

## MARCHES LEP BOARD MEETING PAPER

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	26 November 2019					
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	4					
<b>Item Subject:</b>	Development of the Marches Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) - Update					
<b>For:</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		<b>Decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To update Board members on progress made with the development of the Marches Local Industrial Strategy and to outline the next steps that the LEP is required to complete.					
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To note the progress made with LIS development and the next steps to be undertaken.</li> <li>2) To delegate authority to the Marches LEP Director, in consultation with the LEP Chair, to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. consider any final amendments suggested by the three Local Authorities and/or Business Board members and formally submit an updated document to government.</li> <li>b. liaise/negotiate with government departments to gain formal approval of the LIS.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3) To note the draft document, which is awaiting formal sign off by the Cabinets of our three Local Authorities during November 2019, its priorities and the associated evidence base.</li> </ol>					
<b>Background:</b>	<p>The Marches LEP has developed its Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) to build on the priorities and local strengths outlined in <a href="#">The Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2019</a>. It strives to showcase the area's unique distinctive strengths to Government, thus identifying priority opportunities for investment to accelerate economic growth and improve productivity.</p> <p>The Marches LIS development has been supported by Metro Dynamics who facilitated the update of the Marches Strategic Economic plan and have worked on the published LIS for the West Midlands Combined Authority and those being currently being developed by Cheshire &amp; Warrington LEP and Stoke &amp; Staffordshire LEP amongst others.</p> <p>Developing the LIS has involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of a detailed evidence base (<a href="#">found here</a>) outlining the economic and demographic position of the Marches.</li> <li>• The commissioning of additional research through Local Authority partners to enhance understanding of our underpinning and emerging sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tourism and Cultural Strategy (Telford &amp; Wrekin Council)</li> <li>○ Digital Strategy (Shropshire Council)</li> <li>○ Innovative Health and Social Care (Shropshire Council).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An extensive programme of stakeholder and public engagement events, including workshops for public sector partners and Board Members, sector-specific consultation events for businesses, presentations at the LEP Management Team meeting and Board Meetings and two final business events in October 2019 supported by the three Business Boards.</li> <li>• Discussions have been held with Swindon &amp; Wiltshire LEP, Gloucestershire LEP, Worcestershire LEP and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media &amp; Sport to identify collaborative opportunities across 'Cyber Valley' that can be included in each LEP's LIS.</li> <li>• The commissioning of skills data and research through the new Skills Advisory Panel to shape</li> </ul>					

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future priorities for investment.

- Preparatory discussions with government departments have been held, these have included a data and emerging themes workshop and a 'Challenge Session' which reviewed the draft priorities.

The final draft of the LIS ([which may be found here](#)) has been circulated to the three Local Authorities' Cabinets to ensure that they are supportive of this draft and to members of the three Business Board to gather any additional comments. This version has also been shared with BEIS, through our Area Lead, Gareth Wilson.

### Next Steps

- Feedback from Board Members, Local Authority Cabinets and Business Board members will be incorporated into an updated document for formal submission to government during November 2019.
- The document will then be subject to in-depth review by government departments and by BEIS analysts. It is likely that during this period a number of amendments will be required in line with government feedback as finalising the document is an iterative process.
- The Marches LEP has been advised there is no agreed timetable for the government review process and it is important to note that, although engagement with departments will continue, formal feedback is likely to be delayed due to the pre-election period.

### Financial Implications:

The budget for LIS development has been allocated as part of the LEP's operational budget using additional funding secured from MHCLG within the successful application for capacity funding linked to the LEP review.

The LIS will be used to guide future government investment decisions.

### Legal Implications:

None

### Risks, Opportunities and Impacts:

- Having a clearly articulated LIS will allow the Marches LEP to make a case to government which highlights opportunities for economic growth across the area, outlines our potential contribution to the Industrial Strategy's Grand Challenges and considers opportunities for inclusive growth.
- The pre-election period is likely to hold up liaison/negotiation with government.
- The new government may not wish to focus on Local Industrial Strategies. However, any new administration will wish to base future investment decisions on a well evidenced assessment of local priorities and opportunities.

### Consultation:

The LEP team, Metro Dynamics and partners have completed extensive consultation and engagement to support LIS development.

### Appendices:

Appendix A - The Marches Local Industrial Strategy (final draft) [which may be found here](#)

Appendix B - The Marches Local Industrial Strategy Evidence base [\(this may be found here\)](#)

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