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**Report to:** Green Economy Panel

**Date:** 29 January 2019

**Subject:** **Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update the LEP Board on the latest position in implementing Government's recommendations for *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*.

## **2. Information**

### Local consensus on LEP geography

- 2.1 As noted at the LEP Board on 22 November, there is now local consensus that supports the development of a West and North Yorkshire LEP as proposed.
- 2.2 Following Ministerial discussions with LEP Chairs, the York, North Yorkshire, and East Riding LEP (YNYER) chose on 16 November to submit an alternative proposal that supports a West and North Yorkshire LEP. The Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board reaffirmed its proposal (22 November) for that geography (fig.1), which was set out in a letter to the Secretary of State which is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 A response from the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire MP, to Roger Marsh was received on 4 December 2018, welcoming the LEP's positive response to the review recommendations including the resolution of overlaps. It also confirmed that the LEP would receive an allocation, to support the implementation of the review and building the evidence base for the Local Industrial Strategy. This is attached at Appendix 2. Since this letter was received the additional funding allocation of £200,000 has been confirmed.

*Fig.1 – the proposed geography of a West and North Yorkshire LEP*



#### Implementation

- 2.4 There are two stages to implementation of the Government recommendations. The first stage is to implement recommendations to ensure that current arrangements for the LEP are compliant. The second stage involves those changes that need to happen in order to create a new LEP by April 2020.

#### Creation of a new LEP

- 2.5 In order to implement the new geographic proposals and other Government recommendations a Transition Subgroup with members from both YNYER LEP and LCR LEP has been established. The remit of this group will be to make recommendations at the March 2019 Board meetings of the respective LEPs about the working arrangements for a new LEP that covers North and West Yorkshire, to be operational from April 2020.
- 2.6 The Transition Subgroup is made up of:
- YNYER – David Kerfoot MBE DL (YNYER Chair), Prof Colin Mellors (YNYER LEP Board Member), Cllr Carl Les (YNYER LEP Board Member / Leader North Yorkshire CC) and James Farrer (Chief Operating Officer YNYER LEP).
  - LCR – Roger Marsh OBE (LCR LEP Chair), Andrew Wright (LCR LEP Board Member), Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe LCR LEP Board Member / CA Chair / Leader of Bradford Council) and Ben Still (Managing Director LCR LEP).
- 2.7 The Transition Subgroup will operate in a way that is:

- Collaborative and transparent – recognising the interests of both LEPs and the nature of North and West Yorkshire’s diverse economies and communities, and the need for the working group to build trust across parties.
- Informed – sharing openly, current ways of working to help partners reflect on ‘the best of both’ in order to shape future options.
- Prioritised – ensuring Board-level direction and leadership on those issues that require attention first, with space for detailed options to be worked through by officers.
- Ambitious – this change is being made for positive reasons, providing opportunity to explore and set-out transformative ideas for how a new LEP might operate.

2.8 The group is focussing on 8 areas, which combined will cover all of the Government’s recommendations, to report on at the next LEP Board. These are:

1. Transition and Leadership – make recommendations on practical solutions to enable a new LEP to be operational by April 2020.
2. Policy and Strategy – make recommendations about the Local Industrial Strategy approach to ensure improved economic and social outcomes across all constituent parts of the new LEP.
3. Identity, Communications and Engagement – make recommendations on the new LEP’s identity and approach to communication and engagement during the transitional phase and for the new LEP.
4. LEP Membership – make recommendations on LEP Board structures and membership in line with the LEP review requirements.
5. Decision Making – make recommendations on decision making for the new LEP.
6. Programme Delivery – make recommendations on the approach to managing existing programmes.
7. Economic Services – make recommendations about the approach to shaping and delivering economic services.
8. Regional and National Influence – make recommendations on relationships, opportunities and risks.

2.9 The Transition Subgroup will bring recommendations from the above workstreams to the March LEP Board for approval.

2.10 A more substantial report was submitted to the 23 January LEP Board. The Chair of the Panel will feedback on the discussion at that meeting.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **5. Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report. Significant additional activity to deliver a new LEP for West and North Yorkshire is being met through reprioritisation of existing staff resources and – potentially – additional capacity funding from Government.

## **6. External Consultees**

- 6.1 There have not been any external consultations.

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 To note the content of the report.

## **8. Background Documents**

- 8.1 None

## **9. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Letter from Roger Marsh OBE to James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Appendix 2 – Letter from James Brokenshire MP to Roger Marsh OBE.