

Resolution of Local Enterprise Partnership Overlaps

To:	Business Board
Meeting Date:	16 March 2021
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Chair of the Business Board, Austen Adams
From:	Director of Business & Skills, John T Hill
Key decision:	No
Recommendations:	<p>The Business Board is invited to recommend the Combined Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Note and approve the revised geographical LEP boundary and resolution of delivery overlaps with neighbouring LEPs; andb) Approve the Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPAs) with remaining two neighbouring LEPs.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPAs) between the Business Board and its neighbouring LEPs that resolve delivery geography overlaps, by confirming all such overlaps be serviced by other LEPs, and that each should continue to operate in partnership with the Business Board, on issues of joint interest and benefit.

2. Background

- 2.1 Prompted by Government's Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Review, which called for local areas to reach solutions to remove the delivery geography overlap between LEPs, the CA Board proposed in September 2018, that the Business Board become coterminous with the CPCA geography.
- 2.2 The Local Authority Areas, previously serviced by the Greater Cambridge & Greater Peterborough LEP, but outside the CPCA geography, are shown in the table below.

Local Authority Overlaps	LEP
West Suffolk Council	New Anglia LEP
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council	
Uttlesford District Council	South East LEP
North Hertfordshire District Council	Hertfordshire LEP
Rutland County Council	Greater Lincolnshire LEP
South Holland Council	
South Kesteven Council	

- 2.3. Following the formal Government recognition of the Business Board in January 2019, in September 2019, the Business Board entered into formal agreements with New Anglia LEP and South East LEP to transfer delivery of services in the overlap areas to the other LEPs. These Strategic Partnership Agreements are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.
- 2.4. The Content of these first two Strategic Partnership Agreements contain the following key elements:
- Agreeing to continue provision of Local Growth Funding (LGF) to applicants in the overlap areas, on the basis that the £147m of LGF was originally allocated to the wider GCGP LEP geography. This access was agreed to continue until such point that the LGF was fully allocated, and/or it reaches the end of its timescale of March 2021.
 - Agreeing to work together toward strategic planning wherever appropriate and opportune, coordinating joint opportunities to deliver major projects of mutual benefit and interest
 - Sharing information, data, and evidence wherever mutually useful
- 2.5. At the time of approval of these first two SPAs, the CA Board requested that the Business Board develop a wider Partnering Strategy across the National LEP Network as a whole. In order not to pre-empt this work, development, and agreement of further SPAs with Neighbouring LEPs was paused.
- 2.6. Following the Business Board and CA Board agreement in January, of such a wider Partnering Strategy across the National LEP Network, partnership discussions with the two-remaining neighbouring LEPs, Hertfordshire LEP and Greater Lincolnshire LEP, have been reopened. As a result, two further SPAs have been developed for approval by the Business Board and boards of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Hertfordshire LEP.
- 2.7. These subsequent two further SPAs differ from the first two in that they are far simpler and:
- Omit reference to continued access for businesses in the overlap areas to Business board Local Growth Funding (LGF), on the basis that this has now been fully allocated.
 - Add reference to commitments to “explore joint opportunities for investment to enable growth” and “deliver joint projects of mutual benefit that improve the lives of residents and workers in the region”. These clauses are added to specifically enable the exploration and development of the CPCA’s previous Agri-Tech Growth Initiative

into a larger programme that embraces a more diverse range of rural businesses and is delivered across a wider rural geography, in partnership with New Anglia LEP, Greater Lincolnshire LEP and SEMLEP. These Strategic Partnership Agreements are attached as Appendices 3 and 4.

- 2.7. HMG's Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) have been consulted on the CPCA's adopted approach to resolving the Local Enterprise Partnership overlaps and have confirmed that they consider that the proposals would resolve all previous overlap issues between the CPCA Business Board and its neighbouring LEPs. Government has now produced a draft revised LEP boundary map showing the already agreed and proposed new LEP geographies (see Appendix 5) demonstrating that the CPCA Business Board geography would be confirmed as coterminous with the CPCA geography.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications of this paper. Reducing the geographic area of the Business Board may affect future funding allocations were these to be based on population, area, etc, although no current funding to the Business Board has this apportionment methodology.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Other Significant Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Strategic Partnership Agreement with New Anglia LEP
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – Strategic Partnership Agreement with South East LEP
- 6.3 Appendix 3 – Strategic Partnership Agreement with Hertfordshire LEP
- 6.4 Appendix 4 – Strategic Partnership Agreement with Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- 6.5 Appendix 5 – Government Revised LEP Boundary Map Showing New LEP Geographies