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

Date: 3 September 2020

Subject: **Strategic Economic Framework**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the Strategic Economic Framework, to provide an opportunity for comments, and to seek endorsement of it.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 Since 2016 the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has set out the organisation's priorities for growth and development. As previously discussed, to reflect the growing range of policies that we operate in, changing national political and economic circumstances and the need to incorporate the future mayor's manifesto commitments in our work, an agile Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) has been developed. It is planned that the SEP will be replaced by the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF). However, it should be noted that the SEP will continue to be used for Growth Deal programmes until this ends in March 2021.
- 2.2 The SEF will form the new overarching strategy for the region, building on the successes of the SEP. It sets out the vision for the region and our priorities for achieving this. It ensures that all LEP and Combined Authority strategies are aligned with a clear focus on meeting these priorities. It has been designed to be flexible, able to reflect our evolving policy remit and improve our resilience during periods of change and uncertainty. It will bring together existing and subsequent strategies under a single banner, ensuring greater alignment between our strategies, priorities and vision for the region.
- 2.3 To allow for greater flexibility the SEF is not a single, published document but brings together our various plans and strategies to form an overall strategy. It includes both existing policies and strategies, as well as future ones and will be hosted on a public-facing website. Policies can be amended, added or removed from the SEF to respond to changing circumstances without having

to amend or withdraw the entire suite of material. At present the SEF only contains policies and strategies previously adopted, but also collates detail on our vision and priorities, presenting our existing position in a new way.

- 2.4 In town planning the “local plan” is not actually a single document, but a series of documents, including a Core Strategy, neighbourhood plans and supplementary planning documents (amongst others) that collectively make up the Local Plan. The SEF will operate in a similar way. It will not be a single document but will bring together our various plans and strategies under a single banner.
- 2.5 It should be noted that agenda item 16 outlines the proposed process for the Single Investment Fund, which aims to give greater local freedom and flexibility over how to prioritise investments. The SEF once adopted, will be used to support the prioritisation of any investments made through the Single Investment Fund, underpinned by the MCA’s Assurance Framework.
- 2.6 Following endorsement by the LEP Board, the SEF will be formally adopted by the Combined Authority.

Structure of the SEF

- 2.7 The SEF has five sections: Our Vision, Our Priorities, Our Policies and Strategies, Our Partnerships and Monitoring and Impact. The full SEF webpages under construction can be accessed [here](#).
- 2.8 During its development, the SEF has often been summarised as a diagram such as the one below.



- 2.9 **Our Vision.** This first section sets our high-level, long-term vision for the region that seeks to overcome the structural challenges we face. It sets out the strengths of the region, the challenges it faces, the purpose of the SEF, how it builds on the successes of the SEP and introduces our priorities for the region.

The proposed text for this section of the SEF website is appended to this report (Appendix 1).

2.10 **Our Priorities.** This section focuses on our priorities for the region. These are aligned with the five corporate priorities set out in the draft Corporate Plan (February 2020). Each priority has its own webpage detailing the challenge the priority aims to overcome, why it has been prioritised, examples of projects that aim to meet that priority and links to relevant policies. This includes statutory policies such as the Local Transport Plan and policies with an explicit focus on one of our priorities such as the Inclusive Growth Framework. The five priorities are:

- Boosting Productivity
- Enabling Inclusive Growth
- Tackling the Climate Emergency
- Delivering 21st Century Transport
- Securing Money and Powers

The draft text for the webpage for the “Delivering 21st Century Transport” priority is appended to this report as an example (Appendix 2). All five priorities are available to view on the SEF website.

2.11 **Our Policies and Strategies.** This section details our specific policies and strategies. These have been collected into policy groups. Each policy group has a page that details the overall vision for the policy area, strengths and challenges relating to that area, how work in that policy area helps meet our priorities and examples of projects that are informed by these policies. The draft text for the webpage for the “Housing, Heritage and Regeneration” policy area is appended to this report as an example (Appendix 3). The full range of policies and strategies are available to view on the SEF website.

2.12 Some policies and strategies will help meet all our priorities, others will have a narrower focus. The Local Industrial Strategy is a broad strategy that will cover ground across several priorities. The Cultural Strategy will do little to deliver 21st century transport. All policies are afforded equal weight in the SEF though. Collectively, alongside the other parts of the SEF, they form the overarching strategy for the region.

2.13 **Our Partnerships.** This section reaffirms our commitment to partnership working, detailing our relationship with local authorities and the private sector. It also sets out our consultation and engagement process and our membership of other bodies such as NP11 and Transport for the North. The draft text for this section of the SEF website is appended to this report (Appendix 4).

2.14 **Monitoring and impact.** The SEF is underpinned by a monitoring and impact section. The success of the SEF will be monitored against our progress across the five priorities. These will be supplemented by a more extensive range of indicators covering each policy and strategy area. The indicators are intended to show how the local economy is developing and improving but also demonstrate how the work of the LEP, Combined Authority and partners is

contributing to progress. A list of the draft headline indicators, which are still under development, is appended to this report (Appendix 5).

- 2.15 Draft headline indicators against the five priorities are being published as part of the SEF in September 2020. Indicators against policy and strategy areas will be published at a later date. Work is ongoing to develop these. It is proposed that an annual “State of the Region” report will be issued.

Next steps

- 2.16 A series of communications activities are planned to support the launch of the SEF. Communications activity will also celebrate the successes of the SEP.
- 2.17 Once adopted the SEF will be formally reviewed every six months by the strategy team. Combined Authority officers will be responsible for updating them to reflect changes in context or policy positions agreed by the LEP and Combined Authority. Officers are already timetabling futures changes, for example the replacement of the *Green and Blue Infrastructure* and *Energy* policy pages once the “Tackling the Climate Emergency Plan” is published. Some examples of policy/strategy updates are detailed in the table below – and a schedule of further updates will be brought to a future meeting.

Policy/Strategy	Expected publication
Economic Recovery Plan	September 2020
Adult Education Budget Strategy	September 2020
Employment and Skills Plan	Spring 2021
Tackling the Climate Emergency Plan	Spring 2021
Local Transport Plan	2021 tbc

To ensure version control is maintained, each page on the SEF website will clearly state when the page was last edited and when the next scheduled review will be.

- 2.19 Any new policies or strategies or major amendments to the SEF will be brought to the Combined Authority for approval, following consideration by the appropriate advisory Panel.
- 2.20 The SEF will inform the production of the Single Investment Fund strategy and updated Assurance Framework.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5. Staffing Implications

5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6. External Consultees

6.1 None.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That LEP Board

- notes that the SEP will continue to be used for Growth Deal programmes until this ends in March 2021
- endorses the concept and content of the SEF and provides any comments for consideration by the Combined Authority
- notes the intention for future policies, strategies and changes to the SEF to be brought to the LEP Board and advisory panels for consideration as appropriate

8. Background Documents

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft text for “Vision” section of the SEF website.

Appendix 2: Example - Draft text for the “Delivering 21st Century Transport” priority section of the SEF website.

Appendix 3: Example - Draft text for the “Housing, Heritage and Regeneration” policy area section of the SEF website.

Appendix 4: Example - Draft text for the “Our Partnerships” section of the SEF website.

Appendix 5: Draft headline monitoring indicators.