

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to support the Humber Chamber proposal to develop a Humber Local Enterprise Partnership and become a key partner.
- 1.2 To seek approval to become a full member of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In June 2010 the Government sought interest from councils and businesses to develop local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) to provide strategic leadership and set local economic priorities across a local area. It was seen as essential that business and civic leaders work together to become effective partnerships.
- 2.2 A LEP is focussed on a particular geographical area where there is an economic rationale. It will determine the economic priorities of that area and undertake activities that will drive economic growth and create new jobs.
- 2.3 A total of 62 responses were received following the Government's request for LEP proposals in June 2010. Of these 24 were approved and a further 6 have since been approved.
- 2.4 The Council originally submitted a proposal for a Humber-wide LEP in September 2010 which was supported by the business sector. However there was also a LEP proposal focussed on a north bank geographical area. Both proposals were rejected.
- 2.5 A revised proposal has now been developed for a Humber-wide LEP led by the Humber Chamber and supported by the four Humber local authorities as well as the private sector.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Humber LEP will provide strategic leadership for the Humber economy and partners will work together to attract inward investment, business growth and ensure that resources are focussed for maximum impact.

3.2 It will focus on:

- the opportunities of renewable energy to capitalise on the biggest growth sector and will prioritise work to create growth in other sectors such as ports, logistics and chemicals.
- promoting the “Humber Brand” as a location for investment and co-ordinating international trade
- lead on international trade issues to assist companies to export goods and services
- co-ordinating and identifying strategic transport and infrastructure priorities to support economic growth
- co-ordinating innovation and enterprise activity
- submitting a bid for a Humber Enterprise Zone

3.3 The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has differing priorities to the Humber LEP. These are:

- Sustainable Rural Communities: Greater Lincolnshire is largely rural with much of the population living in market towns, coastal communities and isolated rural settlements. The LEP will work with partners and local businesses and entrepreneurs to provide support they need to thrive.
- Greater Lincolnshire Resource Strategy: Greater Lincolnshire has considerable assets in land, heritage and the built environment. The LEP will look for ways to make the best use of these assets to drive the economy forward (eg developing agri-food and tourism industries).
- Sub Regional Economic Driver: The western side of the County includes the city of Lincoln and the towns of Gainsborough and Grantham which have all been designated by Government as Growth Points. These growth areas with other market towns provide an opportunity to grow the economy on the back of existing industries and the potential of the A1/A46 road network and East Coast railway line.

3.3 The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is based on the administrative area covered by Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire is already a full member. The LEP also works closely with Nottinghamshire and Greater Peterborough areas.

3.4 There are therefore two options for consideration:

- Option 1 – to support the Humber Chamber proposal for a Humber-wide LEP and become a key partner and to become a full member of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP.
- Option 2 – to do nothing.

3.5 Option 1 is the preferred option.

4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 would ensure that the Council becomes a key partner in the Humber LEP and contribute to the strategic economic leadership for the region and have an influencing role within the Greater Lincolnshire area. It will allow the region to be able to access opportunities for government initiatives and funding to support the economic development of North Lincolnshire.
- 4.2 Option 2 would not allow the Council to capitalise on government initiatives and funding if it was not part of a LEP.
- 4.3 It is recommended that Option 1 is pursued.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial – There is no formal financial commitment to the LEP.
- 5.2 Staffing – There are no significant staff implications to become members of the LEPs and involvement will be from within existing establishment.
- 5.3 Property & IT – There are no property or IT implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 There are no direct implications of becoming members of the LEPs on Statutory, Environmental, Diversity or Section 17 requirements.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Initial consultation was undertaken with businesses across North Lincolnshire to seek their views on taking forward a LEP. The outcome was supportive of developing a Humber-wide LEP and there was also support to become members of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To support the Humber Chamber proposal to develop a Humber-wide LEP and become a key partner
- 8.2 To join the Greater Lincolnshire LEP as a full member.

HEAD OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - Nil