



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

2 August 2018

By email: [Hilary.chipping@semlep.com](mailto:Hilary.chipping@semlep.com)

Cc. [agl@annlimb.co.uk](mailto:agl@annlimb.co.uk)

Dear Hilary,

### **Update on Industrial Strategy: Implementing the Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships**

Following last week's publication of Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships, I am writing to provide details of the next steps that your LEP is required to take to implement the recommendations of the review and our plans to work with the LEP Network to support you with this work. I am aware that many of you have already engaged with the review through conversations with your Area Deputy Directors and Cities and Local Growth Area Leads.

As I set out at the LEP Network event before publication, the recommendations outlined in Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships clearly demonstrate Government's continued commitment to LEPs and will enable you to develop Local Industrial Strategies that will provide distinctive and long-term visions of how a place will maximise its contribution to UK productivity. This in turn will shape the design and implementation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

I am sure you already have downloaded a copy but for convenience, a copy of the review is attached to this letter and a link to the wider announcement can be accessed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

### **Implementing the recommendations of the LEP review**

Over the summer the LEP Network will be convening a number of working groups, chaired by a LEP Chair, and which my Unit will be supporting. These working groups, will provide an opportunity for you to collectively agree guiding principles to help ensure consistency and generate shared understanding of what is needed to implement the review. These groups will consider the key areas where we know that some LEPs will have to make significant changes as a result of the review. For example, the first working group that the LEP Network is convening is on geography. The LEP Network will be in contact to provide you with more information on these working groups. I encourage all LEPs to engage in these discussions and to use them to inform your own plans at an individual LEP level, alongside the on-going discussions with your Area Lead.

The Government is making up to £200,000 available in 2018-19 to each LEP to fund a timely and effective implementation of the LEP review, and the development of an evidence base for Local Industrial Strategies. A LEP's allocation of this funding will be received once it has

submitted the proposals outlined below and Government is content that these plans will address the recommendations of the review.

Annexes A-D of this letter provides you with detail of the work that LEPs need to undertake to deliver against the recommendations of the review and receive the additional funding. As part of this, LEPs should review the implementation guidance note (Annex A).

In the coming months, your LEP should provide an initial response setting out how you will fulfil the recommendations; outlining the approach you are going to take to achieve this. For the initial response, LEPs should:

1. Develop and submit proposals on geography no later than **28 September 2018**. If no changes are proposed, LEPs should outline why. A template for your response is included in Annex B.
2. Develop and submit a plan for implementing the review recommendations no later than **31 October 2018**. A template for your response is included in Annex C.
3. Include the proposal for additional funding alongside your implementation plan. A template to submit this proposal is outlined in Annex D.

These proposals should be submitted to [LEPpolicy@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:LEPpolicy@communities.gsi.gov.uk) copying in your Area Lead.

We encourage you to engage widely in conversations with local partners, including Accountable Bodies, to develop these plans. Your Area Lead will be available to support you at working level, drawing on the policy teams as necessary, and of course, I would be very happy to discuss any issues further with you during this period.

If you have any questions relating to the requirements above, please contact your Area Lead in the first instance who will liaise with policy officials as required to resolve your query.

### **Next steps**

As you are aware, Government will revise the National LEP Assurance Framework in Autumn 2018 to reflect the recommendations of the review. LEPs should be prepared to update plans to reflect any additional guidance outlined in the document. We will ensure that this will not, however, prevent LEPs from planning a response to the review and submitting initial proposals in the interim period.

I know that this is a step change for LEPs and it will require close working between yourselves and central government. We are committed to supporting you and will work together with all LEPs and the LEP Network to develop a shared understanding of the recommendations to enable you to implement these changes.

I would like to thank you for your work to date and look forward to continuing working productively to implement these important local growth reforms.



**STEPHEN JONES**