

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Hugh Branney
LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge
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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the conduit for national and European funding coming into Cumbria. The benefits to Copeland residents would be felt if funding through this route was invested in Copeland priorities and projects.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

(e.g. Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council, etc.)

This report has come to update the Executive regarding the process that the LEP is engaging in and the position of the current documentation available.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Executive

1. note the draft Cumbria Strategic Economic Plan 2014-24 that the LEP has submitted to Government; and
2. note the process on going regarding the EU Investment Strategy for Cumbria.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has spent the last 3-4 months working up a Socio Economic Plan and EU Investment Strategy to submit to Government and highlight how Cumbria wishes to prioritise investment and available funding to stimulate local growth.
- 1.2 The attached draft Cumbria Socio Economic Plan (SEP) 2014-24, is the document that the LEP has submitted to Government for advice and negotiation, with the aim of adopting the document by March 2014.
- 1.3 The LEP is also in the process of drawing up an EU Investment Strategy to outline how Cumbria LEP intends to direct and deliver against its allocation of £78M from the EU Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020. The aim is that this will be agreed by March/ April 2014.

2 PROPOSALS

- 2.1 During the development of the Cumbria SEP, partners including Copeland Borough Council, were involved in submitting priorities and projects on behalf of stakeholders. As a Council we made representations in line with Borough and partner priorities, including Britain's Energy Coast and the Work & Skills Partnership. We also took the opportunity to draw our nuclear partners together to scope out the priorities and potential offered through the Nuclear Centre for Excellence aimed at contributing directly to the content of priority 2 Nuclear and Energy Excellence.
- 2.2 The deadline for sending priorities for inclusion in the EU Investment Strategy was 10th January and we are yet to receive the draft document.
- 2.3 There was a ministerial meeting last week to provide feedback to the Cumbria LEP from Government and this was reported to the LEP Board on 17th January.
- 2.4 The Executive are asked to note the attached draft SEP and the ongoing process relating to the development of the Cumbria SEP and EU Investment Strategy.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 This process has the potential to provide significant match funding into Copeland priorities.

5 STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No Comment
- 5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: Whilst the SEP is available we still await a draft of the EU investment Strategy. Any continuing works with the LEP will need to be managed within the resources and priorities of the council. Whilst potential match funding into Copeland's priorities would be welcomed any projects would need to be carried out within the resources available
- 5.3 Other consultee comments, if any: None

6 HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

6.1 The Council will continue to engage with the LEP and its sub-groups through its Members and Senior Officers sitting on those Committees/ Groups.

7 WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

7.1 Not applicable.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – PART 11 - Draft Cumbria Socio Economic Plan 2014-24: The Four Pronged Attack