

Greater Cambridge – Greater Peterborough LEP

Enterprise Zone Expression of Interest Pro Forma

Background

The Government announced the establishment of 21 Enterprise Zones in the 2011 Budget. 11 of these zones are earmarked for specific LEP areas; the remaining 10 will be allocated through a competitive process. LEPs will be able to apply for these with agreement from their constituent partners.

The government has issued an Enterprise Zone Prospectus: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1872724.pdf>

In the prospectus, it is stated that Enterprise Zones will benefit from:

- A 100% business rate discount worth up to £275,000 over a five year period, for businesses that move into an Enterprise Zone during the course of this Parliament;
- All business rates growth within the zone for a period of at least 25 years will be retained and shared by the local authorities in the LEP area to support their economic priorities;
- Government and local authority help to develop radically simplified planning approaches in the zone; and
- Government support to ensure superfast broadband is rolled out in the zone. This will be achieved through guaranteeing the most supportive planning environment and, if necessary, public funding.

In addition, the Government will consider:

- The scope for introducing enhanced capital allowances to support zones in assisted areas where there is a strong focus on high value manufacturing;
- The use of Tax Increment Finance to support the long-term viability of the Zone, in tandem with the Local Government Resource Review; and
- UKTI support on inward investment and trade opportunities.

The government expects there to be a simplified planning regime within Enterprise Zones through the use of Local Development Orders (LDOs). Details of a Planning Advisory Service pilot project on LDOs can be found here: <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelId=11430>

Criteria

The prospectus does not set out firm criteria against which Enterprise Zone bids will be judged, these are to be developed but it suggests the following characteristics:

- Size of approximately 50 to 150 hectares, depending on site specifics.
- Demonstrable additionality required, suggesting sites that currently have little or no business occupation.
- Single ownership of land is desirable and public land could be used. However Regional Development Agency or central government land would need to be acquired by Local Authorities at the market price.

LEPs wishing to bid for an Enterprise Zone will need to submit an expression of interest by the end of April. This needs only to demonstrate the intention to bid and give an early indication of any suitable sites. In May CLG will issue criteria for the assessment of bids and full bids will need to be submitted by the end of June.

Local Authorities within the Greater Cambridge – Greater Peterborough LEP are invited to suggest suitable sites for an Enterprise Zone. These will be considered by the LEP Board and an independent assessor, with a view to submitting the most promising site to CLG in June.

Where is the suggested site? Please include postcode or map reference if possible.

What size do you envisage the zone as being and what is the anticipated mix of businesses/uses?

How many new businesses and additional jobs could the site generate within 4 years, within the Enterprise Zone itself and more widely across the functional economic area?

Would you be able to bring forward a Local Development Order and how would you use it?

What are the most significant risks to the success of this site as an Enterprise Zone, and how could these be mitigated?

How would this Enterprise Zone support the vision and objectives of the Greater Cambridge – Greater Peterborough LEP? See <http://www.yourlocalenterprisepartnership.co.uk/>

What are the expected financial benefits, including the anticipated value of business rates receipts over the 25 year period, for this Enterprise Zone? What wider benefits are also anticipated?