

**PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**13 MARCH  
2012**

**SUB NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND THE NORTH EASTERN LOCAL  
ENTERPRISE BOARD**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP3: PROSPEROUS CITY**

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council, C104: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To set out the programme for a special meeting of the Committee on Sub National Economic Development and the role of the North Eastern Local Enterprise Board.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to convene a special meeting on Sub National Economic Development and the role and progress of the North Eastern Local Enterprise Board.
- 2.2 In view of the important and far reaching implications of the LEP and its work, the Committee agreed to open up the meeting to all other members of the Council.

**3 Current Position**

- 3.1 In order to examine the issues surrounding the establishment and progress of the LEP, the Committee has agreed to invite a number of the participants including representatives from the LEP Board, appropriate officers of the Council and an academic working in the field of sub national economic development. The format of the meeting is for each of the participants to give a brief outline of their views and experiences followed by an open question and answer session.

- 3.2 A programme is attached marked appendix 1, with confirmed speakers including:-

Gill Southern MBE, Director of Wessington Cryogenics (LEP Board Member)  
Angela O' Donoghue, Principal of Sunderland College (LEP Board Member)  
Dr Gill Bentley, University of Birmingham  
Vince Taylor, Head of Strategy and Performance, Sunderland Council

- 3.3 Further details on the work of the North Eastern LEP will be sent out in due course.

- 3.4 By way of background, the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership covers seven local authority areas across Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland. With a population of two million and an economy valued at £32 billion per annum, it is the fourth largest of 28 Local Enterprise Boards in the UK.
- 3.5 The Partnership brings together local authorities, businesses, universities, colleges and the voluntary and community sector. The Board comprises nine employers, seven council leaders and two education chiefs. The Partnership is chaired by Paul Woolston, senior partner at accountants PwC.
- 3.6 The LEP's vision is to rebalance the economy and create Europe's premier location for low carbon, sustainable, knowledge-based private sector growth and jobs. The Partnership will work to achieve four strategic priorities:
- Supporting Enterprise and Private Sector Business Growth
  - Building on Key Economic Strengths
  - Improving Skills and Performance
  - Strengthening Transport, Connectivity and Infrastructure

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the views and issues raised by the meeting and prepare a report.

#### **5. Background Papers**

None

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**Contact Officer: Jim Diamond (0191 561 1396)**  
James.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk