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## **Economic City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

5 April 2011

Report of the Chief Executive and Director of City Strategy

### **Progress Report - Local Enterprise Partnerships**

#### **Summary**

1. This report provides an update on progress with establishing both the Leeds City Region and the York / North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnerships.

#### **Background**

2. The City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken an interest in the development of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), particularly since York is located within both the Leeds City Region LEP and the York and North Yorkshire LEP. Following the January meeting of this Committee it was agreed that a follow up report would be helpful as the Local Enterprise Board (LEP) Chairs and members are appointed and the LEP Business Plans are prepared. The Council's continued membership of the North Yorkshire / York LEP was subject to review by the Executive following completion of the Business Plan, and Overview and Scrutiny committed to consider the Business Plan and progress so that its view could influence the final decision on membership.

#### **Progress**

3. There has been steady but relatively slow progress with both LEPs. A first draft of the York and North Yorkshire LEP Business Plan has been produced; although this is a relatively modest document and will require review once the LEP Board is in place (the Chair is likely to be in place in April and the Board is likely to meet in May). A copy of this "Business Plan" is available on request and copies will be available at the meeting.
4. The LCR is adopting a different approach to the development of the Business Plan. Whilst some of the governance issues have been decided in advance, by LCR Leaders, there has been a decision to wait until the Board meets and provides direction on proposed LEP priority areas of work.

## **LEP Governance and Priorities**

5. Appendix 1 to this report summarises the current governance position for both LEPs whilst appendix 2 summarises the proposed focus of the two LEPs. The key points from these appendices are:
- The governance arrangements have been set by the local authority leaders and these arrangements are unlikely to be changed by the Board;
  - Without any statutory powers and responsibilities both LEPs recognise that their strength lies in an influencing and an advocacy role, rather than delivery, and ensuring that the needs of business are taken fully into account as economic restructuring remains as one of the government's most significant priorities. LEPs as government creations will have influence with government and are able to act with locally, perhaps in ensuring local authorities and other organisations effectively tackle cross boundary issues, knowing that government is likely to back their view;
  - That resources are limited, and the York and North Yorkshire LEP in particular recognises that it will need to focus its work;
  - That high quality research and intelligence is central to carrying out a successful influencing role; and
  - A recognition by both LEPs that their work should be complementary, given that 5 of the local authorities that are part of the Leeds City Region LEP are also part of the York and North Yorkshire LEP.
  - Generally York and North Yorkshire LEP will take a relatively low profile role (a supporting role rather than a pro-active role) in city centre regeneration. Therefore the York and North Yorkshire LEP priority of "investing in the role of York as economic driver for the sub region" is in practice expected to be achieved through the LCR LEP. However, the York and North Yorkshire LEP is expected to take a leading role in rural broadband provision, tourism and enabling the care sector to meet rising needs.
  - The enterprise promotion area, which will need to be carefully managed, since it is likely to feature as a priority for both LEPs (and we need to avoid wasteful duplication).

## **Implications**

6. The key issue from a City of York Council perspective is whether continued membership of the York and North Yorkshire LEP will deliver significant benefits to York. Of the 9 York and North Yorkshire priorities 5 could be considered significant to York's economy. The majority of appendix 3 has been prepared by the York and North Yorkshire LEP working group (as future advice for the Board) and describes these five York relevant priorities and progress to date. To this appendix we have added some additional information

(the York proposition and comments column) which starts to describe the possible benefits to York.

7. Appendix 3 demonstrates that the priority of rural broadband provision could yield benefits for York's rural communities and businesses, and we are in the process of working out York specific needs against the other 4 priorities. From a York perspective developing specific "asks" for each of these five priority areas will provide a benchmark which will measure whether our membership of the York and North Yorkshire LEP is proving beneficial.

### **Consultation**

8. Within York regular consultation on LEP progress within York has taken place through the York Economic Partnership. In addition there have been a range of consultation events for businesses including the Business Forum and also events run by the Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce.

### **Corporate Strategy 2009/2012**

9. The work of both the Leeds City Region LEP and the York/ North Yorkshire LEP would support the economic objectives and priorities of both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Corporate Strategy.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial/Programme Implications**

10. Not applicable as this report is for information only.

#### **Human Resources**

11. Not applicable as this report is for information only.

#### **Equalities**

12. Not applicable as this report is for information only.

#### **Legal**

13. No specific implications. The LEP has no powers to make decisions on behalf of its partners. Any plans agreed by the LEP which require the approval of the City of York Council will necessitate decisions being made in accordance with the Council's normal processes.

#### **Crime and Disorder**

14. Not applicable as this report is for information only.

#### **Information Technology (IT)**

15. Not applicable as this report is for information only.

## Property

16. Not applicable as this report is for information only.

## Risk Management

17. Not applicable as this report is for information only.

## Recommendation

18. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- Note and comment on this report; and,
  - Consider whether they would welcome further progress reports, particularly after the respective LEP Boards have met and made progress in reaffirming or establishing LEP priorities for action.

Reason: To keep the Overview & Scrutiny Committee aware of the continued development of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

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## Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendix 1:** Proposed Governance Arrangements for Leeds City Region LEP and York and North Yorkshire LEP

**Appendix 2:** Proposed Priorities for Leeds City Region LEP and York and North Yorkshire LEP

**Appendix 3:** York and North Yorkshire Priorities and Implications for York