

Local enterprise partnerships:

The story so far and relationship with planning

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What is the problem?

- **Rebalancing the economy** - Over 32% of employees in the North are in 'public sector' jobs compared to 25.5% of employees in the South East
- **Closing the gap in regional economic performance** - which was wider in 2008 than in 1997
- **Deliver value for money.** At least one-third of the money spent on regional business support was spent on administration
- **Eradicating pockets of severe deprivation** – regions do not reflect natural economic areas and can mask hidden pockets of deprivation. For example in Hastings the unemployment rate is 6 per cent - more than double the rate across the rest of the South East

A new approach to enterprise....

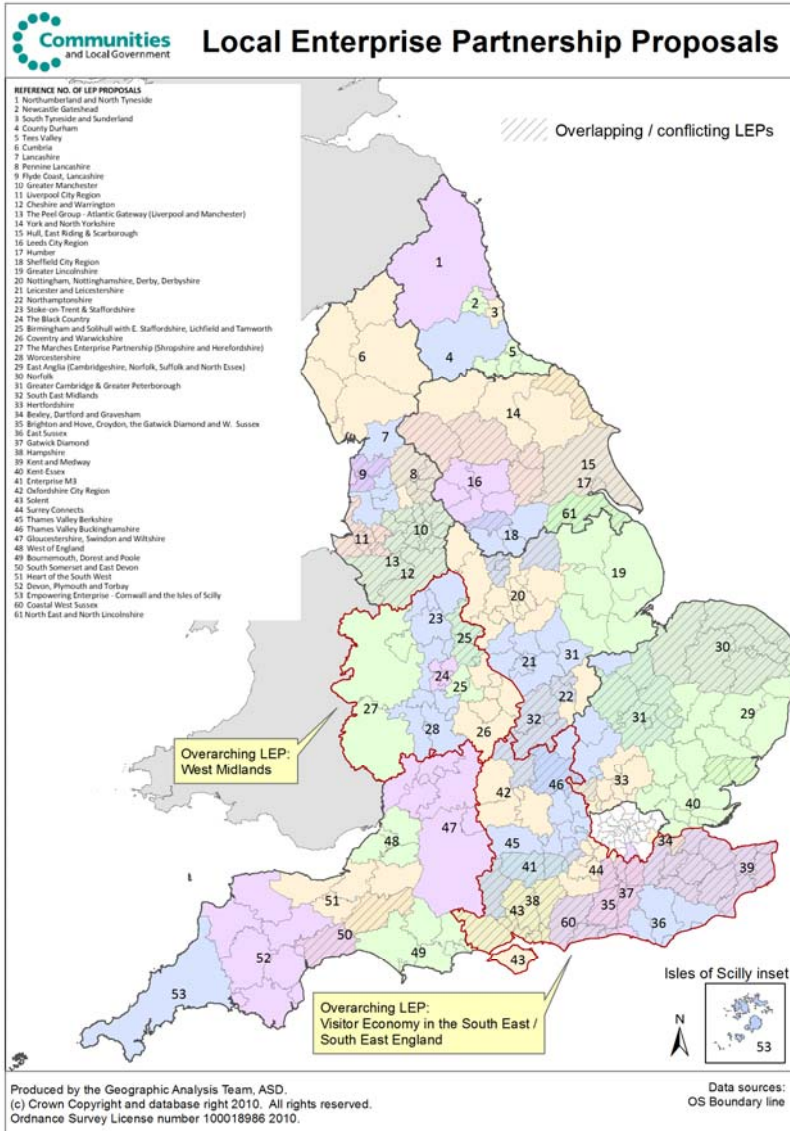
- We want to put power into the hands of local people and businesses – with incentives to match
- Flexible means of expressing local vision, aspirations and pride
- Driving economic growth and rebalancing the economy



A new permissive approach

- A new permissive approach – no prescription, no guidance, no duties with accountability to local people and an end to mindless reporting / strategies and plans produced to satisfy Government's appetitive for more and more data and information

Off to a good start and maintaining momentum...



- Invitation letter sent out 29th June....
-56 outline proposals received
- Variable in terms of geography, business buy-in, ambition, objectives, governance and ask of Government
- Aiming to give detailed and individual feedback to partnerships
- Want to see partnerships operating in shadow form by the end of the year
- Local enterprise partnerships will be able to access the regional growth fund – many will be in a position to prepare bids this side of Christmas

- **Form will follow function** - proposals will inform an appropriate legal or non-legal framework
- A **mixed economy** is likely to emerge: with some partnerships functioning effectively using existing legislation and others, with specific functions, needing legal underpinning

Company limited by guarantee is one option – and there will be others

- Scope for partnerships to **use existing local authority powers** (i.e. well-being power) and proposed power of general competence



Response from local authorities

We have the support of our business leaders and our universities that taking on the role of a Local Enterprise Partnership offer a natural development of our partnership arrangements –
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire

The board were unanimous in supporting the establishment of such a [local enterprise] partnership for the area –
Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole

“...we asked authorities to estimate when they might be able to have a LEP in place...more than two thirds state these could be open within six to twelve months.” – ***Rocket Science UK Ltd, July 2010***

Proposals cover the whole of the country. Demonstrates that Councils are ready to run with this – building on existing arrangements and partnerships.

Positive reaction from business too...



Welcome local enterprise partnerships

Proactively working with businesses to ensure their engagement

Want to be involved – and want to engage with us, in particular in areas where capacity is less established

BT (Leeds) Liverpool Ports (Merseyside) L'Oreal (Greater Manchester), Jaguar Landrover (Birmingham and Solihull), ICI (Tees Valley) Motorsport (Milton Keynes South Midlands) – all already working local areas to drive growth.



Planning and Local Enterprise Partnerships

- **Share common objectives** around sustainable economic growth- creating the conditions for business to grow and prosper
- **Strategic planning-** variety of issues that benefit from co-operation\co-ordination between local authorities and partners e.g. housing, waste, energy, transport, economic development
- Local enterprise partnerships **potentially have the scale and geography** to be involved in:
 - i) Leading strategic planning policy frameworks
 - ii) Facilitating comprehensive infrastructure delivery plans
 - iii) Lobbying\enabling in respect to strategic planning issues e.g. joined up approach to housing\employment distribution, investment in +revenue funding of infrastructure
 - iv) Fast-tracking\expediting the development management process
 - v) Promoting strategic planning applications- removing delivery pipeline blockages
 - vi) Planning intelligence, linked to local economic assessments
- Involvement could vary, ranging from statutory formal roles to more informal, voluntary arrangements

Planning and Local Enterprise Partnerships

Several outline **proposals flagged up an interest in a strategic planning role** linked to infrastructure delivery and prioritising investment.

Specific asks include:

- **Tees Valley-** strategic planning framework to facilitate business growth + support development of modified Enterprise Zones with more flexible planning regimes + protocols with Government agencies to clarify planning requirements
- **Cheshire and Warrington-** embedding strategic planning and housing into delivery arrangements
- **Leeds City Region-** co-ordinate integrated strategic planning across area
- **Leicester\Leicestershire-** strategic planning support for local planning and delivery of growth
- **The Marches-** agreement to partnership being a statutory consultee on strategic planning applications
- **Oxfordshire-** strategic planning integrated with and influencing national infrastructure investment

- Reflections on progress so far- what are your thoughts on local enterprise partnerships ?
- Has anybody being involved in a partnership proposal ?
- How do we address the challenges of a localist approach to economic development and planning ? What happens when some local enterprise partnerships get involved in strategic planning, and others don't ?
- Where might we be in three years time ?
- Where are the opportunities in a new approach to economic development and enterprise ?

Thank you for listening !

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