

8th July 2019

Engagement with NP11 Chairs

Purpose of Report

This report provides an update to the LEP Board on the SCR engagement with the Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11).

Thematic Priority

- Ensure new businesses receive the support they need to flourish.
- Facilitate and proactively support growth amongst existing firms.
- Develop the SCR skills base, labour mobility and education performance

Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

This paper will be available under the SCR Publication Scheme

Recommendations

That the LEP Board note the report and the intention of the LEP Chair and the SCR Executive to engage fully with the NP11.

1. Introduction

1.1 What is the NP11?

The NP11 brings together Local Enterprise Partnerships across the North of England. The NP11 Board, comprising all eleven LEP Chairs from across the North aims to create a space to identify activity best facilitated at a pan-Northern level, where activity will add strategic value to unlocking the North's economic potential.

Driving force behind its establishment

The Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11) was brought together in July 2018, by Jake Berry, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, to drive economic growth in the North. At its inception, NP11 was awarded £500,000 from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for spend up to the end of the 2019/20 financial year. An additional £350,000 was subsequently agreed to promote NP11's voice and visibility.

1.2 Focus of the NP11 work

The NP11 Board has agreed to use the North's Prime Capabilities as identified in the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER).

These Prime Capabilities are:

- 1) Advanced Manufacturing, with a particular focus on materials and processes.
- 2) Energy, in particular expertise around generation, storage, and low carbon technologies and processes.
- 3) Health Innovation
- 4) Digital, focusing in particular on high performance computing, cognitive computation, data analytics, simulation/modelling, and machine learning.

The four Prime Capabilities are supported through a focus on the three 'Enabling' Capabilities which operate at the level of the North of:

- 1) Financial and Professional Services.
- 2) Logistics, with major port developments in the Liverpool and Hull and Humber City Regions, plus developments at Manchester and Doncaster Sheffield Airports.
- 3) Education (primarily Higher Education).

1.3 NP11 19/20 work plan

The NP11 Board is working on a small set of strategic issues. These include:

MIPIM: building a more joined up approach to MIPIM Cannes ensuring that we leverage greater value for the whole of the North at MIPIM and that we seek to have complementary rather than competing MIPIM presences across the North.

Clean Energy: An energy working group is developing activity to promote the North as a focus for investment in clean technologies as part of a long-term programme to decarbonise the economy. NP11 is also supporting a clean growth conference hosted by the Humber LEP.

Trade and Investment: Work is underway to map and promote the North's key trade and investments strengths to identify key international inward investment strengths, including key assets and target markets.

Supply Chains: Work is underway to understand the role, presence and distribution of key supply chain companies across the geography of the 11 northern LEPs to provide high-level analysis of the of the main supply chain ecosystems in the North.

Voice and Visibility: work is underway to develop a clearly articulated vision and enhanced profile for the NP11 as well as strengthening recognition of the Northern Powerhouse, enabling it to win increased trade and investment.

2. Proposal and justification

2.1 It is proposed that the LEP Chair and SCR Executive work closely with the NP11 on the basis that:

- 1) There is **complementarity already on a number of workstreams** that the SCR are engaged in, including an analysis of our the SCR supply chains and the development of our trade and investment work

- 2) **MIPIIM** – a more coordinated strategic approach to MIPIIM that builds a stronger Northern story to compete alongside other national collaboration such as the Midlands Engine is beneficial to the SCR.
- 3) There is likely to be some complementarity on the workstreams being taken forward at the NP11 level to those in our Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy.
- 4) There are **resources at the NP11** that can be brought to bear on our own policy and programme development.
- 5) It is a useful forum to engage in wider discussions at the Northern level.
- 6) The Government are supportive of the NP11 and it is considered as an **important forum in helping drive Government policy** in the support of the North's objectives.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1 The LEP could choose to be a passive partner in the NP11 process. But, this would limit our ability to inform the work done at the Northern level, limit access to the resources being made available by MHCLG to co-develop work and reduce our own voice and visibility across the North and with the Government.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

This paper has no direct financial implications.

4.2 Legal

This paper has no direct legal implications.

4.3 Risk Management

There are no risks to the approach identified.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion)

There are no equality, diversity and social inclusion implications arising from this paper.

5. Communications

- 5.1 The NP11 has a large marketing and communications budget. The SCR press and communications function will work with the NP11 Board to ensure that these resources do not duplicate local activity and provide genuine added value.

6. Appendices/Annexes

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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: