

Forest Heath District Council

(This report is not a key decision. This report has been subject to appropriate notice of publication under the Council's Access to Information Rules)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism

CABINET

3 SEPTEMBER 2013

CAB13/106

GROWTH PLANS FOR THE NEW ANGLIA LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP AND GREATER CAMBRIDGE/GREATER PETERBOROUGH LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (Key Decision Reference: SEP13/08)

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) have been asked by the Government to develop growth plans for their areas. These plans will help coordinate economic development in local areas and prioritise investment by central government and local partners. As part of these plans, the Government has invited LEPs to develop a Structural and Investment Fund Strategy (SIFS) for use of the European Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020 in their local areas.
- 1.2 LEPs will ultimately be required to produce multi-year growth plans and the Government will provide detailed guidance on the required content of these in September 2013.
- 1.3 The LEP growth plans provide the context for both the county and district level growth plans.
- 1.4 Since West Suffolk is part of both the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (GCGP), it is essential that we contribute to both growth plans.
- 1.5 The two LEPs are at differing stages of development in terms of producing their plans. The GCGP is currently in the process of establishing a sub-group to draft the plan, whilst NALEP has already produced a draft growth plan, '*Towards a Growth Plan*', which is out for consultation until the end of August 2013 and forms Appendix A of this report.
- 1.6 LEPs are required to submit their draft growth plans to Government in September 2013 and final growth plans are due to be submitted to Government in January 2014.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) The content of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's 'Towards a Growth Plan', as contained in Appendix A, be noted.**
- (b) Comments on the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's 'Towards a Growth Plan', as contained in Appendix A, be submitted to the Head of Economic Development and Growth, to enable a West Suffolk response to the consultation to be prepared.**
- (c) The Head of Economic Development and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Tourism, be given delegated authority to approve the final version of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's 'Towards a Growth Plan'.**
- (d) The Head of Economic Development and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Tourism, be given delegated authority to seek comments, via email, on the draft version, and approve the final version, of Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Plan.**

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3. How will the recommendations help us meet our strategic priorities?

3.1 The recommendations meet the following, as contained within the Strategic Plan:

- (a) A stronger local economy which is capable of growing.

4. Key issues

4.1 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) have been asked by the Government to develop growth plans for their areas. These plans will help coordinate economic development in local areas and prioritise investment by central government and local partners. As part of these plans, the Government has invited LEPs to develop a Structural and Investment Fund Strategy (SIFS) for use of the European Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020 in their local areas.

- 4.2 LEPs will ultimately be required to produce multi-year growth plans and the Government will provide detailed guidance on the required content of these in September 2013. However, they are due to include:
- (a) key project and programme priorities;
 - (b) milestones;
 - (c) funding proposals;
 - (d) governance arrangements; and
 - (e) resource commitments.
- 4.3 The LEP growth plans will provide the context for both the county level growth plans (e.g. the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Plan provides the framework for the Suffolk Growth Strategy and associated Delivery Plan), and the district level growth plans (e.g. the West Suffolk Growth Plan that is currently being produced by officers in conjunction with the relevant Portfolio Holders).
- 4.4 Since West Suffolk is part of both the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (GCGP), it is essential that we contribute to both growth plans.
- 4.5 Since all European and Government funding available to the LEPs (which includes funds for transport, housing and skills) will be allocated on a competitive basis, it is critical that the NALEP and GCGP growth plans stand apart by being imaginative, innovative, and providing value for money.
- 4.6 The two LEPs are at differing stages of development in terms of producing their plans. The GCGP is currently in the process of establishing a sub-group to draft the plan, whilst NALEP has already produced a draft growth plan, '*Towards a Growth Plan*', which is now out for consultation until the end of August 2013.
- 4.7 LEPs are required to submit their draft growth plans to Government in September 2013 – since the GCGP is behind NALEP in terms of producing a draft, there will be implications in terms of being able to consult with Members through the formal report process, however, there will be an opportunity for informal consultation on their draft plan. Final growth plans are due to be submitted to Government in January 2014.
- 4.8 NALEP's '*Towards a Growth Plan*' outlines how NALEP aims to:
- (a) support growth in key sectors in Norfolk and Suffolk;
 - (b) improve support for the business community;
 - (c) focus more on skills attainment aligned with the needs of the economy; and
 - (d) help to secure infrastructure investment needed to unlock growth potential.

NALEP's aspiration to build a 'green economy' underpins all the actions in the plan.

- 4.9 '*Towards a Growth Plan*' also intends to:

- (a) be an integrated programme to highlight how economic development across New Anglia depends on making progress with each element;
 - (b) set out NALEP's investment priorities to ensure that expenditure, particularly from the Government's proposed 'Single Local Growth Fund', is used to achieve shared priorities and is not 'funding led'; and
 - (c) provides the framework for public-private partnership working to strengthen New Anglia's competitive advantage.
- 4.10 This is an important opportunity for businesses, private investors, local authorities, community representatives and leaders, voluntary organisations, and all those who live and work in Norfolk and Suffolk, to work with NALEP to share priorities for the future.
- 4.11 '*Towards a Growth Plan*' will also incorporate NALEP's Structural and Investment Fund Strategy, which will set out NALEP's proposals for projects and programmes that will attract funds under the 2014-2020 EU Common Strategic Framework. NALEP is holding a series of consultation events in late July to gather feedback from the business community for inclusion in their SIFS and they are also running an online survey to seek views on priorities: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FG3K6FW>
- 4.12 NALEP's draft growth plan and associated documents must be seen as living document, since LEPs will need to respond to changing market requirements and further evolutions of Government policies as required.

5. Other options considered

- 5.1 None.

6. Community impact

6.1 Crime and disorder impact *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

- 6.1.1 No impact from this report.

6.2 Diversity and equality impact *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

- 6.2.1 No impact from this report.

6.3 Sustainability impact *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

- 6.3.1 No impact from this report.

6.4 Other impact *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

- 6.4.1 No impact from this report.

7. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

- 7.1 Formal consultation on NALEP's '*Towards a Growth Plan*' started in July 2013 and will finish in August 2013. The results of this consultation will inform the

draft growth plan that will be submitted to Government in September 2013.

- 7.2 NALEP is also carrying out four consultation events during July 2013 to assist them in producing their SIFS.
- 7.3 GCGP have not yet produced a draft growth plan, however it is anticipated that they will seek to consult with local authorities informally over the coming weeks.

8. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

- 8.1 The production of the growth plan documents has implications in terms of officer and Member time.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
West Suffolk priorities are not included in NALEP Growth Plan and are therefore not funded/supported	Medium	Full engagement with the consultation process	Low
There is no growth	Medium	We implement the NALEP Growth Plan	Low

10. Legal and policy implications

- 10.1 None.

11. Ward(s) affected

- 11.1 All wards in Forest Heath.

12. Background papers

- 12.1 None.

13. Documents attached

- 13.1 Appendix A – Draft NALEP Growth Plan