



Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 19th March 2024

Key Decision – Yes

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cllr Mark Fryer, Leader

Directorate – Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Report Author – Darren Crossley – Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Title – Transfer of the Local Economic Partnership functions, Joint Committee, and related agreements

1. Brief Summary:

- 1.1 This report provides an update following the Government announcement that it would cease to provide core funding for the Local Economic Partnership (LEP's) from 1 April 2024 and instead would support local authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs. This report provides an overview of the plans and activity to integrate Cumbria LEP functions into the Local Authorities, following the latest Government guidance.

Executive is being asked to approve proposals as developed by the LEP Integration Programme and set out in the Integration Plan for Cumberland Council to act as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body in respect of current Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) functions and programmes, and enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of this, with Westmorland and Furness Council providing monitoring and assurance pertaining to existing CLEP programmes and funds for which LEPs are responsible. Executive is also asked to agree that the Joint Executive Committee provides the basis of joint working and collaboration on strategic economic growth across the Cumbria geography.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Executive is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree to the transfer of the LEP functions as required by government guidance and for the Joint Committee between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council to oversee these functions; and
- 2.2 Delegate the drafting of proposals for Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee to the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport following consultation with the Lead Executive member and Chief Legal Officer
- 2.3 Delegate the process of determining the arrangements for the nomination of co-opted members to the Joint Committee to the Chief Legal Officer following consultation with the Lead Executive Member; and
- 2.4 Agree that Cumberland Council is the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body and responsible for the integration of LEP functions in line with the government guidance; and
- 2.5 Agree that Westmorland and Furness Council is providing the assurance support to Cumberland Council's S151 Officer; and
- 2.6 Delegate authority to enter into an Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council to the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport following consultation with the Lead Executive Member and the Chief Legal Officer; and
- 2.7 Agree to the LEP continuing to undertake some activities as part of the transition and to delegate the finalisation and entering into of agreement with the LEP which specifies the nature and duration of those activities to the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport following consultation with the Lead Executive Member, S151 Officer and the Chief Legal Officer; and
- 2.8 Authorise officers to develop and assurance framework with Westmorland and Furness Council that will provide the governance for the decision making and transparency of funding and investment after 1st April which shall be brought back to the Joint Committee; and
- 2.9 Delegate authority to the Director of Resources and S151 Officer following consultation with the Lead Executive Member to agree with Westmorland and Furness Council the budget for expenditure on county-wide economic functions for 2024/ 2025; and
- 2.10 Delegate the establishment of an appointment panel to the Joint Committee to enable the selection and appointment of members to join the Cumbria Economic Growth Board; and
- 2.11 Delegate the novation of all contracts required to give effect to the transfer of functions and services to the Chief Legal Officer following consultation with the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport.

Tracking

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|------------|---|
| Executive: | 19 th March 2024 |
| Scrutiny: | 20 th February 2024 – Westmorland and Furness Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 th February 2024 – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee 27 th February 2024 – Cumberland LEP Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| Council: | N/A |

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

Role of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

- 3.1 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) are the bodies across England tasked with leading economic growth activities in their local areas. The Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) operates across the whole of the Cumbria footprint and has been in existence since 2014.
- 3.2 Following a ministerial review of LEPs, the Government published the 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' Report in July 2018. The report set out a number of recommendations around governance and operation including the need for LEPs to have a legal personality and a single accountable body.
- 3.3 CLEP became a company limited by guarantee in December 2018, and shortly after all of Cumbria's then Local Authorities became Directors of the company and were entitled to appoint directors to CLEP Local Enterprise Partnership Board. Following LGR, both Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils have acceded to the Board with the Leader of Westmorland and Furness now holding the position of Vice Chair, reflecting the financial assurance responsibilities that the authority had assumed in its accountable body role.
- 3.4 CLEP has an extensive governance structure reflecting its responsibilities for strategy, investment, delivery, co-ordination and advocacy.
- 3.5 CLEP's role as the strategic lead for economic growth has resulted in the production of a number of key policies and plans, all of which have been consulted on widely and ensured input and ownership from business, the third sector and public sector partners. Most recently, it developed Restart, Reboot, Rethink in response to the need to deliver post-pandemic economic recovery.
- 3.6 CLEP also leads on specialist economic intelligence and modelling work, partnering with Local Authority officers. Activity includes the purchase, management and analysis of key datasets including Experian forecasts and the DfE Data Cube.
- 3.7 Separate to LEP functions, each unitary authority has its own responsibilities for economic development and will continue to lead and deliver economic development within their own geographies. Examples include economic development and inclusive growth activities, economic growth strategies, programmes, projects, town deals, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Strategic Infrastructure and Local Plan
- 3.8 LEPs were originally established to facilitate the management of major capital funding programmes in local areas. In total, almost £80m of Government funding was delivered in Cumbria by CLEP between 2015 and 2021, mainly across the following key programmes:
 - Cumbria Infrastructure Fund (Growing Places Fund) – A £6.16m evergreen, revolving investment fund which was originally focussed on creating jobs and homes. All funding has been invested and is in the repayment stage which leaves it as 'recycled, clean' money for more flexible future investments.

- Growth Deal (Local Growth Fund) – £60.3m capital programme which is financially complete and in the benefits realisation stage with regular reporting to Government until March 2025. Growth Deal supported a range of projects including Barrow Waterfront, investment in flood defence works at strategic employment sites and creation of new skills facilities.
- Getting Building Fund – A £10.5m capital programme which is financially complete and in the benefits realisation stage with regular reporting to Government until March 2025. The programme supported two projects – A595 improvements at Bothel and Marina Village.
- Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund – £15m legacy fund launched by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in August 2017. Its primary funding goals were to encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the North of England and to benefit areas in the North of England that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment.

3.9 Cumbria County Council acted as Accountable Body for CLEP from its inception. This wide-ranging role incorporated significant support to CLEP in terms of assessment, assurance, programme financial management, contracting, monitoring and reporting. After Local Government Reorganisation, Westmorland and Furness Council took over the role of providing monitoring and assurance. Whilst the majority of the capital programmes are financially complete, that Council has continued to provide ongoing monitoring, reporting and compliance support.

3.10 More recently, Government has elected to channel larger economic growth programmes such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) through Local Authorities and LEPs have transitioned to deliver revenue-based, specialist skills and business programmes. Westmorland and Furness Council, through its Assurance and Economic Programmes Team, currently acts as Accountable Body for a number of these and provides ongoing support for their compliant management.

These current programmes are as follows;

- Growth Hub – Delivery of the Government’s ‘free at the point of access’ business support service. CLEP received £0.231m for 2023/24 to deliver a range of low, medium and high intensity assists through a combination of in-house and sub-contracted provision.
- Careers Hub – Supported by DfE and local match funding, the Hubs bring together a range of education, local authority and business partners to deliver high quality careers advice to help young people prepare for the next step on their learning or employment journey. The budget for 2023/24 is circa £0.2m.
- Skills Bootcamps – Provision of flexible courses of up to 16 weeks to help people aged 19+ achieve sector-specific skills between levels 3-5 and fast-track to an interview with a local employer. Valued at circa £1m p.a. CLEP is currently delivering Wave 4 with £1.7m in place for Wave 5 for delivery in 2024/25.
- Department for Business and Trade Key Account Management –£50,000 p.a. to engage with and maintain effective relationships with key foreign-owned businesses.
- Innovating for Success - £1m programme utilising recycled funding from the Cumbria Infrastructure Fund focusing on innovation and decarbonisation in businesses. Programme has supported 32 businesses and is in the benefits realisation phase.

Future of LEPs – Transfer of Functions to Local Authorities

- 3.11 CLEP has been in existence since 2014, however on 17 March 2023 Government launched a consultation into the 'Future of LEPs' noting 'it was minded' to cease core funding to LEPs and to integrate LEP functions into local democratic institutions in line with government's commitment to extend devolution across England.
- 3.12 On 4 August 2023, the Government announced that it would cease to provide core funding the LEPs from 1 April 2024 and it would support local authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Government support local authorities to deliver the core functions currently delivered by LEPs – namely, business representation, strategic economic planning, and the delivery of government programmes where directed.
- 3.13 Government expects these functions to be exercised by upper tier local authorities (working in collaboration with other upper tier local authorities as appropriate), where they are not already delivered by a combined authority, or in areas where a devolution deal is not yet agreed.
- 3.14 To support the policy change, Government published technical guidance in August 2023 and on 19th December 2023 published the final piece of guidance on the core functions of business representation and local economic planning. Both guidance documents should be used by local authorities in developing their integration and delivery plans for 2024/25 and beyond.
- 3.15 A letter from Minister Young and Minister Hollinrake dated 19th December is attached as **Appendix 2**, the letter contains the links to the guidance available and confirms Government will provide up to £240,000 to a single local authority who will act as the Accountable Body, and deliver the functions previously delivered by LEPs – namely business representation, local economic planning, and the delivery of Government programmes where directed – subject to final business case and integration plan approvals.
- 3.16 This core funding is separate to any programme funding that may be provided to support the delivery of, for example, Growth Hubs or Careers Hubs. Funding for the delivery of Government programmes as directed will be communicated to authorities by the responsible Government department or body as per usual processes
- 3.17 The guidance sets out the following key messages;
- (a) That government's sponsorship and core funding of LEPs will cease in April 2024.
 - (b) LEPs may continue to operate as private enterprises but government will no longer fund LEP's and will instead support local authorities to take on LEPs core functions, namely business representation, strategic economic planning and responsibility for the delivery of government funded programmes where directed.

- (c) The Government expects the creation of an Economic Growth Board for a functional economic area (FEA) geography (minimum 500,000 population) made up of local business leaders and representative bodies to create an economic strategy for the area.
- (d) Government expects areas to publish their (existing, new, or updated) strategy within six months of receiving funding. The strategy should be published on the combined authority website or where multiple upper tier local authorities are working together, the authority appointed to be the accountable body should publish the strategy on their website.
- (e) Delivery of Growth Hub Activity - Local Authorities are expected to work together to ensure seamless Growth Hub provision across the area, which will continue to support businesses and to provide a convening point for broader business support provision. The delivery area must be broadly related to the business and economic area footprint.
- (f) Delivery of Careers Hubs – Local Authorities to work together to ensure Careers Hubs delivery continues so far as possible over existing geographies.
- (g) Management of Legacy Capital Programmes – the Accountable Body to be responsible for ongoing monitoring requirements.
- (h) Existing Enterprise Zones - The future functioning, management, and governance of these should be agreed locally, in line with any pre-existing arrangements and to ensure a smooth transition of operation and funding.

3.18 At the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) on 13th November 2023 the JEC noted that further work would be required to develop the transitional arrangements between Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and the Joint Executive Committee before 31 March 2024 and to plan for further integration beyond 1 April 2024.

3.19 On 13th November 2023, the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) agreed the following recommendations:

- a) That the Joint Executive Committee is the best governance structure to take on responsibility for the transition of LEP functions to the two Authorities to continue on a Cumbria geographical footprint and the delivery of those functions across Cumbria and recommends to the Cumberland Executive and the Westmorland and Furness Cabinet that they agree a change to the terms of reference of the Joint Executive Committee to reflect this.
- b) To the continuation of the Accountable Body and Assurance Team operating as a hosted service under the Inter Authority Agreement to support the management of LEP legacy funding and management of future funding from 1st April 2024 and to amend the Service Strategy in the Inter Authority Agreement relating to the Accountable Body and Assurance Team to reflect this. The Service Strategy provided for an initial period of 1 year through 2023/24 with the option to extend if required.

- c) Delegating authority to the Chief Executives of both Authorities in consultation with the Leaders of the Councils for approval of the integration plan for submission by 30th November 2023 (since updated to reflect the latest Government Guidance)
- d) Note that further work will be required to develop the transitional arrangements between CLEP and the Joint Executive Committee before 31 March 2024 and to plan for further integration beyond 1 April 2024.
- e) Programme to integrate LEP activities into Local Authorities for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils.

3.20 Since the Joint Executive Committee decision and on receipt of more detailed Government guidance, senior officers from Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils have been working with the CLEP to develop a transition programme to integrate LEP activities into Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils by 1st April 2024.

3.21 This has included an overarching LEP Integration Programme Board and setting up the following core workstreams:

- a. Assurance and Contracts led by Assistant Chief Executive, Westmorland and Furness Council
- b. Finance led by Section 151 Officers in Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils
- c. Staffing and TUPE led by Assistant Director HR and OD, Cumberland Council and working with Cumbria LEP as transferor.
- d. Joint Executive Committee and Economic Growth Board led by Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport, Cumberland Council and Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland and Furness Council, working with the CLEP Board and a small CLEP working group.
- e. Communications and Website led by Communications and Digital teams

3.22 Each Workstream is currently identifying and delivering on critical activities for 1st April 2024, whilst also acknowledging the actions that will fall post-1st April 2024 to deliver on the Implementation Plan.

3.23 The Chief Executives of both Authorities in consultation with the Leaders of the Councils submitted the integration plan into central government, noting that further work will be required to develop the transitional arrangements between CLEP and JEC before 31st March 2024. This has been further amended and submitted to take into account discussions and delegated authority from both Authorities to develop proposals for Cumberland Council to act as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body, and for Westmorland and Furness Council to retain responsibilities for an Assurance Function. The final integration plan can be accessed in **Appendix 1**.

3.24 The integration plan includes the interim governance arrangements leading to the CLEP Board responsibilities transitioning to the Joint Executive Committee and a future Cumbria Economic Growth Board. The delivery of LEP functions, including the accountable body role for Government funding, will transfer Cumberland Council. Westmorland and Furness will provide Assurance support to Cumberland Council's S151 Officer.

- 3.25 There will be a transition period of six months to ensure that the governance arrangements are in place and well-embedded. The implication of this will mean that, during the transition period, the current CLEP Board members and associated sub-groups will continue to be the primary consultative and advisory body on strategic economic growth for the functional economic area of Cumbria, providing insight and advice in shaping the future Cumbria Economic Growth Board and any sub-boards/advisory groups. The current board, and the Cumbria Economic Growth Board when formed, will report into the Joint Executive Committee which will have decision-making powers as outlined below.
- 3.26 From the 1st April 2024, the interim governance structure will also include the Joint Officer Board. The Joint Committee will set the strategic direction and oversight of the Cumbria-wide core economic functions formerly delivered by Cumbria LEP, namely business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes where directed.
- 3.27 Terms of reference are being developed and agreed. Following the publication of Government guidance on the integration of Local Enterprise Partnerships into local authorities, we are now in the process of agreeing the governance for a Joint Committee that will have responsibility from 1st April 2024 for strategic economic planning across Cumbria. The Joint Committee will have the oversight on the delivery of activities previously undertaken by the LEP, including provision of business support, careers promotion and skills bootcamps. To ensure we maintain a strong business voice for Cumbria, we are working with the current CLEP Board to set up a new Economic Growth Board and together we will be developing a new economic strategy for Cumbria.
- 3.28 As a result of these changes, Cumbria will be at level 1 on the Government's Devolution Framework. Level 1 on the Framework is where Local authorities agree to work together across a Functional Economic Area or whole county area for e.g. through a joint committee. The LEP integration will provide the foundations for further dialogue on devolution and how the two Councils work with partners to support sustainable and inclusive growth. Building on this the Councils have the option to progress discussions with Government on how to unlock new powers, opportunities and funding for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors.
- 3.29 On 27th February 2024, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) received a report to update them on progress in implementing the transfer of functions and programmes for 1st April 2024. The respective scrutiny committees in Cumberland Council, Westmorland and Furness Council as well as joint arrangements through the JOSC will continue to receive updates during the transition period.

Cumberland Council as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body

- 3.30 The integration plan recommends that Cumberland Council will act as the Accountable Body and Delivery Authority. To ensure seamless delivery of LEP programmes and functions, the delivery arm will take place through the Cumbria Economic Growth Team. A Collaboration Agreement is being agreed between both Councils relating to the county-wide economic development functions.

3.31 Under the Collaboration Agreement, Cumberland Council will have the responsibility for managing the following programmes through the Cumbria Economic Growth Team:

| Programme Delivery | Other Functions |
|---|--|
| Careers Hub | Business and Stakeholder Engagement (Cumbria Functional Economic Area) |
| Local Energy Hub | Data, economic forecasting and modelling |
| Innovating for Success | Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone |
| Department for Business and Trade Key Account Management Foreign Owned Business Support | Development and management of Economic Strategy |
| Growth Hub | |
| Skills Bootcamps | |
| Growth Deal | |
| Getting Building Fund | |
| Legacy Growing Places | |
| UK Shared Prosperity Fund Business Support | |
| | |

3.32 In line with the above, most of the current Cumbria LEP team will transfer to Cumberland Council from 1st April 2024 under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations following consultation and engagement. Structurally, they will be located within the Directorate of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport.

3.33 There are also a number of contracts that the LEP have that need to be novated to Cumberland Council from 1st April 2024.

Economic Growth Board

3.34 It will be necessary to have a transition period of six months to ensure a seamless transition. During this period and to comply with the Government guidance a Cumbria Economic Growth Board (CEGB) will be formed, as a partnership of key stakeholders

from the public, private and third sector with a scope and remit across all areas of inclusive growth in Cumbria. The primary role of the CEGB will be to provide a business sector perspective and strategic insight and advice on the Cumbria wide economic programmes and initiatives, shaping business, trade and investment support around local business and economic needs.

- 3.35 This Board will fulfil the principles set out in the Government's guidance ensuring that there is a business voice within a democratically accountable governance structure, and will support the integration of LEP functions into Local Authority. A series of thematic sub boards and advisory groups will sit underneath the Economic Growth Board. The sub boards and advisory groups will provide a powerful business voice, for the wider business community and representatives of key economic growth sectors. The sub boards and advisory groups will include organisations, businesses, and individuals with the ability to identify and respond to local economic challenges and opportunities.
- 3.36 Through an open and transparent appointment process, applying Nolan principles, the Joint Committee will be expected to appoint the Members, Chair and Vice Chair of the Cumbria Economic Growth Board and agree the Terms of Reference.
- 3.37 Government expects areas to publish their economic strategy within six months of receiving funding to support the development of Economic Functional Areas (EFAs). The strategy should be published on the authority's website which will act as the Accountable Body. The Economic Growth Board and affiliated sub-groups is expected to lead and shape the development and delivery of relevant pan Cumbria economic strategies and interventions, including the Cumbria Economic Growth Strategy. The strategy will be approved by the Joint Committee.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 Executive to not agree to the recommendations. This would risk non-compliance with Government decisions in respect of the Cumbria Functional Economic Area not having in place the suitable governance, Accountable Body, Delivery Authority and Assurance arrangements for 1st April 2024.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The reason for the recommendation is to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements for the discharge of economic growth functions and effective joint working and collaboration between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council on strategic economic growth across the Cumbria geography.
6. **Implications:** The implications of Executive agreeing to the recommendations is that Cumberland Council will act as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body and enter into a Service Level Agreement with Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of this and Assurance arrangements.
7. **Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities** - Cumberland Council's vision is that it takes a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that are shared by

residents and communities. By enabling positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, prosperity and the environment, it is possible to fulfil the potential of people and area. The Council believes passionately in the delivery of excellent public services, and in order to this it is essential to be clear about the values and behaviours needed to drive change and achieve high standards.

8. Relevant Risks and explain how risks can be mitigated –

- 8.1 Executive not agreeing to the recommendations would risk non-compliance with Government decisions in respect of the Cumbria Functional Economic Area not having in place the suitable governance, Accountable Body, Delivery Authority and Assurance arrangements for 1st April 2024.
- 8.2 There is a risk that the transition to the governance structure (i.e. Development of the Economic Growth Board) and closure of the Cumbria LEP company are not completed. The mitigation for this is – Programme management approach with regular programme board meetings, chaired by SROs, take place.

9. Consultation / Engagement –

- Workstream engagement and Programme Boards weekly
- Joint Executive Committee – 13th November 2023
- Westmorland and Furness Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20th February 2024
- Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 26th February 2024
- Cumberland LEP Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27th February 2024
- Westmorland and Furness Cabinet – 26th March 2024
- Joint Executive Committee – 28th March 2024

10. Legal

- 10.1 Pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, and to their powers under section 9EB LGA of the Local Government Act 2000 and Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012, the Authorities' Executives are being requested to transfer functions to a Joint Committee with responsibility for the exercise of the functions being developed between the Councils.
- 10.2 There will be 2 legal agreements firstly a Collaboration Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council relating to the accountable body and delivery authority roles and responsibilities being delivered by Cumberland Council, in return Westmorland and Furness Council will provide the assurance role for Cumberland Council. Secondly, there will be an agreement between the LEP and Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council for the

transition period. These agreements are currently being negotiated between the parties.

11. Finance

- 11.1 Cumbria LEP will transfer the majority of its functions and the economic growth team to Cumberland Council on 1 April 2024. Cumberland Council will become the Accountable Body for those functions and programmes of activity. They will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the delivery and outcomes of those programmes to the relevant government departments. Assurance for the monitoring and reporting of these programmes will be provided by the Westmorland and Furness assurance team and the costs and expectations of this support will be determined in an updated service schedule for the service within the IAA with Cumberland Council.
- 11.2 In addition Cumberland Council will deliver the other core functions of business representation and strategic economic planning working in collaboration with Westmorland and Furness Council. For the period 1 April – 30 September it is expected that CLEP will continue to deliver the business representation role and this will be managed through a legal agreement between all three parties. As part of that the agreed cost envelope for that period will be agreed in advance with the CLEP. The monitoring of compliance with the agreement will be led by Westmorland and Furness Council as the legacy Accountable Body.
- 11.3 The Core funding grant from Government will be received by Cumberland Council and will be used to fund the costs of the Economic Growth team and the associated activities. A budget for 2024/25 is being developed and will be approved as part of the recommended delegations within in this report and the report to the Joint Executive Committee.
- 11.4 As part of the transition the CLEP reserves (and assets) will transfer as ring fenced reserves to Cumberland Council for the specific purpose of supporting delivery of the Economic Growth Board and development and implementation of the Economic Growth Strategy. Utilisation of the ring fenced reserve will be approved by the Section 151 Officer in Cumberland, in consultation with the Section 151 for Westmorland and Furness Council and as agreed by the Economic Programme Board. It is expected that the Joint Executive Committee (in it's new role) will receive financial monitoring reports on a six monthly basis.
- 11.5 The collaboration agreement between the two Councils will establish the principle that neither partner should incur financial detriment in delivering the Economic Growth responsibilities. It is recognised that both Councils will continue to deliver their own economic growth activities and that this principle applies to the collaborate activities as agreed through the agreement and JEC. Any amendments to the approved budget will be agreed by both Section 151 officers, in consultation with the relevant Directors and approval for increased budgets will be through the Economic Growth Board and Joint Executive Committee.

12. Information Governance

12.1 No information governance issues arise from this report. Any issues that may arise thereafter will be dealt with as appropriate.

13. Impact Assessments –

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment? Yes

If you have not screened the decision using the Impact Assessment, please explain your reason. Impact assessment has been developed to inform approach during transition period and beyond.

Lead Officer Contact details:

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Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

LEP integration guidance 4th August 2023 [LINK TO GUIDANCE](#)

LEP integration guidance 19th December 2023 [LINK TO GUIDANCE](#)

Appendices attached to report:

Appendix 1: Integration Plan

Appendix 2: Letter from Minister Young and Minister Hollinrake dated 19th December