

Agenda Item x

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council
Date of Meeting:	4th December 2018

ECONOMIC POLICY UPDATE: LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform the Board of the Government requirement for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to develop a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

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 will be 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.

Some Wave 2 LEP areas (e.g. Leicester & Leicestershire LEP) were announced in July 2018 and are actively working up their strategies now with Government officer support (Cities and Local Growth Unit).

Lancashire LEP has not been formally approached by Government as yet, although all areas are being encouraged to commence initial scoping and evidence creation ahead of extensive consultation activity. It is understood a series of regional workshops will be announced soon, at which further guidance and direction will be provided to LEPs and key stakeholders.

All LEP areas are targeted to have a LIS in place by **early 2020**.

The Lancashire Leaders Group** has established an Economic Development Theme Group (EDTG). This group has subsequently re-established the LEDOG (Lancashire Economic

Development Officers Group including all 13 local authorities) with the proposed aim to support the on-the-ground delivery of its work and programmes. It is anticipated that this LEDOG group will be tasked with leading on the development and co-ordination of the Lancashire LIS with the LEP.

3.0 Recommendation(s):

3.1. To note the report for information at this time.

** The current Lancashire Leaders Group membership includes:-

Blackpool – Cllr Simon Blackburn	Rossendale – Cllr Alyson Barnes
Fylde – Cllr Susan Fazackerley	Chorley – Cllr Alistair Bradley
Wyre – Cllr David Henderson	Blackburn – Cllr Mohammed Khan
Preston – Cllr Matthew Brown	West Lancs – Cllr Ian Moran
LCC – County Cllr Geoff Driver	Lancaster – Cllr Eileen Blamire
Hyndburn – Cllr Miles Parkinson	Ribble Valley – Cllr Ken Hind
Burnley – Cllr Mark Townsend	Pendle – Cllr Paul White
South Ribble – Cllr Mary Green	