

GC-GP LEP – Proposed Science, Innovation and Industry Council

Following consultation on behalf of the GC-GP LEP, this paper proposes the formation of a new Science, Innovation and Industry Council within the LEP, reporting to the LEP Board. The Council, within which business leaders will, for the majority: seek to support Innovation within the LEP; act as an expert body within the LEP in this area; provide a bridge between the LEP and Senior Government; endorse business and innovation support activities (for example by having the power to offer an LEP kite mark); commission work.

The LEP Board is invited to note the following terms of reference for the proposed Council and approve, subject to modifications that it may wish to make. If it is prepared to approve the formation of the Council in principle, it is asked to approve those involved in preparing this proposal, to make suggestions for initial membership of the Council and to produce detailed terms of reference for consideration by the LEP Board at its next meeting.

The Role of the Council

The Council will seek to make formal recommendations to the Board of the GC-GP LEP on opportunities for enhancing business growth and innovation, acting as the leading authority within the LEP in this field. It will be responsible for the development of a growth and innovation strategy, to guide the commissioning of LEP activities and the endorsement of LEP-approved organisations. It is expected that it will play a major role in policy advice.

The members of the Council will include eminent industry and business leaders, individuals with senior responsibilities in business support functions and leading figures in local and national government.

It is proposed that the Council meets three times a year, with working groups being commissioned and tasked to deliver specific actions in support of the LEP strategy. Members of the Council will be invited to advise on policy developments and emerging opportunities on a case-by-case basis.

Objectives of the Council

It is proposed that the Objectives of the Council will be to:

- Provide leadership within the LEP in the field of innovation, developing a strategic framework for the activity.
- Promote industry and business within the LEP at national and international level, identifying opportunities to promote growth.
- Identify barriers to growth, innovation and the commercial exploitation of ideas and seek to overcome these, working with partner LEPs or others as necessary in this regard.
- Provide a policy framework to enable the LEP to commission activities to support innovation and to guide private and public partnerships to enhance business performance and generate growth.
- Monitor industry and business performance in comparison with selected competitors, to underpin policy development.
- Determine mechanisms to achieve enhanced competitiveness of local companies irrespective of size and maturity by improved collaboration and clustering.

In meeting these objectives, the Council will report regularly to the GC-GP LEP Board. Annually, it will propose a workplan for the following year identifying specific short-term actions with clear outputs and benefits.

Terms of Reference

The Council will provide leadership in the field of Innovation within the LEP. In particular, it will give priority to the following activities:

- The development of a Science, Innovation and Industry Strategy for the GC-GP LEP.
- The development of an expert knowledge-base within the LEP on local economic performance.
- The identification of key activities for encouraging growth, which deserve LEP endorsement, for example, by direct commissioning or promotion as LEP endorsed activities.
- The provision of advice on related GC-GP LEP activities concerning Infrastructure and Skills from an innovation perspective.
- The promotion of the LEP businesses to major national and international bodies concerned with the innovation agenda, in particular, leveraging the status and special role that the UK Government has given to LEPs.

Potential Early Actions

- *Build clear performance metrics and statistics for LEP economic performance.*
- *Establish formal recognition by TSB, Treasury, BIS and related organisations, to enhance promotional activities and policy development.*
- *Provide recognition of private organisations approved by LEP for providing business support (for example, through kite-marking).*
- *Development of work plan and initial strategy document. Potential initial suggestions include:*
 - *Arguing for rate relief on vacant infrastructure*
 - *Support for TICs and related activities*

Membership:

1. Twelve (+ or -) Senior Business Leaders
 - a. Investor representatives
 - b. Established company representative
 - c. High-tech representative
 - d. International company representative
 - e. ICT representative
 - f. Biotech representative
 - g. Cleantech representative
 - h. SME representative
 - i. Consultancy representative
 - j. Creative industry representative
2. Two Senior Government/Political representatives, for example, an MP and a senior Treasury member
3. Two Local Government Leaders
4. One Cambridge Network representative
5. One Innovation and Research Park representative
6. One Cluster organisation representative
7. One NHS representative
8. One HE representative

In attendance: Chair and Strategy Director of the GC-GP LEP

It is proposed that a project team should support the formation of the Council, with Ian White being Chair for one year, a secretariat and advisory function provided by Dr Belinda Clarke from the ideaSpace Enterprise Accelerator, and Alex Plant.