

BOARD PAPER: UPDATED BUSINESS PLAN

Background

1. The updated business plan reflects comments made at the previous board meeting on 25 April 2012. The following changes have been made:
 - Key workstreams are aligned to the core aims of GCGPEP set out by the board
 - Actions, targets and outputs allocated to each work programme
2. The updated business plan has been authored to make it suitable for external publication.
3. Five priority workstreams are proposed:
 1. Creating employment opportunities;
 2. Employer-led skills provision;
 3. Enterprise and innovation;
 4. Unlocking our growth potential; and
 5. Investment for growth.
6. Subgroups: we proposed changing their categorisation into 'reference groups' which will vary in character, remit and lifespan:
 - Standing groups: which represent and inform core interests and issues of the LEP area economy and have no fixed lifespan; and
 - Time limited task and finish groups: set up to identify specific priorities or undertake specific, time limited tasks and report back to the board.

For decision

4. The board are requested to endorse the business plan, which will form the focus and priorities for LEP staff, and the deployment of LEP resources in 2012/13.
5. Campaigns: we propose several campaign themes/issues – it is up to the board to select which two we will implement in 2012/13. Possible campaigns include:
 - Making the economic and business case for the A14 upgrade
 - Making a case for superfast and ultrafast broadband and continuing to lobby in terms of the economic benefits and rural agenda
 - Campaigning for the local area in terms of specific national leadership in particular industries
 - Campaigning for better careers and enterprise awareness and education for schoolchildren from 12 years of age