

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

Report to:	Economic Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2015
Subject:	Strategic Economic Plan - Refresh

Summary:

This report is intended to inform members of the Economic Scrutiny Committee about the process and content of the refresh of the Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Economic Plan.

Actions Required:

Members are asked to:

- i) comment on the content of the report and on the priorities that you would wish to see addressed in the plan using previous discussions at Economic Scrutiny Committee to inform those comments;
- ii) note progress on the plan and attend engagement events if that would be useful.

1. Background

Strategic Economic Plans (SEPs) are intended to demonstrate that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are committed to the growth agenda by developing ambitious, multi-year plans to develop the local economy and to provide a reasonable level of detail about the individual interventions which are required to make up the overall programme of investment in an area.

Since submitting our Plan for Greater Lincolnshire in March 2014, it is widely recognised that Central Government has been impressed with the scale of ambition presented and the strength of local partnership networks that have been established to collaboratively deliver growth across the LEP area. This has already been evidenced in the award of the first two Growth Deal awards for Greater Lincolnshire, our allocation of funding through the European Union Structural Investment Fund (EU SIF) programme, the establishment of three new Food Enterprise Zones in Greater Lincolnshire and the emergence of our area as a national lead in water management and agri-food. The strategic direction and priorities of the LEP are therefore well understood and accepted by Central

Government and are not subject to review or change through any refresh of the SEP content.

A. Purpose

LEP partners are working on a refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan to ensure that this document continues to capture our areas' lead aspirations and opportunities to facilitate economic growth. The aim of the refresh is to provide an update on the schemes that are already being delivered under each of the SEP priority areas and to outline a high level delivery plan over the next five to ten years of future planned activity which is required to unlock the greatest economic and investment potential of our area.

A further aim is to build on the recent Planning Advisory Service Peer Review recommendations to ensure that the SEP is better understood and embedded across all key partner organisations with a responsibility for promoting and facilitating economic growth. The refresh will also reflect the recent change in Ministerial emphasis towards productivity as a key measure of local economic performance and competitiveness.

B. Key Updates

It is intended that the refresh of the SEP will focus on a number of key areas, outlined below:

i) Achievements to Date

Evidencing successful delivery of the SEP's ambitions and initial project commitments is key to our future credibility within Whitehall. It also provides the momentum and local reputation upon which future growth funding will be sought and assessed when competing against other areas for national investment opportunities.

The SEP will therefore include a summary of the main achievements currently being delivered under each of the five priority areas identified. An initial list of commitments being delivered to date is attached at Appendix A. The refresh will focus on the collective outputs and outcomes of this investment to demonstrate the progress made by LEP partners in delivering the SEP ambitions.

ii) Future High Level Delivery Plan

As well as evidencing achievements to date, the SEP refresh will also set out our future priorities for investment to further unlock significant economic growth and productivity. This update is important as many of the schemes identified within the initial submission to Government have now attracted funding and progressed to detailed planning or delivery.

The intention is to represent the 'big ticket' items that will provide the greatest impact in terms of delivering economic growth against the five SEP priorities. It is not therefore intended to drill down to incremental improvement schemes or localised investment programmes where the economic impact is isolated to

individual sites or settlements. The list will not be exhaustive and should be sufficiently flexible to include other emerging opportunities as they arise. It is however intended to demonstrate to Government that the LEP has a longer term vision for economic productivity and a clear view on our priorities for future investment, building on the development of our detailed sector plans for each priority sector.

The future priorities identified will not all be delivered through direct LEP intervention. Instead, they will require a range of different influences and investments from all LEP partners including direct financial assistance and monitoring (through Growth Deals, EUSIF etc); lobbying Ministers and statutory partners for increased support; or championing and promoting activity to developers and private enterprise. Many of the proposals identified are cross-cutting and will therefore support the delivery of more than one priority.

As part of this process, some work has already been undertaken through the Lincolnshire Delivery, Infrastructure and Growth Group (LDIGG) to capture and map future growth delivery and aspirations within each of Greater Lincolnshire's local authority boundaries. Further work will also be required to more accurately determine future infrastructure priorities including specific priority schemes within the Lincolnshire Transport Plan, an assessment of future utility capacity and requirements and emerging work on the water management. The refresh will also seek to capture emerging links and potential for shared expertise with neighbouring LEP areas, e.g. around water management and excellence in food engineering.

iii) Devolution

Building on our work to date around local freedoms and flexibilities, the refresh will also set out our high level priorities on localised spending and delivery models which the LEP identify as important in terms of facilitating future economic growth in our area. This is important in the context of the increasing focus with Whitehall on devolving increased power to local areas, alongside the emergence of the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse as potential drivers for significant growth in and around Greater Lincolnshire.

iv) Suite of Documents

As well as producing an update to the main master document, a series of "bite size" summaries will also be produced to condense and consolidate key messages for respective audiences on what the SEP covers and why it is important to them. A suggested breakdown of summary documents is outlined below:

- Business
- Place
- Local Authority Areas

(v) Impact – the SEP refresh will also incorporate a section on evaluation and impact.

C. Local Partner Input & Engagement

In order to facilitate the process of increasing local engagement in the SEP, Chief Executives from a number of local authorities across Greater Lincolnshire have agreed to take on a championing role for respective areas of the SEP delivery (e.g. skills, housing, tourism). In addition, Chief Executives have previously considered the suggestion for each district to arrange an event (or events) which is focused on growth at which there could be a discussion about what the SEP can do to contribute to that growth. Rather than arranging a bespoke event, the sessions could be delivered as an extension to existing meetings or business forums that are already set up (e.g. business breakfast clubs).

It is proposed that the events would, however, include a wide range of stakeholders in growth including both businesses and councillors or officers who have an impact on growth, including those on planning committees or in property departments. Secondly, that the events are wider than just the SEP because that is only part of the picture of supporting growth. The LEP team will seek to arrange for a LEP Board Member to attend each event, alongside a LEP officer to help shape the discussion and amalgamate feedback from the events into the refreshed SEP. To date, we have attended events in East Lindsey, Lincoln, North Kesteven, with planned events in South Holland and South Kesteven. North and North East Lincolnshire plan to feed in through officers.

In terms of timeline for the completed refresh, the intention would be for LEP Board Members to review and endorse the updated SEP at the LEP Board on 4 November, following completion and input from the local stakeholder events by early to middle of October. The LEP Business Live Event on the 23 October will provide a final opportunity to capture views of the invited business audience on the completed draft, prior to formal sign off. Further input may also be required with relevant stakeholders, including highways authority leads and other local authority colleagues where appropriate.

2. Conclusion

The refresh of the SEP provides partners with an opportunity to further contribute to the plan for economic growth across greater Lincolnshire. Members of the Economic Scrutiny Committee are asked to comment on the plans to refresh the SEP, and undertake refreshed engagement.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	GLLEP supported and endorsed activity supporting delivery of the SEP priorities

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Ruth Carver, who can be contacted on 01522 550515 or Ruth.Carver@lincolnshire.gov.uk .

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