
Report to: Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

Date: 14 July 2020

Subject: **Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide a report on the recent work of the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel, including:
- views on both its role and on the types of interventions needed to ensure an inclusive economic recovery; and
 - proposals for Inclusive Growth champions on other LEP Panels, to help ensure inclusion, equality and diversity is embedded across the full breadth of the LEP's work.

2. Information

- 2.1 The Panel met on 15 June to review its role, particularly in the context of the economic response and recovery issues around the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.2 Related developments and issues were noted, including the following:
- The global reaction to social injustices and inequality, including the Black Lives Matter movement;
 - People living in our most deprived areas are twice as likely to die of Covid-19 than the wealthiest;
 - The sudden economic downturn (monthly GDP fell by 20.4% in April, the biggest monthly fall on record) and an uncertain recovery has created the potential for a lost generation of young people - unable to enter the labour market and becoming 'NEET' (those young people not in employment, education or training); and
 - The important role played by the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (also referred to elsewhere in this report as the third sector) during the pandemic was recognised in terms of connecting with the people and communities that need the most assistance. It was

suggested that a key role of the third sector should be to ensure the most excluded benefit from recovery.

2.3 The purpose of the Panel was discussed in terms of three distinct roles: delivery, support and monitoring.

Delivery role

2.4 It was agreed that an ambitious action plan is needed to deliver inclusive growth in the region and which takes account of the following views:

- Recognises the interlocking nature of regional Inclusive Growth priorities and interventions – that is, to deliver wellbeing, skills, connectivity and good work, as set out in the draft Inclusive Growth Framework;
- Targeting a few key priorities with high levels of impact is preferable to broader, but more thinly spread, support;
- Learns from previous best practices, eg 1980/90/00s style targeted interventions, designed around the needs and strengths of specific groups and excluded neighbourhoods (such as SRB, City/Rural Challenge, LEGI etc) with a view to enabling these communities to create new and sustainable enterprises (including social enterprises) and good jobs;
- Delivers the range of supply side programmes needed (not only more infrastructure investment), such as training support for those furloughed workers vulnerable to being made unemployed;
- Seeks devolution of national programmes – eg support programmes for young people;
- Focuses on job retention, particularly in the current context and given how much harder it is to create new ones, always being mindful of the risk of communities being left behind;
- Delivers support and investment to the third sector needed to help achieve its potential role of ensuring that the most excluded benefit from the economic recovery. A strong, clear regional voice for the third sector and co-ordination to promote learning and resilience will complement local relationships and interventions, and provide a strategic interface with public and private sectors;
- Recognises that social unrest has a negative impact on productivity – recovery planning therefore needs to embody a strong drive for social justice and supporting communities; and
- The draft WY Economic Recovery Plan represents a helpful starting point with a robust focus on response, recovery and resilience, acknowledging that any regional Inclusive Growth programme in support of the Plan, will require a dedicated funding envelope, in addition to funding required to deliver other priorities such as business, skills, infrastructure and a green economy.

Support role

2.5 It was also recognised that the Panel should seek to further develop its role in supporting the work of other Panels and Committees, where appropriate, on the basis that:

- Inclusive Growth is inherently cross-cutting in nature – tackling inequalities is highly relevant to all areas of the LEP’s work (including skills, business, green economy, and place) – therefore there is a need to make more explicit the role of the Panel in supporting other Panels and Committees to ensure they all deliver inclusive growth outcomes;
- Agreed that identifying Inclusive Growth champions on each Panel would be useful in setting challenges and overseeing standards; and
- The Panel should also provide a strong united voice to lead on related representations/challenges to Government, eg to ensure the Shared Prosperity Fund drives more inclusive growth.

Monitoring role

2.6 Finally, the potential for the Panel to further develop its monitoring role was discussed:

- Agreement that access to robust and comprehensive data sets is key and that there is a need to be able to identify the risk groups, eg going beyond age groups into ethnicity, gender and place;
- There are however currently limitations in terms of our understanding of the current socio economic context;
- Any regional delivery plans must be evidence based – such as better understanding impacts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups in terms of health and industrial sectors; and
- There is a need therefore for a fit for purpose indicator set, eg a dashboard or index (such as the Social Progress Index). The Panel agreed to consider options at a future meeting.

3. Clean Growth Implications

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

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Staffing Implications

6.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

7. External Consultees

7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the report of the work of the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel be noted, including the views both on the Panel's role and the types of interventions that are needed to ensure an inclusive economic recovery.
- 8.2 That the LEP Board agrees to identify Inclusive Growth champions on each of its Panels, to help ensure that thinking and challenge around inclusion, equality and diversity is embedded across the full breadth of the LEP's work.

9. Background Documents

- 9.1 None.

10. Appendices

- 10.1 None.