

DATE DUE AT OSC / HSC:

COMMITTEE APPROVED: HSC / OSC: 21/06/2017

WORK PROGRAMME: Q1 2018/2019

OBJECTIVE:

To establish the progress made by the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) since its inception in 2011 and to clarify its capacity to advance further economic growth.

BACKGROUND:

Local Enterprise partnerships (LEPs) are voluntary partnerships between businesses and local authorities set up in 2011 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within a local area.

Hertfordshire is one of 38 LEPs in England. The LEP's boundary is coterminous with the Hertfordshire county boundary. Since its inception it has secured over £300 million to support the Hertfordshire economy.

Since their formation in 2011 the role of LEPs has expanded with each LEP now responsible for producing a strategic economic plan and a local industrial strategy for its area, identifying barriers and solutions to growth and working with local partners to improve the local business environment.

LEPs are non-statutory bodies. This means they can look and operate very differently from each other, in terms of size, capacity and governance. All LEPs must be chaired by a business person and at least half of the members must come from the private sector.

LEPs have responsibility for bidding for central government funding and influencing local funding streams and ensuring that these deliver against the locally agreed priorities. There have been three competitive rounds of Growth Deals through which Hertfordshire LEP has won a total package to date of £265.45m for the county.

Funding from Europe brings further resources to LEP areas. The European Structural and Investments Funds Growth Programme runs until 2020 and is split across a number of different funds. Organisations from all sectors are able to bid for the funding. LEPs do not deliver projects themselves. The allocation for Hertfordshire covering the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) is €69m in total.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. How effectively do the current partnerships and mechanisms enable the LEP to deliver its stated remit and strategy?
2. What is the current policy environment and agenda context?
3. What needs to be in place to enhance the LEP's and HCC's role in articulating to central government the rationale for further funding and recognition?

OUTCOME/S:

1. Members have a fuller understanding of the opportunities and challenges

SCRUTINY REMIT: LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP TOPIC GROUP

Hertfordshire faces (economic, infra structure etc.)
 2. Therefore, Members are able to identify robust and considered recommendations to take the LEP and Hertfordshire forward.

CONSTRAINTS:

- The LEP is a semi-autonomous body with a business focus. The scrutiny will focus on those areas within the LEP's remit and responsibilities

RISK & MITIGATION AFFECTING THIS SCRUTINY: i.e. how confident are members that the department/organisation has identified risks, impact to services, the budget proposals and has mitigation in place.

RISK/S:

MITIGATION: e.g. what mitigation does the department/organisation have in place if a partner pulls out?

EVIDENCE

Mark Bretton LEP Chairman (Accenture)	Gill Worgan Principal – West Herts College
David Williams, Hertfordshire County Council Leader	Owen Mapley, Hertfordshire County Council Director of Resources
Adrian Hawkins LEP Deputy Chair (Weldability SIF)	Scott Crudgington – Chief Executive, Stevenage Borough Council

METHOD: 1 day topic group

DATE: 16 May 2018

MEMBERSHIP: Frances Button (chairman), Bob Deering, John Wyllie, Dreda Gordon, Vacany

SUPPORT:

Scrutiny Officer: Natalie Rotherham

Lead Officer/s: Neil Hayes Herts LEP Executive Director, Andrew Lee Herts LEP Delivery Manager

Democratic Services Officer: Stephanie Tarrant

HCC Priorities for Action: how this item helps deliver the Priorities

1. Opportunity To Thrive ✓
2. Opportunity To Prosper ✓
3. Opportunity To Be Healthy And Safe ✓
4. Opportunity To Take Part ✓

CfPS ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES:

1. Transparent – opening up data, information and governance ✓
2. Inclusive – listening, understanding and changing ✓
3. Accountable – demonstrating credibility ✓