

GREATER CAMBRIDGE GREATER PETERBOROUGH LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

ONE-YEAR OPERATIONAL PLAN (2012/13)

COLLABORATE – CREATE - CHAMPION

22/05/2012

For enquiries contact:

Glenn Athey

info@yourlocalenterprisepartnership.co.uk

Introduction

Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (GCGPEP) is focused on helping to drive forward sustainable economic growth in our area – with local businesses, education providers, voluntary organisations and social enterprises, and the public sector working together to achieve this.

Given the green light by Government on 26th October 2010, following the submission of a bid in September 2010, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) now has a strong business-led Board in place, alongside a small core team.

The LEP is focused on delivering economic growth with a business-led remit to benefit the local area and its community. These changes will happen when we:

- **Collaborate** – with businesses, the social enterprises, the voluntary sector, and public sector to deliver sustainable economic growth
- **Create** – new jobs and the right conditions for enterprise growth including support for existing and innovative funding opportunities and initiatives
- **Champion**– support the commercialisation of our knowledge base to achieve further growth in our key industries, and support our people to gain the skills required by employers

Our goal

Our goal is to create an economy with 100,000 major businesses and create 160,000 new jobs by 2025, in an internationally significant low carbon, knowledge-based economy balanced wherever possible with advanced manufacturing and services.

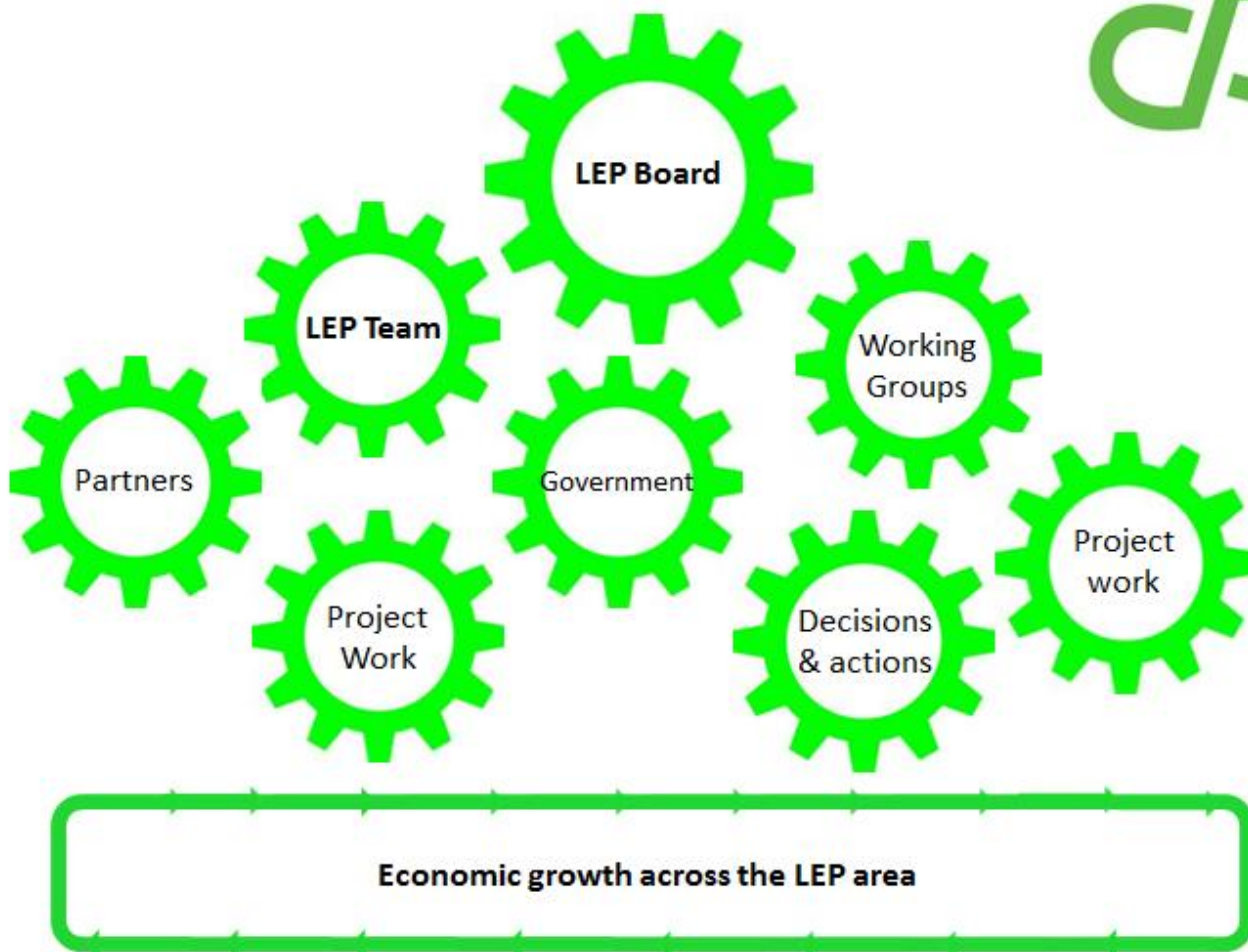
Our strategic areas of focus are:

- Skills and employment
- Strategic economic vision, infrastructure, housing and planning
- Economic development and support for high growth business
- Funding, including EU funding, regional growth funding and private sector funding

This one-year operational plan sets out how we will put in place actions in 2012/13 to begin to deliver these areas of focus. This year, the LEP has five priority work-streams, which are described in more detail in the following pages:

1. Creating employment opportunities;
2. Employer-led skills provision;
3. Enterprise and innovation;
4. Unlocking our growth potential; and
5. Investment for growth.

Working together



The LEP Board comprises 14 members recruited from the local area to provide strategic guidance and challenge to the work of the core LEP team.

Neville Reyner CBE DL – Chair of the Board – Chair of Exemplas Holdings Limited

Professor Mike Thorne PhD – Vice Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University

Dr Lynn Morgan – CEO of the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Allan Arnott OBE – Former Operations Director of Caterpillar’s Industrial Power Systems Division

Professor Sir Richard Friend FRS FREng – Experienced businessman and Cavendish Professor of Physics at the University of Cambridge

Mark Reeve – Managing Director of Chalcroft (Construction), King’s Lynn

Trevor Ellis – Chairman of CS Ellis Groups (Haulage), Rutland

John Bridge OBE – Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce

Cllr Nick Clarke – Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council

Cllr Sian Reid – Leader of Cambridge City Council

Cllr Marco Cereste – Leader of Peterborough City Council

Cllr Terry King – Deputy Leader of Rutland County Council

Cllr Jason Ablewhite – Huntingdonshire District Council

Connecting with the Board are focussed reference groups to help provide insight, support and specialist knowledge to further progress the LEP’s five priority areas:



Each reference group has a LEP Board representative on its group who is responsible for feeding back progress, ideas and suggestions via LEP Board meetings.

Each reference group will be formed to meet specific objectives – some over a short period of time, others on a longer term basis.



Groups in the process of forming

SIIC = Science, Innovation and Industry Council

Progress to date

To date the LEP has made significant progress by: achieving formal recognition by government, appointment of a board, establishment as a non-profit company. The LEP has been able to generate a sense of shared endeavour within its new geography. Securing an Enterprise Zone for Alconbury within a national competition is also a significant achievement. Our discussions at national level have helped to persuade Government to find additional funding for the work of LEPs, such as through the Growing Places Fund.

With the recent appointment of a core team of executive staff, the LEP must now build on the firm foundations that it has established to demonstrating tangible practical progress on a number of key objectives.

DELIVERING GROWTH: OUR FIVE PRIORITY WORKSTREAMS

Summary – GCGPEP's five priority work-streams:

1. Creating employment opportunities
2. Employer-led skills provision
3. Enterprise and innovation
4. Unlocking our growth potential
5. Investment for growth

1. Creating employment opportunities

- Attracting investment and employment to the LEP area – particularly within the Enterprise Zone at Alconbury
- Improving the market profile of the GCGP area to attract investment and enterprise
- Investing our Growing Places Funding in infrastructure projects that create employment

Focus for 2012/13:

- Getting the Enterprise Zone ready for investors and helping secure the first employers and jobs on the site
- Improving the market profile of GCGP to potential investors
- Investing the Growing Places Fund in projects that deliver jobs and growth

Targets

500 new jobs confirmed on the Enterprise Zone at Alconbury in 2013

12,500 jobs unlocked through £15.5 million of Growing Places Fund loans and grants

£26 million of additional investment levered-in from £15.5 million of Growing Places Fund loans and grants

Doubling inward investment enquiries in 2013/14 compared to 2011/12 levels

Actions

Contribute to EZ inward investment marketing plan and activities to be launched in September 2012

Deliver a new LEP website, and support development of the Greater Cambridge Inward Investment website, to enhance the market profile of the GCGP area

2. Employer-led skills provision

- Making a detailed proposition to change the skills funding and commissioning system to enable education and training provision to better meet the needs of local employers
- Working with enterprises, education and training providers and employers to help ensure provision meets the needs of local employers

Focus for 2012/13:

- Understanding the future skills needs of enterprises and alternative approaches to commissioning skills provision
- Finalise and deliver GCGP skills strategy
- Proposition on local skills funding and commissioning delivered to Government and the Skills Funding Agency
- Help enterprises and schools build relationships

Targets

75% of Skills Funding Agency funding aligned to locally agreed priorities by 2015

Actions

Skills strategy delivered by March 2013

New skills funding and commissioning processes in place in 2015

3. Enterprise and innovation

- Identifying the key opportunities for enterprise growth, and the key barriers to enterprise success
- Identifying the major opportunities from innovation, R&D and industry
- Resolving the finance gap for small- and medium- sized enterprises
- Helping make it easier for enterprises and voluntary organisations to access public sector procurement opportunities
- Providing clear guidance on where help, support and finance is available for enterprises

Focus for 2012/13:

- Providing leadership, guidance, and influence via our Science, Innovation and Industry Council
- Providing clear signposting on our website to available sources of enterprise support and to information on procurement opportunities in the public sector
- Working with financial institutions on making it easier for small enterprises to access bank finance
- Developing new approaches to enterprise finance, working with our own potential funding sources, financial institutions, local partners and European funding sources

Targets

Connect with over 200 businesses to provide support, information and opportunities online and offline by September 2013

Identify and work with 10 case-study businesses to document progress and understand barriers to growth and how they are overcome. Publish by October 2013

Actions

Signposting for enterprise support incorporated into our website by September 2012; for public procurement by December 2012

Concordat with financial institutions on simplifying small business access to bank finance by October 2012

4. Unlocking our growth potential

- Identifying our the key economic priorities and actions that will unlock our growth potential
- Identifying the opportunities for, as well as the barriers to, economic growth
- Identifying the priority actions, projects and investments that will unlock growth
- Campaigning on major actions and investments that will unlock growth

Focus for 2012/13:

- GCGP economic strategy and action plan
- Support for local authority partners strategic planning work

Targets

£20 million in new investment committed to major actions identified in the action plan by 2015

Actions

GCGP economic strategy launched in October 2012

GCGP action plan launched in December 2012

Deliver 2 major campaigns on issues or activities that will deliver a major contribution to growth (2 issues to be agreed by board)

5. Investment for growth

- Designing innovative financial instruments that make use of EZ business rates income, and Growing Places Fund allocations and recycled funds
- Exploring new ways of funding infrastructure and enterprise investment
- Developing a 2014-2020 European Funding Programme that meets the needs of the GCGP area

Focus for 2012/13:

- Funding models for infrastructure and enterprise
- Early work collaborating with other LEP areas to inform the 2014-2020 European Programme

Targets

Align European and other funding sources to GCGP priorities, as set out in the economic strategy and action plan

Actions

Formal submission on 2014-2020 European Funding Programmes made to UK Government in February 2013

Funding models for infrastructure and enterprise agreed in 2013

Funding models and priorities for use of Enterprise Zone business rate receipts to be agreed in 2013

Underpinning all of these activities will be a comprehensive communications and engagement campaign to provide businesses, voluntary sector, social enterprise and the public sector with an insight into the work of the LEP, the opportunities our area holds for economic growth and ways in which these groups can work together better in the future.