**LEP STRATEGY COMMITTEE – AGENDA ITEM 6**

Subject: Local Industrial Strategy

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Meeting date: Friday 17th May 2019

**Purpose**

To update the Strategy Committee on progress with the work to develop a Local Industrial Strategy for Cheshire and Warrington.

**Recommendations**

The Strategy Committee is asked to

1. Note the content of the report
2. Note the work in train to develop the workstreams and content for the LIS
3. Note the updated timescales for production of the LIS

**Discussion**

1. Work is progressing at pace since the publication of our Evidence Base and Insight Summary document in March. Leads have been identified for all key workstreams with the exception of Logistics, and a revised programme for development of the LIS is set out at **Appendix 6a.** This would still see submission to HMG at the end of July.

1. A separate update on the progress and development of our thinking for the key workstreams has been produced by our Consultants, Metro Dynamics, and this has been circulated as **Appendix 6b.**
2. A challenge session for a number of the workstreams has been set for 30th May with the LIS Steering Group. As part of the process each workstream is expected to develop a Policy Position Paper (see template attached as **Appendix 6c**) which will aid our discussions with Government as well as provide structured input to the LIS itself.
3. Subject to the outcome of the challenge session, we will be looking to set up initial discussions with relevant BEIS and other Departmental Policy Teams to get feedback on our emerging thinking and around any potential asks of Government. It is likely that early areas for discussion will be Energy and Clean Growth, Skills and Life Sciences.

**Expert Panel**

1. The second formal meeting of the LIS Expert Panel took place on 4th April in Manchester. Four out of the five Panel Members were present, and a separate briefing has been arranged for the fifth (Steve Gooding, Director of the RAC Foundation) on 21st May, ahead of the third and potentially final meeting of the Panel at the end of June.
2. So far, the input provided by the Expert Panel has been incredibly helpful with a number of points of constructive challenge and also a desire to ensure thinking progresses with pace and is joined up – not just across our own workstreams but picking up potential linkages with other LEP areas.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

1. In getting to this stage of the LIS process we have undertaken around 25 engagement events reaching in excess of 400 businesses and other stakeholder, and work is underway to synthesise and analyse the raft of thoughts and comments captured across the various sessions.
2. Now that our thinking is starting to firm up and as the output from individual workstreams becomes available, we will be undertaking a further round of engagement events.
3. Once again these will be a mix of smaller-scale dinners and breakfast briefing events with representatives from our key sectors, and larger scale sessions aimed at a broader mix of stakeholders. Full details will be uploaded on to the LEP website and when finalised the programme will be circulated to Strategy Committee members who may wish to attend one or more of the events.