

Agenda Item 8

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
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Date of Meeting:	4th June 19

ECONOMIC POLICY UPDATE: LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY and LANCASHIRE PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform the Board of the Government requirement for Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to develop a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and Lancashire Plan .

2.0 Background

2.1 In November 2017 the “**Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the Future**” was launched. It set out the Government’s ambition to increase productivity and earning power across the country.

The Government stated it would do this by:

1. **Strengthening the foundations of productivity** – the fundamentals that support a skilled, innovative, geographically-balanced economy. The five foundations are:
 - **Ideas:** encouraging the UK to be the world’s most innovative economy
 - **People:** ensuring good jobs and greater earning power for all
 - **Infrastructure:** driving a major upgrade to the UK’s infrastructure
 - **Business environment:** guaranteeing the best place to start and grow a business
 - **Places:** creating prosperous communities across the UK

2. **Building long-term strategic partnerships with businesses** through Sector Deals between government and industry.

3. **Taking on Grand Challenges** – the society-changing opportunities and industries of the future. The first four Grand Challenges are focused on global trends to transform our future:
 - AI and data: putting the UK at the forefront of the AI and data revolution,
 - Ageing society: harnessing the power of innovation to meet the needs of an ageing society,
 - Clean growth: maximising the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth,
 - Future of mobility: becoming a world leader in shaping the future of mobility

The recently published “Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships” set out how LEPs will adopt a single mission to promote productivity by delivering Local Industrial Strategies.

Local Industrial Strategies will build on existing Strategic Economic Plans (SEP) in each LEP area and specifically will need to -

- Be developed locally and agreed with Government and aligned to the national Industrial Strategy.
- Look long term, based on clear evidence noting distinctive strengths and addressing weaknesses and market opportunities.
- Set out clearly defined priorities/objectives for how an area will maximise their contribution to UK productivity, better co-ordinating economic policy at the local level.
- Address the 5 Industrial Strategy foundations (noted above).
- Inform local choices, prioritise local action and help to inform decisions at the national level
- Provide a strategic overview which will inform LEP approaches to any form of future funding deployed through them. This will include providing a local approach to maximising the long term impact of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (once details of its operation and priorities are announced).
- Set out the spatial impacts of national and local policy across Lancashire cities, towns and rural areas.
- Be the product of extensive consultation with a broad range of public bodies, private business and the civil society sectors.

2.2 Indicative Timetable

The first LIS's were agreed with Government by March 19. These are the so called 3 “Trailblazer” areas which include the Greater Manchester and West Midlands Combined Authorities and Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Growth Corridor area.

Lancashire LEP has been formally approached by Government and are now required to have a LIS in place by early 2020.

On the 4th January Hatch Regeneris ran a facilitated workshop with the Lancashire Leaders Economic Development Group to understand respective priorities of the group and emerging landscape in terms of strategy development. On the 7th February that same workshop was held with LEDOG members and a report produced.

Building on that, the LEP have appointed STEER Economic Development to provide consultancy support to drive forward a programme of work to frame a LIS for Lancashire. The activity has 3 rough phases:-

Phase 1 : Developing the Evidence Base

A key challenge is to gather and review an already extensive amount of data and look at drivers of change etc. to produce a SWOT analyses and strategy that is reality checked prior to strategy development and development of propositions.

Phase 2 : Developing Strategic Priorities

Informed by the evidence base above, draw in public, private and voluntary sectors to identify priorities and options and build consensus on the way forward.

As part of this they have been tasked initially with speaking to 20 key figures by early May, to include all Council Chief Execs. A plenary workshop was held on the 15th May at Brockholes.

A workshop targeted at Lancashire industry and business sectors is to be held on the 3rd June.

Phase 3 : Action Plan

Based on the above, there will be a well-informed evidence base created, with investable propositions noted within an overarching action plan. A further workshop is proposed for July to review this draft, with a further document targeted for LEP Board approval around October, with a view to final submission before December end, well ahead of the March 20 deadline.

3. Lancashire Plan

The Lancashire Leaders Group at their 5th March meeting, determined that a “Lancashire Plan” will be developed which will provide the strategic framework within which multiple pan-Lancashire strategies and priorities (including the LIS) will sit. The Plan will set ambitions and targets for Lancashire which emerging policy demands such as the LIS will respond to.

The Lancashire Plan and its development was the subject of a Leaders meeting on the 17th May, the precise detail of which is awaited. However, it is clear that the Lancashire Plan development must dovetail with the LIS delivery timetable process, minimising duplication and overlap.

4.0 Recommendation(s):

4.1. To note the report and to discuss any issues arising from these processes from a Fylde Coast perspective.