

SCRUTINY RESPONSE

NAME OF TOPIC GROUP: Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

CHAIRMAN: Frances Button

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DATE OF SCRUTINY: 16 May 2018

DATE REPORT PUBLISHED: 1 June 2018

DATE RESPONSE DUE: 1 August 2018

DATE RESPONSE RETURNED: 5 September 2018

Recommendations:

*e.g. To undertake a customer survey in xxxxx (month/year)
(Note: All abbreviations used must be set out in full the first time they are used)*

Response:

*e.g. To carry out the survey in xxxxxx (month/year)
(Note: All abbreviations used must be set out in full the first time they are used)*

2.1 The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to outline how the LEP will ensure that future mechanisms enable continued success in funding bids to central government (3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1)

On 2 Aug, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) published its review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) "Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships."¹ This contains a number of recommendations to which the LEP must respond with an implementation plan by **31 October 2018**. Most recommendations must be in place by **April 2019**, and the core funding will be conditional on adopting these, along with the earlier Mary Ney Review of LEPs and the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) review of the role of S151 officers. It is believed that the Review and implementation plan will address the points raised by the scrutiny at this recommendation. The LEP will be able to provide a further update at the Implementation of Scrutiny Sub Committee.

The changes required are also longer term to ensure that LEPs are fit to administer the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The review covers

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-proposes-shake-up-of-local-enterprise-partnerships>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and Responsibility • Leadership and Organisation Capacity • Accountability and Performance • Geography <p>The Government is making £20 million available between 2018-19 and 2019-20. In addition, capacity funding to support LEPs implement the review and to provide the strategic and analytical capability needed to develop ambitious Local Industrial Strategies will be available. £200,000 has been made available in 2018-19 to each of the 38 LEPs. Allocation of this funding will be received once the local LEP has submitted its proposals and the Government is content that these plans will address the recommendations of the review.</p>
<p>2.2 The LEP to identify how the LEP Industrial Strategy will address Hertfordshire’s economic sustainability (3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 4.2)</p>	<p>The LIS (Local Industrial Strategy) will build on the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)² which was refreshed in 2017. It is evidentially sound and up-to-date. It has been agreed and endorsed by the principal partners and stakeholders, including local authorities, University of Hertfordshire and four further education colleges. It has also been well-received by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>In preparation for the LIS, the LEP set up a Grand Challenge Commission³ which will host a series of conversations to ensure effective collective response and debate on the four big issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial Intelligence and Data Economy • Clean Growth • Future of Mobility

² <https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/media/5417/hertfordshire-lep-sep-report-interactive.pdf>

³ <https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/media/6326/grand-challenges-for-hertfordshire-2018.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing Society. <p>We will ensure that the four key activities required by the review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy • Allocation of funds • Co-ordination: • Advocacy <p>are included in the LIS.</p> <p>The LEP is currently developing the evidence base to underpin the LIS and a conference is planned in the autumn to share and discuss the findings.</p> <p>The local LEP is awaiting further Government guidance on the development of Local Industrial Strategies. This is expected by the end of the year.</p>
<p>2.3 The LEP to clarify how all partners work together to promote Hertfordshire's future economic vibrancy (3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 4.3, 4.4)</p>	<p>The LEP is key partner in Hertfordshire Forward, which comprises of all major public sector bodies in the county.</p> <p>Hertfordshire Forward will host its annual half-day conference in September 2018. This year the conference theme is Growth and the Local Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>The LEP expects this to be a platform by which greater partnership working can be fostered as well as input from partners in the development of the LIS.</p>

<p>Any other comments on the report or this scrutiny?</p> <p>The major development has been the publication of the LEP Review: 'Strengthened Local Economic Partnerships' published in July. As well as specific structural, capacity and governance requirements there is also a review of geography and boundaries. Clearly this could have a significant impact on the future of the LEP. LEPs are due to respond to the Review by October and the outcome of the review is expected by December.</p>	