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

Date: 15 September 2021

Subject: **LEP Review**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the LEP board with an update on the progress of the national review of LEPs.

2. Information

- 2.1 At the budget in March 2021 government set out a commitment to work with local businesses and LEPs on a review of LEPs.
“We will also be working with local businesses on the future role of Local Enterprise Partnerships. We want to ensure local businesses have clear representation and support in their area, in order to drive the recovery. We will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships over the coming months, with a view to announcing more detailed plans ahead of summer recess. This will also include consideration of Local Enterprise Partnership geographies¹.”
- 2.2 A process of review and engagement has taken place since this announcement. The LEP Network has established a formal working group with the review team and input has been sought from a range of groups including local stakeholders, the Metro Mayors’ M10 group and NP11.
- 2.3 The government’s original intention was to come to a detailed resolution by the summer recess, with any changes expected to be in place, at least in part, by financial year 2022/23.
- 2.4 However, the review has become entangled with wider questions on future funding, the approach to Levelling Up, and institutional structures of devolution and has therefore not yet reached a conclusion.
- 2.5 As an interim measure, prior to the conclusion of the review, in July government wrote to LEPs and confirmed that they will provide six months of LEP Core Funding for 2021/22 financial year. This funding therefore comes to an end at the end of September. Any further funding is dependent on

announcements to be made at the Comprehensive Spending Review and the submission of financial data on LEP performance.

2.6 Dates are awaited for the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper and the 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review, though the expectation is that they will take place in October or November.

2.7 The Levelling Up White Paper is expected to outline local organisational roles in relation to economic development.

2.8 At the LEP Board in April 2021 it was agreed that:

- the current LEP Chair will remain in post for the remainder of the agreed tenure.
- following the outcome of the Government review, work begins in partnership with local authorities, LEP Board members, and wider stakeholders on the scope and role profile for a new LEP Chair, and enhanced LEP engagement from private sector members.

It is therefore expected that the recruitment of the new LEP Chair will take place post Comprehensive Spending Review.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 There are no climate emergency implications arising from this report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications arising from this report.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The Combined Authority/LEP budget for 2021/22 includes the full core funding for the year and payment of this had been confirmed by BEIS earlier this year. Further information will be provided to the Board regarding LEP Core Funding following the Comprehensive Spending Review. Non-payment of the second instalment of the core funding will create a £250k deficit in the budget.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

9.1 None

10. Recommendations

10.1 That the LEP Board notes the content of the report.

11. Background Documents

11.1 None

12. Appendices

12.1 None