

Annex A - Summary of LEP review recommendations

Role and responsibilities

- Develop an evidence-based Local Industrial Strategy that sets out a long-term economic vision for their area based on local consultation.
- Publish an annual delivery plan and end of year report. This will include key performance indicators to assess the impact of their Local Industrial Strategy, funding and interventions. It will inform objective assessment on Local Enterprise Partnership performance both nationally and locally.

Leadership and organisational capacity

- Consult widely and transparently with the business community before appointing a new Chair; and introduce defined term limits for Chairs and Deputy Chairs in line with best practice in the private sector.
- Establish more representative boards of a maximum of 20 persons with the option to co-opt up to five additional board members. Our aspiration is that two-thirds of board members should be from the private sector;
- Improve the gender balance and representation of those with protected characteristics on boards with an aim that women make up at least one third of Local Enterprise Partnership boards by 2020 with an expectation for equal representation by 2023, and ensuring all Local Enterprise Partnership boards are representative of the businesses and communities they serve.
- Provide a secretariat independent of local government to support the Chair and board in decision making.
- Develop a strong local evidence base of economic strengths, weaknesses and comparative advantages within a national and international context. This will be supported by robust evaluation of individual projects and interventions.

Accountability and performance

- Have a legal personality, such as incorporation as companies, or mayoral combined authorities or combined authorities where they exist.
- Set out clearly and transparently the responsibilities of the Chair, Board, Director, and Accountable Body, including over spending decisions, appointments, and governance.

- Actively participate in relevant local authority scrutiny panel enquiries to ensure effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions.
- Hold annual general meetings open to the public to attend to ensure the communities that they represent can understand and influence the economic plans for the area.

Geography

- Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs and other local stakeholders to come forward with considered proposals by the end of September on geographies which best reflect real functional economic areas, remove overlaps and, where appropriate, propose wider changes such as mergers. Government will respond to these proposals in the autumn and future capacity funding will be contingent on successfully achieving this.
- Collaborate across boundaries where interests are aligned when developing strategies and interventions to maximise their impact across their different objectives.