

Business Board	Agenda Item
13 May 2024	12

Title:	Business Board Annual Report & Delivery Plan 2024-25
Report of:	Domenico Cirillo, Business Programmes & Business Board Manager
Lead Member:	Al Kingsley, Chair of the Business Board
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	Simple majority

Recommendations:

A	Approve the Business Board's Annual Report & Delivery Plan 2024-25
B	Recommend the Combined Authority Board approves the Business Board's Annual Report & Delivery Plan (2024-25), and for this to be submitted to the Cities and Local Growth Unit

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

X	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
X	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	The purpose is to seek approval of the Business Board's Annual Report & Delivery Plan (2024-25) and for the document to be published on the Combined Authority website and submitted to The Cities and Local Growth Unit, which is a shared department of Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
-----	---

2. Proposal

2.1	<p>The Business Board is required to produce an Annual Report & Delivery Plan each year and for this to be reported at the Business Board AGM in line with the National Local Growth Assurance Framework (p42, para 163):</p> <p>“As part of the assurance monitoring process, each Local Enterprise Partnership (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</p>
-----	---

	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 each financial year.”
--	--

3. Background

3.1	<p>The Annual Report & Delivery Plan focuses on aspects for which the Business Board is responsible, including Local Growth Funds, Sector Strategies and Enterprise Zones.</p> <p>However, as the work of the Business Board is now fully integrated into the Combined Authority, the Annual Report & Delivery Plan covers all delivery aspects under the Economy & Growth Directorate.</p>
3.2	<p>From April 2024, the Government has ceased funding LEPs. The decision is in line with local devolution agenda and provides an opportunity for local leadership to determine local economic strategies and development.</p> <p>The government stated that, as private enterprises, LEPs can choose to continue operating if that is the wish of their local democratic institutions.</p> <p>The Government also notes that some LEPs may choose to continue operations without core funding, either until a devolution deal is agreed for their area or in perpetuity and states that where an upper tier local authority or authorities wish to continue using the LEP as a vehicle to continue delivery of these core functions, or if they wish in due course to pursue integration of a LEP.</p> <p>Whilst this decision does not directly impact the Business Board and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, the LEP requirements will now be ‘relaxed’ going forwards.</p>

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A. Business Board Annual Report & Delivery Plan 2024
-----	---

5. Implications

Financial Implications	
5.1	None.
Legal Implications	
5.2	None.
Public Health Implications	
5.3	No implications.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
5.4	No implications.
Other Significant Implications	
5.5	None.
Background Papers	
5.6	2022 – 2023 Business Board Annual Report: Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)