

BRIEFING NOTE

Subject: Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership
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Purpose of note

To provide a background note on the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the Borough, Economy and Infrastructure Executive Advisory Board meeting on 3 April 2017.

The Chairman of the Borough Executive Advisory Board would like the Board to more fully understand the origins of the LEP, its structure, governance and decision making model and how it influences and supports both Government policy and sustainable economic growth at local level.

Introduction

In England, **local enterprise partnerships (LEPs)** are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses set up in 2011 by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area. They carry out some of the functions previously carried out by the regional development agencies, which were abolished in March 2012. To date there are 39 local enterprise partnerships in operation.

Following the 'No Stone Unturned' report by Michael Heseltine, the LEPS's were provided devolved funding for economic development called 'Growth Deals'

Guildford is part of the Enterprise M3 LEP covering West Surrey and most of Hampshire excepting the Solent area which has its own LEP. There were original discussions on a Surrey only LEP, but this was not supported by Government. In consequence, Surrey County Council (SCC) set up an economic partnership called Surrey Connects, but this has since been subsumed into the Surrey Growth Team at SCC.

EM3 operates within a network of existing business support, provided by the private sector, the public sector, and a range of membership and not-for-profit sector bodies. The LEP will work in partnership with these bodies, but does not intend to compete with or duplicate their services. It also works within a network of existing public sector funding and decision making, on economic development, planning and infrastructure delivery for example. It also co-operates closely with the network of adjacent Local Enterprise Partnerships on issues of shared interest.

Enterprise M3 works as a catalyst within these networks to achieve its vision in four complementary ways:

We Co-ordinate - Bringing partners together to create improved outcomes through our Programme Management Group and our network of Action Groups.

We Inform - Communicating what is available from partners through our website and social media, our events and our networks.

We Advocate - Commissioning evidence and lobby for action from partners or government.

We Deliver - Carrying out activities ourselves, where this is the best solution.

The EM3 area is one of the strongest performing regional economic areas in the UK has at its core a Strategic Economic Plan focusing on innovation, exporting, inward investment, improving the supply and quality of skills and infrastructure improvements. The plan recognises the importance of driving through productivity improvements in the economy in a sustainable way and focusses, particularly on world leading sectors such as gaming, satellite technology, digital health, automotive and aerospace which have particular strengths in the region.

The LEP manages the growth deal process whereby local authorities can bid for capital funding to support infrastructure projects. We are currently negotiating the Growth Deal 3 and current and future projects being or proposed to be supported include:-

- Walnut Bridge
- The Sustainable Movement Corridor
- Slyfield Regeneration Scheme
- River way Tow Path improvements
- Guildford West Railway Station

Governance

Enterprise M3 operates within an Assurance Framework, which sets out its governance arrangements, policies and protocols, and the relationship with the accountable local authority including management of funding.

In order to ensure that Enterprise M3, and the Local Growth Fund for which it is responsible, is governed in an appropriate and transparent manner, the LEP reviewed its governance arrangements in 2014.

The Enterprise M3 Board has agreed a high-level governance for Enterprise M3 LEP, which includes the following groups:

- Enterprise M3 Board
- Enterprise M3 Leaders Board
- Programme Management Group
- Executive Steering Group
- European Management Group
- Enterprise Zone Programme Steering Group
- Action Groups

Please see attached diagram for the relationship between these groups

Paul Spooner, the Leader of Guildford Borough Council is a Board member.