

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 14 February 2019

Subject: **Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 For the Combined Authority to determine whether to agree, in principle, to act as the accountable body for a new local enterprise partnership (LEP) covering the geographical areas of West and North Yorkshire, and York. This is subject to, and does not prejudice, upcoming considerations by the existing LEP Boards about whether and how to establish a new LEP, and the work of the Transition Subgroup that is overseeing the development of recommendations to those Boards.

2. Information

Delivering 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships'

- 2.1 The Combined Authority has previously noted (13 December 2018) the local consensus to **create a new Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)** from April 2020 for a geography covering West and North Yorkshire and York, representing the majority of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership. This responds to Government's requirement to remove overlapping geographies, as set out in the paper '*Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*'.

2.2 Representatives of the two LEPs are working collaboratively via a joint **Transition Subgroup to lead the establishment of the new LEP**. It is developing proposals across eight workstreams, which will report to both LEP Boards in late March 2019 in order to enable the Boards to decide to proceed with the creation of the new LEP, and to secure mandates to progress further work:

- 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.

Accountable body of the new LEP

- 2.3 In respect of workstreams (1) and (5), there is a need to determine the new LEP’s accountable body – that is, the organisation responsible for ensuring that the LEP makes decisions in accordance with its local assurance framework to deliver transparent, accountable decision-making that provides value for money.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority currently acts as the accountable body for the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, while North Yorkshire County Council is the accountable body for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP.
- 2.5 As the Transition Subgroup considers accountable body arrangements for the new LEP, it would be helpful for the Combined Authority to **provide a clear indication whether it is willing for the Combined Authority to play that role**, subject to that being what the Transition Subgroup and LEP Boards agree as being in the best interests of the future LEP.
- 2.6 The Combined Authority being the accountable body of the new LEP would enable there to be a single local assurance framework applied consistently across all LEP and Combined Authority-funded programmes, providing strong accountability and value for money.

2.7 How the Combined Authority would exercise its functions for the new LEP is a matter of consideration by the Transition Subgroup. Detailed proposals will be developed once the two LEP Boards have agreed whether to proceed with the creation of a new LEP.

3. Inclusive Growth Implications

3.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The Combined Authority already performs the Accountable Body function for the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, therefore our provisional assumption is that this proposal is likely to be cost neutral. However, financial implications are being worked through in the project to create a new LEP.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Undertaking the role of accountable body has legal implications associated with being responsible for ensuring the LEP complies with its local assurance framework. These are similar however to those the Combined Authority currently undertakes for the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership.

6. Staffing Implications

6.1 There are no direct staffing implications directly arising from this report.

7. External Consultees

7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the Combined Authority agrees in principle to act as the accountable body for the new Local Enterprise Partnership

9. Background Documents

The background documents referenced in the report:

- Combined Authority report on delivery of 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' (13 December 2018)
- LEP Board report on the progress of the Transition Subgroup (24 January 2019)

10. Appendices

None.