
Title:	LEP Business Planning 2021/22
Purpose:	To update board members of the development schedule, priorities and format of the Buckinghamshire LEP Business Plan for 2021/22.
Recommendation(s):	For members to note the content of this report and to provide feedback on the draft BLEP Business Plan and process for sharing and aligning with partners.
Impact on Risk Register:	The process of undertaking the business plan helps to identify and mitigate against any new risks that are anticipated for the year ahead. These risks will be incorporated into the live register that is presented to all Board Meetings within the year.

- 1 As 2020 proved to be a challenging year, 2021 will be an equally important year for Buckinghamshire LEP and for the Buckinghamshire economy. At a national level we expect the launch of the Levelling Up Fund and a Shared Prosperity Fund pilot that will replace the former European funds and the end of the current five year Local Growth Fund programme. A Comprehensive Spending Review is expected in the Autumn. Government is also expected to publish a number of White Papers that may determine government policy starting with the Skills and Lifelong Learning in January 2021 followed at some point by the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper in England . In short we can expect a year where both funding and policy contexts come into sharper relief and we will need to be ready to respond on behalf of the Buckinghamshire economy.
- 2 At a regional or sub national level we can expect further clarification and support for clustered activity. At a local level the first elections for the new Buckinghamshire Council are due to be held in the spring and the Buckinghamshire Growth Board will extend its influence further as it seeks to develop an overarching strategy of Place. The BLEP Board and Executive will carry the economic strategy into this aligned vision for Buckinghamshire.
- 3 Having become an incorporated company and established a stronger sub-group structure over the past year Buckinghamshire LEP will be looking to strengthen the contractual and operational arrangements with our key delivery partners and will be seeking to develop new strategic partnerships with all neighbouring geographies where we have mutual interests.
- 4 All of this will be delivered against the backdrop of the continued Covid Crisis and dark financial outlook and the need to support Buckinghamshire businesses to “Respond: Renew: Rebound” positively.
- 5 The draft business plan, which was developed following a full executive team planning session in December, is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report. It sets out what we see as the main roles and functions for Buckinghamshire LEP based around 6 headings:-

- Establish the Strategic Framework for Economic Growth
- To Deliver Informed Economic Insight and Support Knowledge Exchange
- To Collaborate Activity and to Influence Effectively
- To Deliver Economic Growth & Future Prosperity
- To Communicate Economic Opportunities Effectively
- To Secure the Resourcing for Sustainable Growth

The draft plan also sets out a calendar representing a view as to how we anticipate the year ahead unfolding and correspondingly activity, how roles may be delivered, which members of the team may be allocated to lead on this activity and the key resources they will need to deliver these activities.

- 6 Over the next few weeks the plan will be refined and shared with our core delivery partners, in particular with the Buckinghamshire Council and BBF teams to ensure oversight and alignment with their operational business plans. The revised business plan will be presented to the March BLEP board for final comment and approval.

Board members are asked to:

- i. **Note the content of this report and to provide feedback on the draft BLEP Business Plan and process for sharing and aligning with partners.**