



**Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Board**

**Terms of Reference**

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Board will:-

- 1) Provide the clear vision and strategic leadership to enable the delivery of the Black Country Strategy Economic Plan (SEP):-
  - a) to drive sustainable private sector-led growth and job creation;
  - b) harness the expertise of business, and utilise private sector leadership to deliver more efficiently for the sub-region;
  - c) focus the innovation of the private sector on delivery, making the Black Country economy more competitive and its businesses more profitable;
  - d) to provide a new perspective to addressing the unique issues faced by the Black Country.
- 2) Led by businesses, supported by local authorities, continue the development of programmes to enable private investment to improve the competitiveness of the Black Country and, where necessary support the delivery of the funding referred to at paragraph (5);
- 3) Define, alongside local authorities and other public sector partners, a core group of functions where the LEP will require influence and/or control to create the right conditions for growth. These functions will remain focused in order to deliver the key targets of the Local Enterprise Partnership as guided by the SEP
- 4) Develop a strategic priority setting, leadership and commissioning role based on principles of subsidiarity and local accountability, providing the critical challenge and leadership role to ensure the most effective use resources against the Partnership's priority areas maximising the value of existing staffing and financial resources within local authorities, partners and delivery agents and ensuring that implementation responsibility remains with the most appropriate organisation. Consideration will be given to the development of joint services as opportunities to secure efficiencies arise
- 5) In relation to the Local Growth Fund, City Deal, European Union Strategic investment Fund and such other funding programmes that might, from time to time be allocated to it the Partnership will, in conjunction with designated accountable bodies and within any frameworks and rules set out by Government or other funding agencies.

- a) Take overall responsibility for their strategic development and management;
  - b) Ensure that funds are directed towards the achievement of the objectives of the SEP;
  - c) Work with the private sector, local authorities, colleges and universities, Government and Government agencies, third sector and other partner and representative organizations to co-ordinate and facilitate the development of projects to secure the ongoing utilization of these funds towards the objectives of the SEP;
  - d) In conjunction with Accountable Bodies, monitor the ongoing spend of projects to maximize the utilisation of funds to ensure that funds spends are in accordance with budget profiles and in accord with the requirements of funding agencies.
- 6) In relation to transport funding the Board will:-
- a) focus on strategic transportation issues of sub-regional, regional and national significance to establish a strong voice for transportation in the sub-region to help inform discussions with central Government;
  - b) co-ordinate, monitor and drive activity to ensure that transport investment in the sub-region including Growth Deal funding aligns the priorities of the Black Country SEP having regard to regional and national challenges.
- 7) Provide the single voice for the Black Country to bring stronger focus for businesses and local government and to raise the image and profile of the area, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- 8) Lead discussions to agree key objectives and economic outcomes with Government Departments and national agencies and align investment programmes to achieve these outcomes.
- 9) Provide a vehicle through which innovative funding/development mechanisms to drive major change and investment can be secured.
- 10) Coordinate proposals or bid directly for the Regional Growth Fund and other funds as appropriate.
- 11) Establish a framework of dialogue and communication to wider interested parties through:-
- a) an Annual Stakeholders Conference and other events to develop dialogue with wider business community including our most prominent companies;
  - b) Theme Advisory Sub-Groups based around the themes of the SEP to provide a framework for business engagement assembling lead board members, consultative groups drawing on existing mechanisms such as those established by the Chamber and Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) to examine and work through and feedback on

targets, actions and indicators and make recommendations in relation to the development of projects in accordance with paragraph (5);

- c) regular engagement with Ministers, MPs and Government Departments;
- d) political steers from the Association of Black Country Local Authorities.

- 11) Lead discussions with neighbouring Local Enterprise Partnerships and authorities with the express purpose of securing private sector growth and jobs and explore opportunities to be part of Partnerships where the strategic and/or economic arguments for working in collaboration are clear and unambiguous and on single projects which transcend Local Enterprise Partnership boundaries