

**STOKE ON TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
17 SEPTEMBER 2020
LEP Delivery – Delivery Plan**

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the national assurance monitoring process, each LEP is required to publish an annual report and delivery plan. The delivery plan and annual report should set out a well-developed understanding of the local economic evidence base to identify opportunities and obstacles to inclusive growth, prosperity and improved productivity. Government will work with LEPs to develop measures to report against in the plan and report. These will be considered as part of the annual assurance process. Delivery plans and annual reports should be published at the beginning of each financial year.
[Paragraph 163 of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework.](#)
- 1.2 The Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) wrote to the LEP Secretariat in July 2020 to advise that they understand that due to the impact of Covid- 19, the ability of LEPs to progress business as usual activities has been reduced. As part of a national consideration in-conjunction with the LEP Network, Ministers have agreed certain exemptions and extensions to the conditions of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework. A table produced by Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that sets out 12 aspects of exemption is provided below.
- 1.3 The table sets out provision for Delivery Plan that states *“Strengthening LEPs introduced delivery plans (inaugural plans were submitted last year) and year end reports, which were due to assess LEPs’ achievements against their delivery plans. LEPs’ resources may be better utilised in the current climate. We, therefore, propose to postpone the submission and publication of the documents to align with the Q1 data submission scheduled for August 2020”*.
- 1.4 The [LEP Delivery Plan for 2019/20](#) was published in May in 2019 and comprises a brochure type document.

2. Key Matters

- 2.1 Through discussions with CLGU, the LEP Secretariat proposed that a tabular form of the Delivery Plan is produced, and an external facing brochure is produced for the Annual Conference in Autumn 2020. The tabular form (see below) of the Delivery Plan captures the activity of the LEP Partners complied from previously agreed information updated by project leads and Assurance Framework requirements. Please note that the appendices to the tabular form of the Delivery Plan will be reviewed by the Audit and Finance Committee for finalising and publishing.

Next Steps: An external facing brochure style Delivery Plan for 2020/21 will be produced in-conjunction with partners for the Autumn Conference. It will provide an update of the data in the 2019/20 version. If there are substantial editorial changes made, it will be brought back to the Executive Board or circulated amongst partners and project sponsors for approvals as appropriate.

Note Prepared by:

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MHCLG: Exemptions to the National Local Growth Assurance Framework due to CV-19

SSLEP: Tabular form of LEP Delivery Plan 2020/21