

5th March 2020

LEP ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose of Report

Following the publication of the Government's LEP Review report in July 2018, '*Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*', all LEPs are now required to produce and publish an annual report to outline the activities, outputs and achievements that the LEP has delivered in the preceding financial year. This paper presents the plan for developing the SCR LEP Annual Report 2019/20.

Thematic Priority

Cross-cutting across all six thematic priorities.

Freedom of Information

This paper will be made available under the SCR Publication Scheme.

Recommendations

LEP Board Members are asked to agree the production of an SCR LEP Annual Report 2019/20 for agreement at the LEP Meeting on 21st May 2020.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 24 July 2018, the Government published the '*Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*' report which outlined the conclusions and recommendations from the LEP Review.
- 1.2 To improve the accountability of LEPs and to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of LEP performance, the Government tasked all LEPs to produce and publish an annual LEP Delivery Plan and an annual report from May 2019. This paper presents the plan for developing the SCR LEP Annual Report 2019/20.

2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1 The LEP Review made a number of recommendations to improve the rigour of the Government's annual review of LEP performance, and to strengthen accountability and transparency over how public funds are invested.

- 2.2** LEPs are required to:
- Produce and publish an annual **LEP Delivery Plan**, outlining the agreed priorities and interventions that will be funded, delivered, monitored and evaluated over the coming financial year.
 - Produce and publish an annual **LEP End of Year Report** on actual activities, outputs and outcomes delivered over the preceding financial year.
 - Hold an **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** which is open to the public and promoted to businesses.
- 2.3** The SCR LEP Board approved the LEP Delivery Plan 2019/20 at its meeting on 20th May 2019 and this was submitted to Government and published on the SCR website.
- 2.4** Following financial year end, SCR LEP must produce a written report which details the actual activities, outputs and expenditure that has been achieved against the profile outlined in the LEP Delivery Plan 2019/20.
- 2.5** The 2019/20 financial year has been significant for SCR LEP: the Government's implementation of new performance monitoring arrangements, the introduction of the Thematic Boards, changes to LEP geographical boundaries and extensive partner and business engagement work to develop the new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).
- 2.6** Rather than just produce and publish an end-of-year report on performance against the LEP Delivery Plan 2019/20, SCR LEP will instead produce and publish an Annual Report for 2019/20 that enables SCR to highlight and promote the activities and engagement that the LEP has achieved during the year. This will include the following:
- **Foreword** – personal messages from the SCR LEP Chair and SCR Chief Executive highlighting key successes and activities.
 - **Review of 2019/20** – summarising the successes and achievements for the LEP over the past year and the challenges and opportunities for the SCR economy based on the latest data and the aspirations and targets for growing the SCR economy.
 - **Case Studies** – of key LEP funded projects and initiatives that have been delivered during the year.
 - **Objectives and Aspirations for the Year Ahead** – a summary of key activities, events, plans and wider business engagement activity that will be launched or delivered in 2020/21, including the launch of the SEP.
 - **The LEP Board Members** – pen portraits of all LEP Board members, including lead roles such as Champion for Equality and Diversity, Champion of Small Business and Co-Chair of Thematic Boards.
 - **End of Year Financial and Output Performance** – a table outlining financial and output performance of LEP funded projects compared to the profile in the LEP Delivery Plan 2019/20.
- 2.7** The draft LEP Delivery Plan 2020/21 and draft LEP Annual Report 2019/20 will be presented to the LEP Board for approval at the LEP Board meeting in May 2020.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1** The recommendations contained in the '*Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships*' report, including the production and publication of an Annual Report, are a form of guidance which all LEPs are required to comply with.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper.

4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this paper.

4.3 Risk Management

As a result of the LEP Review, the Government has formalised their approach for dealing with non-compliant or underperforming LEPs. Should SCR fail to deliver the recommendations in the LEP Review or against the outcome targets in the annual LEP Delivery Plan, SCR could be subject to Government intervention. This ranges from regular performance meetings and remedial action plans to risk-based deep dive reviews and ultimately, the withholding of LEP funding.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

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

5. Communications

- 5.1 Once approved, the LEP Delivery Plan 2019/20 will be published on the SCR website. A mid-year report on progress towards the activities, expenditure and outputs outlined in the Delivery Plan will be presented to the LEP Board in November 2019 and published on the SCR website.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 None

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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: