

**Environment and Economy
Overview and Scrutiny
Panel**

Agenda
Item:
A.2

Meeting Date: 26 November 2015
Portfolio: Economy and Enterprise
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and Budget Framework YES
Public / Private Public

Title: CUMBRIA LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
Report of: Director of Economic Development
Report Number: ED 41/15

Purpose / Summary:

The report provides a briefing on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and an update on the work of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Recommendations:

Issues to be explored

- Communication
- Involvement of the Public Sector

Tracking

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Executive: | |
| Overview and Scrutiny: | |
| Council: | |

BACKGROUND

1.1 Cumbria LEP was set up in 2011 as a response to the incoming Government's focus on business growth and following the removal of the regional development agencies. There are 39 LEPs now operating, with 100% coverage across England. These vary in geography and in population size and density (see map). Cumbria is the smallest LEP with a population of just over 400,000.

1.2 The government required LEPs to be public /private partnerships which are private sector led. However, the Accountable Body function for much of LEP funding are local authorities. Following a commission from the Prime Minister, Lord Heseltine in his report "No Stone Unturned" made a series of recommendations in all aspects of Government policy which affect economic growth. The Government's response to the Heseltine review was issued on 20th March 2013. The report strengthens the role of LEPs in economic development and identifies the following key actions which are currently being implemented:

- Creating a single local growth fund, allocated through a process of negotiation and competition tension to strengthen incentives on LEPs and their partners to generate growth
- Asking LEPs to develop new strategic multi-year plans for local growth, which will be the basis on which the government negotiates deals with each LEP
- Streamlining the management of the EU Structural and Investment Funds and aligning priorities on the basis of the plans led by LEPs
- Supporting local authorities that wish to create a combined authority or implement other forms of collaboration (including proposals for formal collaboration between authorities that reinforce the standing of the LEP and enhance the partnership with the private sector)
- Stream-lining public bodies by transferring functions to the local level and the private sector where appropriate
- Reforming the education and skills system
- Encouraging businesses to develop and share their capacity for growth

1.3 The membership of the Cumbria LEP board is currently as follows:

Private sector board members are:

- George Beveridge, Nuclear Management Partners (Sellafield) Chair
- Jackie Arnold, BAE Systems Submarine Solutions

- Stephen Broughton, Lindeth Howe/Mountain Goat
- Graham Lamont, Winning Co. and Lamont Pridmore
- Marna McMillin, CEO Energy 4All
- Kate Milbourn, Walby Farm Park

It should be noted that the LEP Board Private Sector membership is currently being refreshed and new Board members details will be released prior to their first meeting due in early December.

Public sector members are:

- Stuart Young, Cumbria County Council
- Mike McKinley, Lake District National Park Authority
- Peter Strike, University of Cumbria, representing Skills & Education
- + 3 District Council representatives

With regards the District Council representation, the Districts work in pairs swapping over representation as agreed by the partner authorities as set out below:-

- Barrow and South Lakes
- Allerdale and Copeland
- Carlisle and Eden

Carlisle swapped with Eden in 2015 and Eden will sit on the Board for 2 years.

- 1.4 The LEP has recently been through a refresh with the appointment of a new Chief Executive Graham Haywood and new private sector board members appointed this month. There will also be a refresh of the Investment Panel, the Employment and Skills Commission and other sub-groups.
- 1.5 In addition there is a private sector advisory panel which supports the private sector board members. The public sector is supported by the Technical Officers Group which is made up of Senior Officers with responsibility for Economic Development, Planning and Housing and representatives from other public sector organisation eg. Homes & Communities Agency (HCA).

2. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

2.1 Current Activity

- 2.1.1 Cumbria LEP has produced a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and a Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) which provides the basis for economic growth across the County. The four priorities are:

- Advanced manufacturing growth
- Nuclear and energy excellence
- Vibrant rural and visitor economy
- Strategic connectivity of the M6 corridor

In addition the LEP submitted a plan for European Funding (ESIF) linked to the SEP.

2.2 The LEP are currently working on a number of plans and strategies which will underpin the SEP. These include:

Skills Plan: York Consulting have been appointed to refresh the skills plan and are currently in the process of liaising with key stakeholders and evaluating the data. The aim is to complete the skills plan by December.

Infrastructure Plan: Aecom have been appointed to produce an Infrastructure Plan which will prioritise the long list of schemes and ensure that they will deliver the SEP.

Rural Productivity Plan: Reflecting the various rural issues across the whole of Cumbria the plan provides:

- A single narrative for the rural economy;
- A cross reference check against other plans where rural is addressed;
- Opportunity to identify issues that are important to Cumbria;
- An integrated position statement and 'asks' for Government.

Cumbrian Deal: The LEP has played a leading role in the Cumbria Deal and negotiations with Ministers. These are currently on-going but the objective is to secure a sustainable economic position for Cumbria beyond 2020.

2.3 Carlisle

2.3.1 Carlisle has a major role to play in the broader Cumbria economy. As the only city in Cumbria, Carlisle is the service and retail centre particularly for the north of the county. It is well located and accessible with the M6 and the West Coast mainline running through the district and Carlisle station providing connections to international markets. The role Carlisle plays is recognised in the SEP and is prioritised.

2.3.2 A number of businesses have received LEP funding including Pirelli and the City Council received growth funded money for Durranshill to provide new road infrastructure to unlock employment sites delivering 150 jobs. Future projects

include Carlisle Airport, the Citadel and surrounding area and the Enterprise Zone at Kingmoor Park.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Since LEPs were originally set up, the importance of LEPs has grown and the expectations regarding the breadth of influence has also increased. Housing, transport and skills are now seen to be areas for LEP involvement and influence.

3.2 It is important for the public sector to engage with the LEP in a co-ordinated way to ensure that the key priorities across Cumbria are delivered particularly as the responsibilities are extended to include areas which have traditionally been led by the public sector e.g. transport.

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**Appendices
attached to report:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS:

Chief Executive's -

Deputy Chief Executive –

Economic Development –

Governance –

Local Environment –

Resources -