

## Report for Resolution

**Report to** Cabinet  
19 January 2011

8

**Report of** Economic Development Manager

**Subject** Development of New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership)

---

### Purpose

To inform members of the latest developments in forming the New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and seek delegated authority for the Director of Regeneration & Development in consultation with the leader of the council, to consider and take appropriate action to negotiate details and/or appropriate contributions to secure and take forward the interests of Norwich and the local business community within the Partnership.

### Recommendations

That the Director of Regeneration & Development is given delegated authority, in consultation with the leader of the council, to consider and take appropriate action to;

- Support the development of a detailed business plan for the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership that will meet the needs of the City of Norwich.
- Secure the best council and business representation for Norwich in any proposed Local Enterprise Partnership operational structure.
- Capture the opinions of the local business community and ensure that their needs and aspirations are used to inform the actions of a Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Formally endorse, if appropriate, the New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and its formal business plan on behalf of Norwich City Council

### Financial Consequences

The financial consequences of this report are nil at this stage. Any future financial contribution to the New Anglia LEP would be achieved from existing agreed departmental budgets.

### Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future” and the service plan priority “Build, manage and develop relationships locally, regionally and nationally with and between key economic stakeholders and businesses to drive a shared economic vision and agenda for Norwich.”

**Executive Member:** Councillor Morpew - Leader of the Council

**Ward:** All Wards

**Contact Officers**

Ellen Tilney  
Anne Bonsor

01603 212501  
01603 212353

**Background Documents**

Executive Report 28 July 2010 – Local Enterprise Partnerships

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Proposal Document, Dec 2010

## **Report**

### **Context**

1. On 29 June the government issued a joint letter to Business Leaders, Local Authority Leaders and CEOs inviting them to work with the Government in considering how they would wish to form Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). The following paragraphs explain the outline remit for LEPs and the emerging New Anglia LEP which was given Government approval to proceed to formal business plan stage on 13 December 2010.
2. Discussions at a local level are ongoing with a view to agreeing a formal business plan, management and legal structure for the New Anglia LEP by April/May 2011 and securing final Government consent to proceed. A strategic working group of key public and private sector stakeholders which includes the leader of the council, with officer support as appropriate, has been established to take this forward. At this stage there is little detail to consider but a final draft of the formal business plan will return to Cabinet prior to final sign-off by full council.
3. The business plan will need to be developed and formally agreed by all local authorities and business stakeholders included in the New Anglia LEP proposal; it will also be necessary to arrange a series of meetings or events in Norwich to ensure that the New Anglia LEP adequately reflects the needs and aspirations of and is supported by the local business community.

### **Background – What is a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)?**

4. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are new structures which will be formed as a part of the decentralisation process which will see the abolition of Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) within the next two years with some of their functions (and funding) led at a national level, while other aspects of their role are either scrapped or delivered on a more local level.
5. It is not clear at this stage which (if any) of EEDA's strategic responsibilities or what proportion of its budget (if any) would be devolved to Local Enterprise Partnerships.
6. Proposals for partnerships should be developed and driven jointly by local businesses and councils. Guidance states that Government expects LEPs to be governed by a board drawn from an equal membership of businesses and civic leaders and that they will be chaired by a "prominent business leader". Proposals and governance arrangements should reflect the clear wishes of businesses and council leaders.

### **What will Local Enterprise Partnerships do?**

7. LEPs will be expected to provide strategic leadership and set local economic priorities to deliver economic renewal and rebalance the economy. LEPs will support business start-up and create the environment for business and growth by having regard to issues such as planning,

housing, local transport, infrastructure, employment and enterprise – some of this work may have a focus on particular sectors where they represent a strong economic driver. In addition it is important that the LEPs reflect and respect the needs and requirements of the different localities (eg Greater Norwich area).

### **New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership**

8. Norfolk and Suffolk submitted a proposal to the Government to set up a local enterprise partnership covering the two counties. The proposal has been developed by business leaders and local authority partners and aims to create a dynamic and responsive business-led partnership that will drive change and reshape the local economic landscape in a challenging economic environment.
9. Norfolk and Suffolk's combined economies have the critical mass to compete effectively with other successful LEPs. The New Anglia LEP will have a population of approximately 1.5m, which is expected to grow to more than 1.8m by 2025, larger than other LEP proposal areas such as the Liverpool city region (1.35m), Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough and Rutland (1.3m) and Hertfordshire (1.09m).
10. The combined area has an economy of £26.4bn, larger than Liverpool city region (£19bn) and on a par with Hertfordshire (£24bn), the area has around 60,000 businesses - more than Liverpool city region (30,065) and Hertfordshire (47,400) and equivalent to the Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough and Rutland LEP.
11. In addition to issues of scale, Norfolk and Suffolk have a range of common strengths including world class research and business expertise including - energy, low carbon technologies, climate change, food security and production, tourism, ports and logistics, creative industries and financial services.
12. Whilst the New Anglia LEP will have the critical mass to work on a national and international scale, collaboration with existing partners and neighbouring LEPs in Essex/Kent, Cambridgeshire/Peterborough and Lincolnshire will be important in addition to relationships with LEPs in other parts of the country and further developing a productive relationship with Government.
13. The Cabinet is asked to consider the issues raised in the above report and confirm that the Director of Regeneration and Development has delegated authority, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, to:
  - Support the development of a detailed business plan for the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership that will meet the needs of the City of Norwich.
  - Secure the best council and business representation for Norwich in any proposed Local Enterprise Partnership operational structure.
  - Capture the opinions of the local business community and ensure that their needs and aspirations are used to inform the actions of a Local Enterprise Partnership.
  - Formally endorse, if appropriate, the New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise

Partnership) and its formal business plan on behalf of Norwich City Council.