



**Worcestershire**  
Local Enterprise Partnership



**Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy**

**Cities and Local Growth Unit  
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**Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government**

11 March 2019

Gary Woodman  
LEP Chief Executive  
Worcestershire LEP

By email

Dear Gary

I would like to thank you, Mark and the Accountable Body for participating in the Worcestershire LEP Annual Performance Review this year. With the publication of *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*, it has been a year of significant change and I am grateful for your continued cooperation including our ongoing need to resolve the overlap issues. Your participation in the LEP Network Working Groups has helped greatly in shaping this year's assurance processes, culminating in the publication of the revised National Local Growth Assurance Framework.

As with last year, I am writing to communicate formally the outcomes of the 2018-19 Annual Performance Review, and to set out the actions that are required. The agreed note of the Annual Performance Review is attached. Alongside the Section 151 Officer letters to the Accounting Officer, the outcomes of the Annual Performance Reviews will be used to inform recommendations for funding for the 2019-20 financial year.

#### **Performance Review**

As set out in the 2018-19 Annual Performance Review Guidance, following the Annual Performance Review meeting, officials in the Cities and Local Growth Unit undertook a review to look at the performance of each LEP across the three themes: governance, delivery and strategy. Following feedback and wider discussion, it was decided not to award an overall marking for this year as initially indicated. It was felt that this was a fairer representation allowing the LEP to focus on each individual theme.

The review also sought to highlight any areas where there may be need for further development or where there is good practice to be shared. This involved reviewing the information provided for the Annual Performance Review meeting along with other sources including Spot Checks on compliance with the National Assurance Framework, Growth Deal data submissions and LEP governance processes and policies.

Following the conclusion of the Annual Performance Review process we have determined that the LEP is compliant with the National Assurance Framework. Feedback under each theme is set out below:

### **Governance**

The LEP's governance is considered to be good.

I recognise the improvements you have made to your governance arrangements in the past 12 months. A demonstrable difference has been made in relation to: the closer working relationship with your Section 151 Officer, the independent audit completed of governance arrangements by Worcestershire County Council and resultant actions from this and finally the setting up of local authority scrutiny arrangements.

Arising from the Annual Performance Review, the following actions were identified to help your continuous improvement in governance:

- LEP to detail proposals for new approach to business engagement through refreshed Business Board and other mechanisms by end of July 2019.
- It is recommended that a Programme Delivery Sub-Board structure or similar, which reviews all LEP funded projects and considers the future project pipeline, be put in place for 2019-20 financial year.

### **Delivery**

The LEP's delivery progress is considered to be good.

I welcome the excellent work which has taken place this year on delivering the 5G and Betaden projects, alongside your continued good performance on delivery of Local Growth Fund projects.

Arising from the Annual Performance Review, the following actions were identified to strengthen project delivery:

- The LEP to do more post implementation reviews on projects - to ensure lessons are fed back into future programme and to wider partners.
- LEP to do further work to update and review the project pipeline during 2019.
- LEP to use capacity funding to best effect to support Local Industrial Strategy development during 2019 and to put in place a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Programme Board in 2019 to deliver this important piece of work.
- LEP to address distributional concerns across the County (north and south of County split) as part of the Local Industrial Strategy development and consultation process – through 2019.
- Programme and spend to also be monitored through 2019 to provide evidence of distribution of resources across the County (north and south of County split).

### **Strategy**

The strategic impact of the LEP is considered to be good.

I recognise your strategic leadership of the 5G work at local, regional and national level, which should be built upon and exploited in your Local Industrial Strategy as it develops in the next 12 months.

The following actions were identified to strengthen the LEP's strategic influence:

- LEP to ensure maximum use is made of Growth Hub intelligence and ensure that the LEP Board is updated on its activities.
- LEP to ensure that opportunities for collaboration with other LEPs are explored as part of Local Industrial Strategy development, particularly on agritech, medtech as well as continued work on 5G/cyber.

#### **Next Steps**

The previous sections of this letter set out some areas where we would like you to focus over the next twelve months and my team will be in touch to follow-up this letter. If you have not already done so you should publish the joint assurance statement you wrote with the LEP Chair ahead of your Annual Performance Review on the LEP website. You will receive further information on the decisions relating to your Local Growth Fund and core funding allocations for the 2019-20 year shortly.

As part of the Annual Performance Review preparation we asked you to provide us with information on where Government could better support you to fulfil the ambitions of your place. We have noted this feedback and will continue to work with you to explore these issues over the coming months. Further, we are committed to working with you over the coming months to support you to deliver local priorities and develop your area's Local Industrial Strategies.

I take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of following the communication and branding guidance as Minister Berry stated last year. This will continue to be a term of your grant offer letter.

Thank you once again for participating positively in the process.



**STEPHEN JONES**  
**DIRECTOR, CITIES AND LOCAL GROWTH UNIT**

cc. LEP Chair and Section 151 Officer.