##### Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership

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| **Title:****SEP Refresh** | **Agenda item**  |
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| **Prepared by:****Andy Hulme** | **Date of Meeting** **21st June 2017** |
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| Executive Summary:This report updates the Board on the development of the refreshed Strategic Economic Plan including the programme for its publication and dissemination and the development of its supporting delivery plans and strategies. The current draft of the designed-up document is attached. Recommendations / Action Requested: The Board is asked to: -1. Confirm it is content with the draft SEP and the proposed programme for launch and dissemination of key messages.
2. Note the further contents of this report.
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| Details:**The Refreshed SEP**1. At its meeting in April 2017, the LEP Board adopted the refreshed Strategic Economic Plan, subject to some minor amendments and additions.
2. Most of those changes have now been made, including a short (two-page) Executive Summary which sets out the key messages, and the SEP is now in the process of being graphically designed ready for publication and launch in early July. The current working draft of the document for publication and upload to the LEP website will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

***The Board is asked to confirm it is content with the draft in terms of format and content.*****Launch and Dissemination of the SEP and Key Messages**1. We are now at the stage where we can plan for the launch and promotion of the refreshed SEP and the dissemination of its key messages.
2. In terms of launching the SEP, we would recommend doing this at the Cheshire & Warrington Sub-Regional Conference on 7th July. The timing of this is fortuitous and would enable the LEP Chair to deliver the keynote address. The audience of key local partners, councillors, businesses etc. will be very interested in the SEP and the conference can then go on to discuss the key growth issues the SEP has identified (transport, skills, Industrial Strategy etc.) in greater detail.

***The Board is asked to confirm it is content for the SEP to be launched at the Sub-Regional conference on 7 July.***1. During the refresh process, we have held over a dozen stakeholder engagement events, giving a wide range of people the chance to discuss the evidence and share their views on the emerging key messages. The LEP Executive is keen to ensure that any subsequent dissemination and engagement activity, reaches beyond the previous events and offers people the chance to hear something ‘new’.
2. The LEP Executive would recommend that in the next stage, we align our engagement activity with specific interest groups. We have done this recently with the Rural Strategy Board who had concerns around the SEPs relevance in rural areas. Such engagement enabled the Executive to explain how the component parts of the SEP played out in rural areas and following the discussion the Rural Strategy Board were happy to endorse the approach we had taken. Repeating this approach with other interested groups, will enable the Executive to ensure the nuances of the messaging lands.
3. We are compiling a list of specific interest groups we would be keen to engage with and this will include:
	* MPs
	* Cheshire Business Leaders
	* Place Team Chairs
	* CHaLC (probably linked to a session on the emerging transport strategy)

***The Board is asked to confirm it is content with a targeted, sector specific approach to ongoing engagement and dissemination.******SEP Supporting Strategies***1. The report to Board in April also indicated that the first four (of up to seven) supporting strategies would be available by October. These documents would carry greater detail on their respective themes as well as identify priority activities, projects and programmes which would then aggregate up into the LEP delivery programme. This paper provides further detail on these initial documents.
2. Work on development of the first four of these ‘daughter documents’ (Transport, Skills and Education, Energy and Quality of Place) is either underway or about to commence. The remaining three plans (Digital, Housing and Science and Innovation) will be started later in the summer.
3. Much of the work in steering development of these delivery plans will sit with the relevant LEP sub-committee, with the overall programme overseen by the Strategy Committee.
4. The **Transport Strategy** (led by the Local Transport Body) and **Skills and Education Strategy** (led by the Employer Skills Board) are already underway, with early drafts due for consideration by these sub-committees in July / August. Final versions will be produced by October. An Invitation to tender (ITT) for consultants to develop the BEIS-funded **Energy Strategy** is being prepared for issue by the end of June and work to develop a scope and Terms of Reference for the **Quality of Place Strategy** is also being progressed. The latter two pieces of work will be overseen by the Strategy Committee with the support of dedicated Task and Finish Groups made up of representation from the business sector (including the LEP Board) and public sector. It is expected that initial outputs from these two workstreams will also be available in October.
5. The delivery plans for **Housing, Digital** and **Science and Innovation** will be scoped out over the summer to enable work to start in earnest in September. Output from these workstreams is expected in March / April 2018.

**Sub-regional prospectus**1. It should be noted that work is also underway at the request of the **Sub Regional Leaders Board** to develop a ‘**prospectus**’ for Cheshire and Warrington which will highlight the key messages around economic growth and the inclusive growth (Public Service Reform) agenda. This will draw substantially on the narrative within the SEP and also seek to highlight key project priorities at the sub-regional level.
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| Appendices:* Draft SEP (to follow)
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