

# Cabinet



Date of meeting: 12 February 2024  
Title of Report: **Folding in of LEP functions**  
Lead Member: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)  
Lead Strategic Director: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)  
Author: Amanda Ratsey  
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Your Reference:  
Key Decision: No  
Confidentiality: Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

To brief Cabinet about the Folding in of the LEP, the Integration Plan and agree to proceed.

## Recommendations and Reasons

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the attached proposed Integration Plan (subject to minor changes) for the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership (HOTSWLEP) and the transfer of the LEP functions into the Council by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
2. Authorises the Strategic Director for Place to approve the transfer arrangement and agreements with Somerset, Devon and Torbay councils that cover operational implementation of the LEP functions, and the allocations of LEP residual funding, resources, and assets to the four councils.
3. Accepts any transition funding and resources for Plymouth from the allocated government funding.

## Alternative options considered and rejected

### None

The Government has declared its intention to cease funding for LEPs and to fold in their functions. The timescales are determined by Government's announcement to cease funding for LEPs after 31 March 24. The proposed process represents the preferred approach. The four upper tier authorities have considered alternative options as set out in the report and the recommended approach is considered to achieve a smooth transition that meets Government's stated timescales.

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Taking over the functions previously held by LEPs will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the Plymouth Plan. This ensures that all these functions can be tailored towards supporting the Plymouth Plan.

### Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Agreement on the transfer of assets and resources is under development by the Council and its local authority partners. The principle of the agreement is that no local authority is placed at a disadvantage and that no additional costs or financial burdens are taken on by any local authority partner. A fair and equal distributions of assets to support the delivery and implementation of the Integration Plan is proposed. Some officer resource will be required for the implementation and ongoing monitoring of the plan. There is a potential that some additional funding might be coming to Plymouth. Regarding projects previously funded by the LEP – these will have been subject to a separate decision when acceptance of funding for these projects was agreed.

Any funds transferred to the Council will be placed in a ringfenced fund to support the delivery of economic development in Plymouth.

### Financial Risks

All financial risks associated with the projects funded by the LEP will have been subject to a previous decision. There is no known additional financial risk to the Council.

### Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

All environmental implications associated with the projects funded by the LEP will have been subject to a previous decision. There will be no additional implications in addition to those identified in the previous decisions.

### Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

### Appendices

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Folding in of the LEP functions							
B	LEP Integration plan							
C	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

### Background papers:

\*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 26/01/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)											
Date approved: 31/01/2024											