

## **STRENGTHENED LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS – SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Role and responsibilities:**

Government will:

- Publish a **statement on the role and responsibilities** of LEPs. LEPs will focus on enhancing productivity. This will be achieved through the development and delivery of their Local Industrial Strategy.
- Publish a **further statement on Local Industrial Strategies** to guide locally-led work. This statement will be published over the summer. Government will aim to agree Local Industrial Strategies with all areas of England by early 2020.
- Commission an **annual economic outlook** to independently measure economic performance across all LEPs and the areas they cover.

Government will support all LEPs to:

- Develop an evidence-based **Local Industrial Strategy** that sets out a long-term economic vision for their area based on local consultation.
- Publish an **annual delivery plan and end of year report**. This will include key performance indicators to assess the impact of their Local Industrial Strategy, funding and interventions. It will inform objective assessment on LEP performance.

### **Leadership and organisational capacity:**

Government will:

- Increase **regular dialogue** with LEPs. This includes the **Prime Minister chaired Council** announced in the Industrial Strategy, as well as a **senior official sponsor** for every LEP from across government departments.
- Actively **work with LEPs to advertise opportunities** for private sector leaders to become a LEP Chair when vacancies emerge. While these are not public appointments, we will offer to list vacancies on the Centre for Public Appointments website.
- Offer an **induction and training** programme for LEP board members and officers on working with Government. We will work with the LEP Network, Local Government Association and other professional development bodies to develop this programme.
- Provide **up to £20 million between 2018-19 and 2019-20 in additional capacity funding to support LEPs** to implement the review and to provide the strategic and analytical capability needed to develop ambitious Local Industrial Strategies.

Government will support LEPs to:

- **Consult widely and transparently** with the business community before appointing a new Chair; and introduce **defined term limits** for Chairs and Deputy Chair.
- Establish more **representative boards of a maximum of 20 persons** with the option to co-opt up to five additional board members. Our aspiration is that two-thirds of board members should be from the private sector;
- **Improve the gender balance and representation of those with protected characteristics on boards** with an aim that women make up at least one third of

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LEP boards by 2020 with an expectation for equal representation by 2023, and ensuring all LEP boards are representative of the businesses and communities they serve.

- **Provide a secretariat independent of local government** to support LEPs' decision making.
- **Develop a strong local evidence base of economic strengths, weaknesses and comparative advantages** within a national and international context. This will be supported by **robust evaluation of individual projects and interventions**.

### Accountability and performance:

Government will:

- Continue to maintain **overall accountability for the system** of LEPs and local growth funding, and implement in full the recommendations of the Ney Review and any future recommendations that may be made as the performance of LEPs is scrutinised and reviewed.
- Assess and publish annual performance against **quantitative and qualitative measures** set out within LEP delivery plans.
- Set out within a revised National Assurance Framework a clear statement on an **escalating approach to intervention** in any instances where LEPs demonstrate that they are found to be underperforming.
- Develop with the LEP Network and LEPs a **sector-led approach to assessing and improving performance** through regular peer review.

Government will support all LEPs to:

- Have a **legal personality**, such as incorporation as companies, or mayoral combined authorities or combined authorities where they exist.
- Set out clearly and transparently the **responsibilities of the Chair, Board, Director, and Accountable Body**, including over spending decisions, appointments, and governance.
- Actively participate in relevant **local authority scrutiny panel** enquiries to ensure effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions.
- Hold **annual general meetings** open to the public to attend to ensure the communities that they represent can understand and influence the economic plans for the area.

### Geography:

Government will:

- Ask LEP Chairs and other local stakeholders to come forward with **considered proposals by the end of September on geographies which best reflect real functional economic areas, remove overlaps and, where appropriate, propose wider changes such as mergers**. Government will respond to these proposals in the autumn and future capacity funding will be contingent on successfully achieving this.

## Appendix 1

Government will support all LEPs to:

- **Collaborate across boundaries** where interests are aligned when developing strategies and interventions to maximise their impact across their different objectives.

### **Mayoral combined authorities:**

Government will:

- **Consolidate its engagement with mayoral combined authorities and their LEPs** with a collaborative approach to agreeing a Local Industrial Strategy.

In mayoral combined authority areas, we will work with each LEP and mayoral combined authority to:

- **Ensure LEPs have a distinctive role in setting strategy and commissioning interventions** to drive growth, jobs and private sector investment
- **Require LEPs and mayoral combined authorities to develop local agreements** which clearly set out roles and responsibilities and accountability.
- **Encourage LEPs and mayoral combined authorities to move towards coterminous geographies where appropriate** in line with the wider discussions on LEP geographies.

### **Implementation**

We will work with LEPs to develop revised proposals for geography by 28 September 2018 and a detailed plan for implementing the above changes before 31 October 2018. We will then work with LEPs, as above, to ensure these plans are implemented effectively across the country.

To support this, Government will publish a revised National Assurance Framework. This will clearly define what is required of each LEP to be compliant and to receive future core and growth funding.

We will also work with the LEP Network to identify and develop case studies of good practice and commission an additional training offer that will be available to LEP Chairs and board members.