

Chief Executives’ Group – North Yorkshire and York

4 September 2014

Local Enterprise Partnership update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the following LEP issues;
 - i. Stakeholder feedback
 - ii. Future Growth Deals
 - iii. Positioning for greater devolution
 - iv. Secretariat & secondments

2. Stakeholder Feedback

- 2.1 Partnership is at the heart of how the LEP operates and we are committed to working together to make the most of the potential in our area. We have developed strong relationships across the region, culminating in the development of the LEP Strategic Economic Plan and a successful Local Growth Fund bid.
- 2.2 To ensure we capitalise on this we have completed a Stakeholder review incorporating both written feedback and via a partner workshop with responses from over 40 partners.
- 2.3 We received a broad range of feedback, which we have gone through to identify the key actions, to build on what we do well and where we can collectively improve, to make the most of the opportunities and capabilities across our region to maximise economic growth.

The key actions are;

Communications	By When	Who
Many partners are complex organisations with numerous contacts. Partners to advise LEP of key contacts for Business / Skills / Infrastructure updates	September	Partners
LEP staff to proactively tell partners where local activity is taking place.	Start July	LEP
LEP to host ‘Open House’ sessions to build better understanding of our work	Start September	LEP
Making the best of partners	By When	Who
LEP to commit resource to develop more formal relationship with Local Authority Key Account Managers	Start September	LEP
KAMs to share intelligence on key business developments	Start September	Local Authority KAM
Partners to share press releases with LEP and LEP to promote partners press releases Key contact simon.king@businessinspiredgrowth.com	Ongoing	Partners
A database of Partner skills to be created. Partners to advise LEP of key strengths and skillsets	November	Partners
Action	By When	Who
LEP website to be strengthened to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Organisation chart b) Board Membership c) Terms of reference d) Meeting dates, papers & minutes 	October	LEP
Annual Report to be produced	May 2015 Annually	LEP
Forward Calendar of LEP meetings shared with partners	September	LEP
Local Authority C/Execs to review LEP Governance	December	LA C/Execs

No action required by Chief Executives.

3. Future growth deals

- 3.1 A letter has been sent to all Local Authorities, National Parks and Colleges in the LEP area advising there was likely to be a further Local Growth Deal bidding round in autumn and enclosing the project proforma.
- 3.2 Timescales are not yet clear, however are likely to be tight to allow for appraisal and announcement prior to purdah starting in 2015.
- 3.3 The size of the fund is likely to be significantly smaller and we therefore need to be absolutely clear around our priorities. Additionally, learning from the previous bid, we need to ensure business cases are well developed and robust to maximise chances of success.
- 3.4 Local Authorities are asked to be absolutely clear around their own priorities and engage us as early as possible so we can collectively develop the strongest business case possible.

Action: Chief Executives to ensure clear local prioritisation of projects and early engagement with the LEP

4. Positioning the LEP area for greater devolution

- 4.1 Over the past fifteen years the Core Cities have made a powerful case about the importance of England's largest cities to economic growth in the UK. Recently, the Core Cities membership extended to include Glasgow, meaning that the grouping now encompass just under 30% of the population of England and Scotland and 27% of the economic output of the two countries.
- 4.2 During the same period, there has been much less attention to the economic contribution made by the areas outside of the big cities. This is a significant oversight, given that areas covered by the County Councils Network cover 47% of England's population and 40% of GVA with many areas covered by non-metropolitan authorities generating much higher levels of GVA per head than some of the core cities
- 4.3 More recently this has developed further with five of the core cities creating Combined Authorities to further demonstrate pooling of resources and the capacity and capability locally to deliver significant value for devolved functions. In addition to this, other areas have developed Joint Committee approaches to provide greater confidence to government around local governance and decision making.
- 4.4 Size, scale and capability are the three features of core cities and Combined Authorities that appeal to government, with a powerful argument about the benefits to economic performance that arise from having large numbers of people working in a relatively tight geography – a concept economists call agglomeration
- 4.5 The non-city agenda is not looking to compete with the Cities, but instead provide a complimentary offer that recognises the significant economic contribution that non-city areas provide to national GVA.
- 4.6 Locally we must work now, to anticipate the opportunities and respond, to ensure strong local governance is robust and we have clear, evidenced asks of government. Current governance arrangements for this LEP area do not provide any of the comparative size, scale and capability benefits of a combined authority, Joint Committee or other formal 'coming together'. This can be expected to impact on the growth deals afforded to this area and the nature of freedoms and flexibilities. This may also influence future decisions regarding LEP boundaries.

- 4.7 As agreed at the previous meeting a small group of Chief Executives are meeting on 5 September to review local governance.
- 4.8 Work is already underway by the LGA and County Council Network to strengthen the argument for growth in non-metropolitan areas and a group of non-city LEPs are now collectively working together, to further strengthen the case.
- 4.9 In order to be credible with policy makers and key influencers, non-city areas must compete on an equal footing with the Cities and demonstrate:
 - **A strong evidence base** – quantifying the contribution of non-city areas to the national economy, in a way that stands up to scrutiny by economists and policy makers;
 - **A New Economic ‘Model’** – an alternative to the City agglomeration model, which creates the rationale for equitable focus, investment and devolved responsibilities to non-City areas. However, it will be necessary to show how the non-city areas can link to and expand the benefits of the current concentration on city growth.
 - **Leadership** – the ability to speak with one voice and gain consensus from all of our constituents;
 - **Delivery Capability** – convincing decision makers that there is both strength and depth in resource to carry through the proposition to delivery.
- 4.10 In addition to this, we need to be clear around what specific policy changes and asks we have of government and have a clear economic case for how local devolution will increase the impact and outcomes.

Discussion Point: What policy changes and devolved powers would make the greatest impact on our levels of growth?

5. Secretariat & secondments

5.1 Working with local partners, the LEP has significantly strengthened its capacity over the summer, securing the following secondments;

Name	Partner Organisation	Responsibilities
Julian Rudd (0.6fte)	Ryedale	1. Infrastructure delivery & future priorities for; Harrogate BC Ryedale DC Selby DC 2.Strategic lead for housing & planning
David Smurthwaite (0.5fte)	Craven	1. Infrastructure delivery & future priorities for; Craven DC Richmondshire DC 2.Strategic lead for rural & protected landscapes
Liz Philpott (0.5fte)	East Riding	1. Infrastructure delivery & future priorities for; Scarborough BC Bridlington 2.Strategic lead for Coastal & environmental quality
Tom Bryant (0.5fte)	NYCC	1. Infrastructure delivery & future priorities for; Transport

		2.Strategic lead for transport
Mark Haynes (0.4fte)	Hambleton	1. Infrastructure delivery & future priorities for; Hambleton 2. Key Account Management & Inward Investment
James Curran (0.5fte)	Nybep	Young people and employability
Louise Lunn (0.4fte)	Ryedale	Workforce Development
Sue Vasey leading	Your Consortium	Social Inclusion & Empowered Communities
Karen Pinder (1 fte)	DWP	Unemployed into work
Pip Betts (0.6fte)	East Riding	EUSIF

5.2 A continued area of concern is transport capacity. This reflects that the majority of infrastructure schemes include an element of transport investment to open up strategic sites. Alongside pure transport investments this is placing significant pressure on the NYCC transport team. Discussions are ongoing to increase capacity within the NYCC transport team to mitigate the delivery risk of infrastructure projects requiring transport support.

5.3 Below is the LEP secretariat structure.

No action required

Recommendations:

Chief executives are asked to:

1. **Note the actions from the stakeholder feedback**
2. **Ensure clear local prioritisation of projects for future Local Growth Fund bid and ensure early engagement with the LEP**
3. **Provide input on what policy changes and devolved powers would make the greatest impact on our levels of growth**
4. **Note the changes to the secretariat**

