

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE GREATER PETERBOROUGH LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP: INCORPORATION AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **31 January 2012**

From: **Executive Director : Environment Services**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To consider the County Council becoming a corporate member of the Greater Cambridge-Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as part of its incorporation as a company limited by guarantee.**

Recommendation: **Cabinet is recommended to agree to the County Council becoming a corporate member of the LEP**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact</i>	
Name:	Alex Plant	Name:	Cllr Nick Clarke
Post:	Executive Director, Environment Services	Portfolio:	Leader
Email:	Alex.plant@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Nick.Clarke@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 715660	Tel:	01223 699173

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In Summer 2010, the Coalition Government invited proposals for locally-driven, business-led LEPs as the key body to drive economic growth at the sub-national level. The proposal put forward by our area, with significant input from the County Council, was to form a LEP based on the overlapping travel to work areas for the cities of Cambridge and Peterborough. The proposal was one of the first to be accepted by the Government. The LEP Board was formed in March 2011. Councillor Nick Clarke is a Board Member of the LEP. An early LEP success has been securing an Enterprise Zone for Alconbury.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The LEP Board has agreed that it makes sense to incorporate the LEP, so that it has legal status and can more readily take actions in a number of areas (including, for example, entering into contracts).
- 2.2 The LEP Board has proposed that the 13 Local Authorities making up the LEP should be corporate members of the LEP, and is in the process of finalising legal documentation to give effect to this. County Council lawyers have reviewed this documentation and are content with what is proposed.
- 2.3 Corporate membership of the LEP formally acknowledges the role of the LEP-area local authorities, but does not bring additional financial commitments for the County Council or other councils. Key decision making on issues within its remit remains with the Board of the LEP, which has a private sector Chair and a private sector majority, in line with Government's policy aims for LEPs.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

3.1 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives in their communities

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority. The success of the LEP is important for this, but corporate membership is not, *per se*, a material issue.

3.4 Ways of Working

Incorporation of the LEP will help embed a collaborative approach to working on economic issues across the LEP area and across sectors.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource and Performance Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation

There has been significant consultation among Members and Officers in the setting up of the LEP. This issue is a technical matter relating to the LEP's incorporation, and the LEP Board and LEP officers have discussed the issue with relevant County Council Members and Officers. Cllr Clarke, as Leader of the Council and a LEP Board Member, and Alex Plant, as Executive Director, Environment Services and Strategy Director of the LEP, have been fully involved in considerations on these matters.

SOURCE DOCUMENTS GUIDANCE

Source Documents	Location
None	