

## **Forming Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Sub Groups**

### **1. Background**

As the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough (GCGP) LEP becomes more established we are quickly moving to a position where it is clear that we need a means by which we can advance work on our core priorities. As previously discussed at Board meetings, it is proposed that we put in place a series of sub groups (working to the LEP Board) for this purpose, and the Board has already agreed to the establishment of a Science Industry and Innovation Council as a first sub-group. This paper sets out a proposal for implementing these sub groups and ensuring GCGP gets maximum value from any group that is established.

### **2. Rationale for the sub groups**

The rationale for implementing sub groups comes from three principal considerations, first established while the initial LEP proposal was developed in Summer 2010, these being:

- Sub groups offer a route to broaden engagement and visibility of the LEP to a range of stakeholders
- Sub groups enable GCGP to involve a broader group of partners to ensure delivery of core priorities rather than just those represented on the LEP Board
- The sub groups will provide additional “doing” capacity and expertise alongside a small core team

Building on these points, this paper sets out a proposal for a series of sub groups that will help deliver GCGP priorities.

### **3. Establishing sub groups that add value**

To ensure that our sub groups support the GCGP priorities and drive delivery it is recommended that the following characteristics should be a key part of each sub group. Each sub group should therefore:

- Be sponsored by a LEP Board member (not necessarily chaired), to ensure a formal link to the GCGP Board
- Be supported by a LEP Director or Senior Local Authority Manager
- Involve relevant private and public sector members – albeit manageable in composition
- Reflect the LEP geography as broadly as possible
- Focus on providing outcomes and measurable activity
- Support the delivery of the four priorities identified by the LEP Board
- Not be bureaucratic, or meet for the sake of meeting. We will need clarity on what each group will deliver.

### **4. Structure**

To date the GCGP Board have approved the establishment of a Science Industry and Innovation Council. A more detailed paper setting out proposals for the establishment of a LEP-wide Cleantech sub group is also being considered at this Board meeting.

It is therefore proposed that the following **Sector sub groups** are also established:

- Science Innovation and Industry Council
- Cleantech
- Visitor economy
- Third sector
- Food and Drink

**Thematic sub groups** (reflecting GCGP business plan priorities)

- Funding (inward investment, UK and EU funds)
- Skills and Worklessness
- Economic Vision, Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Supporting high-growth potential firms
- Banking and access to finance
- Responding to economic shocks

(NB. It is considered that the business plan priority of engaging more effectively with Government/European Commission does not need a sub-group but that the Board should retain this as a priority)

**Geographic sub group(s)**

In addition to the Sector and Thematic groups there is the potential for geographic sub groups. At present there is strong support for a Greater Cambridge grouping. Work is underway to bring this forward. However, from initial conversations in Greater Peterborough there is currently little support to form a geographic grouping in this area. The rationale for this thinking is, firstly the Greater Peterborough does not entirely sit within the GCGP area, that the three core partners (Peterborough, Rutland and King's Lynn) would prefer an informal arrangement to meet when necessary, potentially to discuss key issues when needed. Equally Greater Peterborough partners see the Thematic and Sector sub groups as being the means for LEP business to be conducted successfully.

## **5. Establishing a LEP liaison team**

Beyond the Sectoral, Thematic and Geographic sub group(s), a number of partners have identified that establishing something similar to the former GCGP Implementation team would also be beneficial to the LEP. The Implementation team initially came together to support the development of the LEP Proposal which was eventually submitted to Government. The group ceased to meet in February 2011 due to the formation of the Board and anticipation of new structures being established.

Partners have commented to the Directors that a re-established team with representatives from each local authority and key business representative organisations would assist with their understanding of the LEP and their ability to contribute to the delivery of its objectives. From an operational perspective the re-establishment of a group like this will ensure that all areas of the LEP can engage in regular discussion about major issues (as well as receiving regular updates on our activities through the existing fortnightly briefing). It will also provide a forum for each local authority to present new ideas, or present issues and would enable a LEP wide discussion. This approach will ensure that all local authorities have the opportunity of raising issues through a formalised LEP process.

The Board are asked to agree to establish this group as the 'GCGP Liaison team'. The Liaison team would consist of senior officers from each local authority, along with key business representational groups. This again will augment our own core capacity and ensure that when needed others can provide support, perhaps even leadership when required. It is proposed that the Directors initiate and chair this group and re-establish an effective forum that helps advance the LEP's activities.

## **5. Initiating the Sub Groups**

Subject to the Board's agreement on the overarching structure of the sub groups we will need to take forward the following initial action to formally establish the sub groups.

- Agree a LEP Board member sponsor for each group
- Identify other core partners (private, public sector) to support each sub group
- Formally establish the group, define terms of reference and draft a work programme – all of which will then be signed off by the LEP Board
- Identify whether there are any existing groups that could be converted into a LEP sub group

## **6. Next steps**

The Directors would welcome conversations with individual LEP Board members about potentially sponsoring a sub group during September 2011.

Once we have an identified a LEP Board sponsor the Directors will discuss the shape and composition of each Group and establish a first meeting, and where necessary identify a potential sub group chair.

We will need to phase the implementation of the sub groups to ensure that we are establishing strong, focused groups. Again this will be assessed with each sponsoring Board member and communicated back to the Board.

It is anticipated that the sub groups for front running sectors will be formed by end of October 2011 (possibly sooner for the Science Innovation & Industry Council).

A report on progress will be made to the November 2011 GCGP Board meeting.