



BUSINESS BOARD	AGENDA ITEM NO: 4.1
23 SEPTEMBER 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. Prompted by Government's Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Review, which called for local areas to reach solutions to remove the overlap between LEPs, the CA Board proposed in September 2018, that the Business Board become coterminous with the CPCA geography.
- 1.2. Government's formal approval of new geographies across the country is awaited, but it is anticipated that the proposals from the Business Board will be approved. We have worked on that basis for key documents such as the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), which have been agreed by Government.
- 1.3. Government's formal approval of new geographies across the country is awaited, but LEP overlaps are being removed to align strategically with key documents like the Local Industrial Strategy.
- 1.4. This paper brings forward proposals to enter into formal agreements with neighbouring Local Authorities that will no longer be part of the Business Board and the LEPs to which they will be transferred.
- 1.5. The Business board are recommended to note the five Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPAs) which have been agreed at officer level and highlighted in **Bold** below, and are attached as Appendix 1, and recommend them to the CA Board.

Local Authority	LEP
Rutland County Council	Greater Lincolnshire LEP
Lincolnshire County Council	
South Kesteven Council	
South Holland Council	
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

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Austen Adams, Interim Chair of the Business Board
Lead Officer:	John T Hill, Director, Business and Skills
Forward Plan Ref: -	Key Decision: No
<p>The Business Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the first five Strategic Partnership Agreements with neighbouring Local Authorities to remove LEP overlaps. b) Recommend that: The Combined Authority Board approve the first five Strategic Partnership Agreements for Rutland County Council, West Suffolk Council, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Council, New Anglia LEP, and South East LEP. c) Note that Lincolnshire County Council is included for a Strategic Partnership Agreement. d) Note that the remaining 7 Strategic Partnership Agreements are anticipated to be finalised and submitted for approval in January 2020. e) Recommend that: The Combined Authority Board approve the CPCA develop a LEP Partnering Strategy (to cover other contiguous and strategically important LEPs) once the remaining Strategic Partnership Agreements have been completed. 	

2.0 THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

2.1. The Strategic Partnership Agreements contain the following key elements:

- (a) Agreement to work together toward strategic planning wherever appropriate and opportune;
- (b) Coordinating joint opportunities to deliver major projects of mutual benefit and interest;
- (c) Sharing information, data, and evidence wherever mutually useful;
- (d) Referencing any specific projects which should be captured in the agreement, such as working with West Suffolk Council to deliver part of the CAM Metro; and
- (e) Continuing funding arrangements and providing clarity that the Local Growth Funding provided to the Business Board to date (for the previous GCGP

LEP geography) will continue to be available until such point it is fully allocated, and/or it reaches the end of its timescale of March 2021. This includes schemes which are funding through LGF – most notably the Eastern Agri-tech Growth Initiative.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. While there are no direct financial implications, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have warned that Local Authorities may face financial consequences if they have not removed overlapping geographies by April 2020.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no significant legal implications.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Each agreed Strategic Partnership Agreement represents an opportunity for the Combined Authority and Mayor to promote how strategic agreements have resolved the areas economic boundary overlaps with neighbouring Local Authorities and LEPs.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1. Appendix 1 – Strategic Partnership Agreements for:
- Rutland County Council
 - West Suffolk Council
 - Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Council
 - New Anglia LEP
 - South East LEP

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
Government's Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Review	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728058/Strengthened_Local_Enterprise_Partnerships.pdf