

16<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Update: Strategic Economic Plan**

**Purpose of Report**

This report provides LEP Board members with an update on the progress of the SEP following discussions at previous LEP Board meetings. Members will be provided with an overview of the document's contents and receive a presentation of a draft of the document.

**Thematic Priority**

Cross Cutting - Policy

**Freedom of Information**

This paper will be available under the SCR Publication Scheme.

**Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

- Offer feedback on the draft SEP when it is circulated.
- Delegate the sign-off of the draft SEP for consultation to the Mayor, LEP Chair and SCR Chief Executive following circulation of a draft SEP after the meeting and time for comments. This will ensure the consultation can commence in advance of the March 2020 meeting.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) will be an overarching strategy which will set out how to grow the economy in a way that better includes and benefits all communities across SCR and improves our natural capital.
- 1.2** This paper outlines progress since the previous LEP Board meeting and subsequent engagement with individuals and organisations, the contents of the SEP, the process, next steps, and timescales.

**2. Proposal and justification**

- 2.1** Our ambition and purpose are to transform the lives and wellbeing of our people. The agreed vision provides three policy objectives for the City Region: founded on economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. The primary lens of the SEP will be growth, but this will not be at any cost – it must be inclusive and environmentally sustainable. Growth will not be beneficial unless all people have an opportunity to contribute and benefit from it, and it cannot be detrimental to the environment. Rather, it must enhance it wherever possible.
- 2.2** Following the LEP Board meeting in November, further work has been undertaken to respond to feedback and continue to develop the draft document. A presentation (provided in Annex 1) will be given to the meeting to set out draft contents and you will

have an opportunity during and after the meeting to offer your views. The contents of the document are:

1. Evidence summary
2. Vision
3. Growth, Innovation and Enterprise
4. Skills and Employment
5. Sustainable Transport and Mobility
6. Digital Connectivity
7. Environment & sustainability
8. Land Assets
9. Place
10. Outcomes, Benefits and Financial Implications

The presentation will provide more detail but the below summarises the content:

- Section 1 offers an overview of the evidence, the conclusions of which have defined the challenge and led to the agreed vision.
- Section 2 sets out the three policy objectives of growth, inclusion and sustainability and explains how growth must be inclusive and supportive of the environment.
- Section 3 outlines how SCR's innovation-led growth will be delivered.
- Sections 4-8 present the key enablers necessary to ensure we have the right conditions to facilitate this growth.
- Section 9 will anchor the strategy in our "places" and show the uniqueness and the contribution of each local authority in the SCR. Section 10 explains the people-focused outcomes, benefits and financial implication of the SEP.

The presentation at the LEP Board meeting will explain each of these sections in more detail.

**2.3** Board Members are invited provide feedback on the presentation. There will be an opportunity for more detailed feedback on the SEP document after the meeting.

**2.4 Next steps and timescales**

- A draft will be sent to Board members after the meeting (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January). Stakeholders will have one week to feed back and the revised draft will be produced following comments and used for the public consultation.
- Our intention is to undertake a four-week consultation (w/c 27<sup>th</sup> January)
- The next LEP board (3<sup>rd</sup> March) will be presented with a paper which will summarise issues from the consultation.
- The final paper will be produced after the 3<sup>rd</sup> March LEP Board. There will be a comment window for two weeks and then the final SEP will be included for the May LEP Board papers.

In order to meet these timescales, we request delegated authority for the sign-off of the draft document (after it has been revised to reflect your comments) for consultation to the LEP Chair, the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

**3. Consideration of alternative approaches**

**3.1** We could have chosen not to produce a SEP or followed a different economic growth model. The document is aligning different views on growth and a refreshed vision and approach with which to engage with each other, with central government and to secure the funding needed to accelerate the growth of our economy and transform the lives of our people.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial

The SEP will help to secure additional funding from Government; for example, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The costs associated with the completion of the SEP including specific commissioned pieces of research have been accounted for within the existing approved budget.

### 4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications to this paper.

### 4.3 Risk Management

If the work is delayed, the SCR's ability to secure additional funding from the new Government would likely be weakened. The SCR Executive Team are aware of the importance of delivering a new Economic Plan for the SCR in order to have a compelling pitch to Government. To manage this, consultants were appointed to help mitigate the risk of delay.

### 4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

Inclusive growth is one of the three pillars of the document. The strategy considers offering opportunities where this is not available or where particular barriers are preventing residents from accessing opportunities.

## 5. Communications

5.1 The document has benefited from the wide engagement we have undertaken. To date universities, businesses, charities, local authority officers and senior executives have been engaged on evidence gathering and messaging. We have also received specialist input into the document from expert professors and from innovation experts from the private sector, as well as substantive input from the local authorities. BEIS and HMCLG have been engaged as well. We intend to continue this engagement and we will work closely with partners in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire, Bolsover, Bassetlaw and Derbyshire Dales, who though leaving the LEP area, will continue to be a key part of our functional economic area.

5.2 A strategic communications plan for the SEP is in draft and will inform the messaging, tactics and communications channels we use to engage with businesses, stakeholders and members of the public. This plan will also set out the communications strategy for the public consultation, which we intend to begin in the spring.

## 6. Appendices/Annexes

6.1 Annex 1 – SEP Presentation

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: Strategic Economic Plan Evidence Base – 2019 (Summary Evidence Pack) and other relevant documents available on the website:

<https://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/explore/resources/>