

Agenda item 3 LEP Delivery Plan

Title:	Delivery Plan 2022/23
Purpose:	To provide the opportunity for Board members to comment on the LEP Delivery Plan for 2022/23 ahead of the submission to the Cities and Local Growth Unit at the end of June.
Recommendation(s):	For board members to comment on the format and content of the Delivery Plan and to delegate to the Executive the finalisation and submission ahead of the June 30th deadline.
Impact on Risk Register:	The production and publication of an Annual Delivery Plan on the LEP website is a statutory requirement for the LEP to receive its core annual funding.

Ministers Neil O'Brien and Paul Scully wrote to all LEPs at the end of March to conclude the LEP Review and referencing the Levelling Up White Paper clarified that in the government's opinion the private sector which LEPs represent will be critical to levelling up. To maintain the integrity of an independent business voice, the White Paper set in motion changes to the roles and functions of LEPs that are intended to enable local areas to be in the best possible position to deliver on shared levelling up objectives over the longer term. Government acknowledged that devolution may happen at different scales and rates and have in the meantime confirmed core funding for LEPs in local areas, that have not yet transitioned to Mayoral Combined Authorities nor completed County Deals, upon receipt and approval of an Annual Delivery Plan. LEPs are to produce and publish delivery plans for the current financial year 2022/23 by June 30th at the latest.

Although there is no set format for these plans, LEPs are asked to set out how they will deliver against the future roles indicated within the Levelling Up White paper namely:-

- To embed a strong, independent and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions.
- Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates their area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths. This should involve building and maintaining a robust local evidence base that identifies local strengths and challenges, future opportunities and the actions needed to support priority sectors, aligned to the relevant levelling up missions.
- Continue to use our convening power to bring together business, education and other local economic stakeholders.
- Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments specifically:-
 - I. Growth Hubs, on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
 - II. International trade and investment activity, provision of local business intelligence, grant funding and levelling-up focused projects, on behalf of the Department for International Trade;
 - III. Local Digital Skills Partnerships, on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport;

- IV. Careers Hubs, on behalf of the Department for Education;
- V. Local skills analysis via Skills Advisory Panels, on behalf of the Department for Education; and
- VI. Monitoring and assurance pertaining to existing local growth programmes and funds for which LEPs are responsible.

Government will work with LEPs to develop measures to report against these plans. These will be considered as part of the annual assurance process and within the National Local Growth Assurance Framework (NLGAF).

The draft Delivery Plan, attached as Appendix 1, focuses on economic development activity for the current financial year given the resource plan available and is framed within a high-level summary of the activity included within the 3-year business plan agreed by members at the last board meeting. Where appropriate we have included delivery targets already agreed with government departments or as part of existing action plans agreed by this board.

A second Delivery Plan for the 2023/24 financial year will need to be produced and submitted by 25 November 2022. Future provision of core funding will be subject to agreement of these plans with government and, thereafter, subject to meeting agreed delivery and performance metrics. The NLGAF will be amended over the coming year to ensure that future requirements of LEPs remain proportionate to their role and function.

Board members are asked to:

Comment on the format and content of the Delivery Plan and to delegate to the Executive the finalisation and submission ahead of the June 30th deadline.