

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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APPENDIX 1

PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING

PROGRAMME FOR LEP EVENT

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 1.15pm | Refreshments |
| 1.30pm | Introduction – Leader of the Council
Chairs Opening Comments |
| 1.40pm | Vince Taylor (, Head of Strategy and Performance, Sunderland Council)

Background to the establishment of LEPs at a national level
North Eastern LEP – makeup/membership/aims/resources
Key aims and progress to date
Key challenges for the future |
| 2.00pm | Gill Southern (MBE, Director of Wessington Cryogenics (LEP Board Member)
Angela O'Donaghue (Principal of Sunderland College (LEP Board Member)

Perspective of the academic/private sectors
The first hand experience of Board Members
Key challenges and aims for the future
What has been learnt? |
| 2.15pm | Dr. Gill Bentley (University of Birmingham)

Government thinking underpinning the LEP (political/economic)
Potential benefits/weaknesses of LEPS
Recent analysis of LEPs performance nationally
How effective can we expect them to be
Where do we go from here? |
| 2.30pm | Questions and Open Discussion |