

Board Meeting 14 February

Agenda Item 8

What This Paper is For

It provides details of the revised LEP Business Groups following the review undertaken by the nominated Board sub group of Adam, Mike, Rob and David. It also suggests a specific Board member to be allocated to each group.

Background

Following the paper provided by Mike Curran, the LEP sub group of the LEP Board reviewed the current LEP business groups. The aim was to ensure that they were fit for purpose, cover and provide appropriate representation from the main business sectors in the county, and are organised in the most effective way. There was a particular focus on delivering our Strategic Economic Plan [SEP] and the requirements of the Local Growth Deal Funding already agreed and anticipated in Growth Deal 3.

This was the first review of groups undertaken since the LEP was formed and coincided with a review of LEP resources brought about by funding constraints. This had meant a reorganisation within the LEP which unfortunately had resulted in the unavoidable loss of members of staff. This in turn meant that working practices had to change. As part of the review it was agreed that a Board Member be attached to each business group to increase Board engagement and provide a direct link from the group to the Board. Where this already existed it worked extremely well and the groups have found the support to be positive and encouraging.

Risks/Issues

It is important that the LEP retains strategic control over the 3 groups to be led by sponsors to ensure that the LEP aims and objectives to meet the requirement of the Growth Deals and SEP retain absolute priority.

Ensure that all groups provide a representative cross section of business trading in that sector within the county.

Recommendations

To agree following Action and Board Representative:

Group	Action	Board Representative
Transport and Logistics:	Dissolve the group	
Business Membership	Dissolve the group	
Business Advisory Group	Dissolve the group	
Land Based	RAU to take the lead	Mike Warner
Technology/Cyber Security	GCHQ to take the lead	Diane Savory
Energy	SGS to take the lead	Rob Loveday

Banking and Finance	Remain in current format	Adam Starkey
Retail, Tourism & High Street	Remain in current format	Diane Savory
Advanced Engineering	Remain in current format	Rob Loveday
Business & Professional Services	Remain in current format	Roman Cooper
Construction & Infrastructure	Remain in current format	Mike Warner
Creative	Separate paper to Board in April	Matt Burgess

Further Information

The Business Engagement Team is continuing to research any requirement to create yet further Business Groups. They have a particular focus on Health and Care having regard to the demographics of the county and the bid for a Gloucestershire Health UTC within the campus of the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. A “summit” of key stakeholders in this sector is under consideration to include the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UoG and Richard Graham MP etc to establish if there is a need for an LEP business group to support economic activity in this sector.

For further information about Business Sector Groups or points raised in this Board paper, please contact Mike Curran, mike.curran@gfirstlep.com.