



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

22 July 2013

Dear Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs,

The Government is today issuing technical guidance for LEPs, in response to your calls for more clarity and certainty on the process for negotiating Growth Deals and the assessment of Strategic Economic Plans, following publication in April of preliminary guidance on the European Structural and Investment Funds.

This guidance recognises the critical role that LEPs have to play in providing strategic economic leadership for their areas, bringing public and private sector partners together around a common set of goals. You understand the drivers and barriers to growth which affect your local economies in a way that central government cannot.

That is why the Government announced in last month's Spending Round that it would be placing more resources under your control, guaranteeing at least £2 billion a year over the next Parliament, empowering you to take the initiative through your Strategic Economic Plans. The Government also announced allocations of over £5 billion of European Structural and Investment Funds to LEP areas, allowing you to use your Growth Deal funding on combined or complementary activities. (The Development and Delivery of European Structural and Investment Funds Strategies - Supplementary Guidance to Local Enterprise Partnerships was sent to you on Friday 19 July.) The certainty of funding the Government is providing will enable you to plan for the longer term and reaffirms its commitment to give business-led LEPs the power to make the choices that are right for your local economies.

This is not just about using resources from the Local Growth Fund. The Government wants to see Strategic Economic Plans that bring together all the resources at your disposal, not least from the private sector, so that each LEP has one plan driving its approach to investing in local priorities, whether that is in skills, priority growth sectors, business support, or infrastructure.

The Government wants to develop a stronger partnership with LEPs, supporting you to take on this ambitious agenda. There will be important opportunities for you to engage with Government and further influence this agenda. You will all meet the Prime Minister at the No.10 event on 23 July.. There will also be a series of workshops over the summer with the intention of discussing, for example, how the Strategic Economic Plan and assessment process will work. We will be seeking views from you as to what you would like these sessions to focus on.

 