

**West of England Local Enterprise Partnership
Board meeting – 1st OCTOBER**

LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Purpose of the report

To update LEP Board Members on progress in developing an implementation plan for the West of England Local Industrial Strategy

To present a more in-depth update on progress in three specific areas:

- Innovation
- Productivity Challenge
- Employment & Skills

To approve proposals for the Skills Advisory Panel

Recommendations

1. Views are sought on the emerging Local Industrial Strategy implementation plan and the ongoing role of the LEP Board in supporting delivery
2. Board members are asked to note the progress reports on Productivity Challenge and Employment & Skills
3. Agreement is sought on the proposals for the Skills Advisory Panel as set out in Appendix Two to this report

Background

1. The West of England Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) was published on 19th July 2019 with a launch event attended by Chris Skidmore, Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
2. Alongside the LIS a next steps document was produced by WECA which sets out the actions identified in the strategy organised by the key themes of:
 - Cross-Sectoral Innovation
 - Inclusive Growth
 - Productivity Challenge
 - Innovation in Infrastructure
 - Clean Growth

3. The WECA Business Plan for 2019/20 has been updated to reflect publication of the LIS and the [mid-year update](#) has been published on the website.
4. We are now working to bring together the LIS implementation plan with the WECA Business Plan for 2020/21. This will be developed in parallel with the 2020/21 budget and both will be brought to WECA and Joint Committee on 31st January 2020.
5. To deliver the LIS as a region we will need to continue to work together, sharing ideas and bringing people together. We are keen to develop a delivery plan that is truly regional, and not just limited to activities funded and delivered by WECA.
6. We are developing a high-level plan of key deliverables and events and are exploring how we can engage with key partners to ensure that this reflects activities across the region that together will help us achieve our ambition.
7. Further details of our work to deliver the Productivity Challenge and Employment & Skills plan are included as appendices to this document.

Appendix One – Productivity challenge

Appendix Two – Employment and skills implementation plan and Skills and Advisory Panel proposal

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