships to deliver other programmes – Marine (Ocean Futures), Photonics and Microelectronics (High Tech Cluster) and Tourism (Great South West Tourism Partnership) – we will ensure a link back to the Board is maintained either through regular progress reports such as this regular update paper or through direct Board member involvement, as is already the case with tourism.

3.3 The programme boards will replace the Place group which will be wound up in 22/23. The Business group, Innovation Board and Skills Advisory Panel will continue and the inclusive growth expert panel is being convened from May.

4) Recommendation

4.1 That the revised BBB plan is approved