

10c. BIS LOCAL MEETING (AUTHOR: NB)

FOR INFORMATION – BIS LOCAL MEETING 16TH AUGUST 2012

1. Team provided update on LEP activities to date including the Sub Groups, recruitment for a new Chairman and the Prospectus. **Key Points:**

Financials

38. BIS to look again at VAT implications for LEPs of BIS Capacity and Start Up Funds; and (ii) scope for forward-funding LEPs with any future support funds with LEP policy leads in BIS.
39. BIS to ensure that in new Business Rate Regulations there is (i) disaggregation of EZ business rate growth from the wider retention of non-EZ business rate growth; and (ii) proportionality of quarterly EZ reporting to CLG

Policy Announcements

40. Cities Agenda event to be launched on 18th September which will include announcements of phase 1 awards but will also set out phase 2 propositions
41. DfT have published the results of the consultation on Local Transport Boards including the need to establish the boundaries of the LTB and its governance arrangements. LTB boundaries cannot overlap and therefore there are conflicting boundaries with GCGP LEP. Discussions will be needed although BIS to advise why DfT are not able to work to LEP boundaries.
42. BIS Local are keen to put together a list of infrastructure constraints and next steps and any issues being raised as part of Local Planning processes.
43. UKTI provided a copy of their Local Capabilities research which identifies the key strengths of each LEP area based upon information from local authorities. The report demonstrates some real anomalies because of data samples available. LEP to take a lead of data inputs for the autumn review.

Ministerial Visits

44. Nick Clegg and David Willets are keen to visit the area. Proposed ministerial visit to Chesterford Research Park on 4th October and are looking for visits in December.
45. Vince Cable is visiting the St. John's Innovation Centre (date to be advised)