

Norwich City Council
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Item No 7

REPORT for meeting to be held on Thursday 19 November

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership recommendations

Summary:	<p>Members will recall that the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) attended the October meeting of scrutiny and took questions from the committee. Due to time constraints not all questions could be answered during the meeting so the LEP provided written answers.</p> <p>At the November meeting of scrutiny these written answers were considered but due to time constraints recommendations were requested by e-mail to be agreed at this meeting.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>That the scrutiny committee make its recommendations on this topic.</p>
Contact officers:	<p>Emma Webster, scrutiny liaison officer emmawebster@norwich.gov.uk</p>

From Councillor Jamie Osborn;

- 1) That the Leader of the Council requests from the LEP a clear plan and commitments for how they are going to meet the minimum target of reducing emissions by 13% year on year.
- 2) That the scrutiny committee or CEEEP should consider investment opportunities within Norwich that would generate the best results in reducing emissions and providing community benefit, so that these can be fed into the new Norfolk & Suffolk Investment Plan.
- 3) The LEP written answers refer to “Developing a dedicated vehicle for generating local energy in a way which benefits communities, and consider where targeted pilots could help us explore initiatives and learn from other leading areas/schemes”. We are due a report on solar financing from the cabinet member for sustainable environment, and I’d like to propose that Cllr Maguire meets with local community energy groups and the LEP to discuss a pilot in Norwich.
- 4) Most of the businesses that I’ve spoken to in my ward haven’t heard about the LEP grants. Could the council help to promote this by include details in communication with businesses when sending out business rates letters?
- 5) LEP has details of its grants programmes on the website, but it’s not clear what the impact of these is. I’d like to ask for a report on benefits delivered: impact on social mobility and local jobs. I’m concerned about jobs just being based on a “trickle-down” assumption.
- 6) A union roundtable is good, but I believe there should be permanent union representation in decision-making: thus, to ask the Leader of the Council to push for unions to be represented on the LEP board.

From Councillor Denise Carlo;

To recommend via city council leader who sits on LEP Board:

- 1) To include clean growth and protection/enhancement biodiversity as key criteria for project applications.
- 2) To ask LEP to regularly assess the net impact of its activities (policies/programmes/funding) on carbon emissions and extent to which the LEP is meeting legal targets.
- 3) To review its strategic approach to transport planning which is currently dominated by major road building schemes and to bring its policies and funding contributions into line with net zero carbon target.
- 4) LEP to assist WildEast in helping to meet its goal of dedicating 20% of all land in East Anglia to biodiversity by 2030.

From Councillor Lesley Graham;

- 1) Build on the goodwill and acknowledgement of climate emergency to press for carbon accounting. Chris Starkie acknowledged that - not

enough was being done to meet the Climate Change Act's requirements. Small acts of carbon reduction need to be weighed against, and scaled up to exceed actual ongoing emissions and the first step is measurement. Tyndall report gives 13% annual reduction of Norwich emissions to meet targets in Climate Change Act. (p15). This is an engine of economic renewal and offers genuine opportunities to the many in high carbon jobs who will need alternative employment. The sooner this transition is managed, the more manageable it will be.

- 2) Recommend to the LEP that they lobby government for UBI pilot scheme to boost local demand.
- 3) Push for meetings to be held in public in order to increase accountability, transparency, public awareness and trust.