



Worcestershire  
Local Enterprise Partnership

# Worcestershire LEP Priority Setting for 2022/23

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*WLEP Board*

27 January 2022

# Today's Objectives



- To ensure a shared understanding on latest position re: National LEP Review and Levelling Up White Paper
- To note recommendation for continuation of fully funded LEP model delivery for next 12 months
- To discuss and agree local priorities for WLEP delivery in 2022/23

# A Quick Reflection on 2021/22...



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- **Successful NED recruitment** – renewed energy / ideas across all LEP groups
- **Plan for Growth (2020-2040) launched** – agreed county-wide economic vision
- **Investment into Worcestershire** – via partnership (LUF, FHSF, Towns Fund etc)
- **Capital programmes delivering VfM** – every £1 of LEP investment generates almost £3 (public sector) in match
- **Successful transition of W5G Testbed** – commercial entity nexGworx launched
- **Growth Hub Review transition** – more closely aligned with LEP and delivering national and local business support programmes
- **Skills support goes from strength to strength** – CEC coverage extended across all Middle and Secondary Schools providing careers support and advice
- **BetaDen delivery of Cohorts 3 and 4** – supporting 23 Worcestershire-based technology businesses/entrepreneurs to date, creating 20 new jobs and leveraging over £240k in third party investment, whilst 10 new to market products created

# The Backdrop...

## *National Context*

National LEP  
Review

Levelling Up  
White Paper

Economic  
Recovery post-  
COVID

UK transition  
from European  
Union

## *Local Context*

- Consensus from partners on vision and priorities i.e. Plan for Growth endorsement by MPs and all other partners.
- Important we do not want to lose momentum linked to any national proposals to change LEP model – RDA example 18 months ‘flash to bang’.
- ***Recommendation to continue with local LEP model for minimum 12 months (2022/23) regardless of National LEP Review outcome***
- Need to agree the LEP priorities for this period to ensure purpose is clear and can be communicated

# National LEP Review...



- Announced as part of Chancellor's Budget Statement in March 2021
- Key principles included:
  - Review being 'Government-led';
  - Evolution not extinction for LEPs; and
  - Originally penned for completion with recommendations to Ministers prior to Summer 2021 recess
- ToR agreed between Government and LEP Network in April 2021
- Workstreams established and WLEP engaged throughout

## Latest Position

- LEP Review has become inextricably linked with Levelling Up White Paper – due to nature of the questions being considered
- Publication of the Levelling Up White Paper delayed until New Year (2022)
- BEIS have advised that this will unlikely provide full clarity and resolution for LEPs

Government's view of evolved LEPs  
hinted at a focus on:

Skills

Business Support  
(trade and  
export)

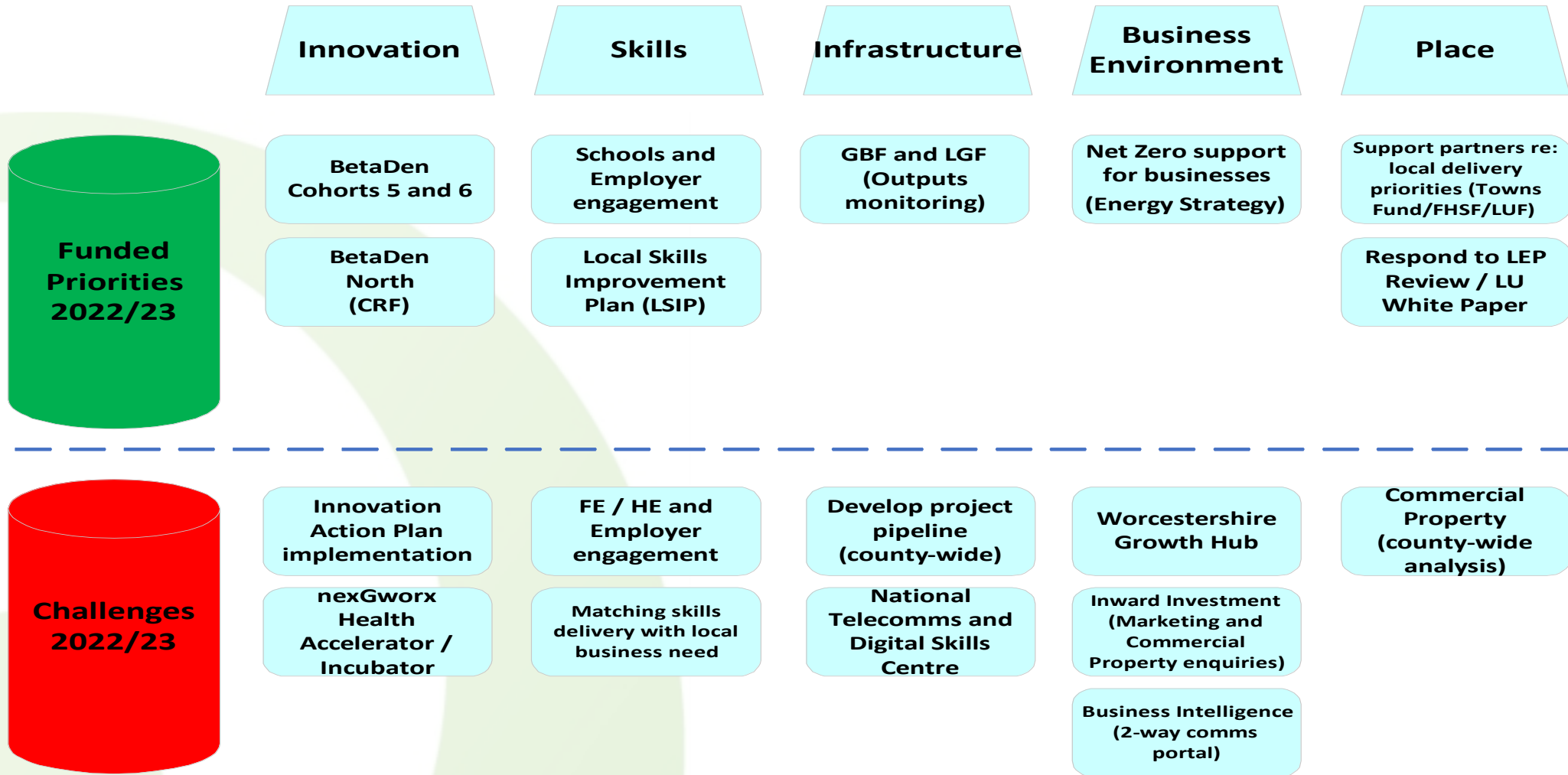
Innovation

Net Zero

# WLEP Priorities and Challenges...



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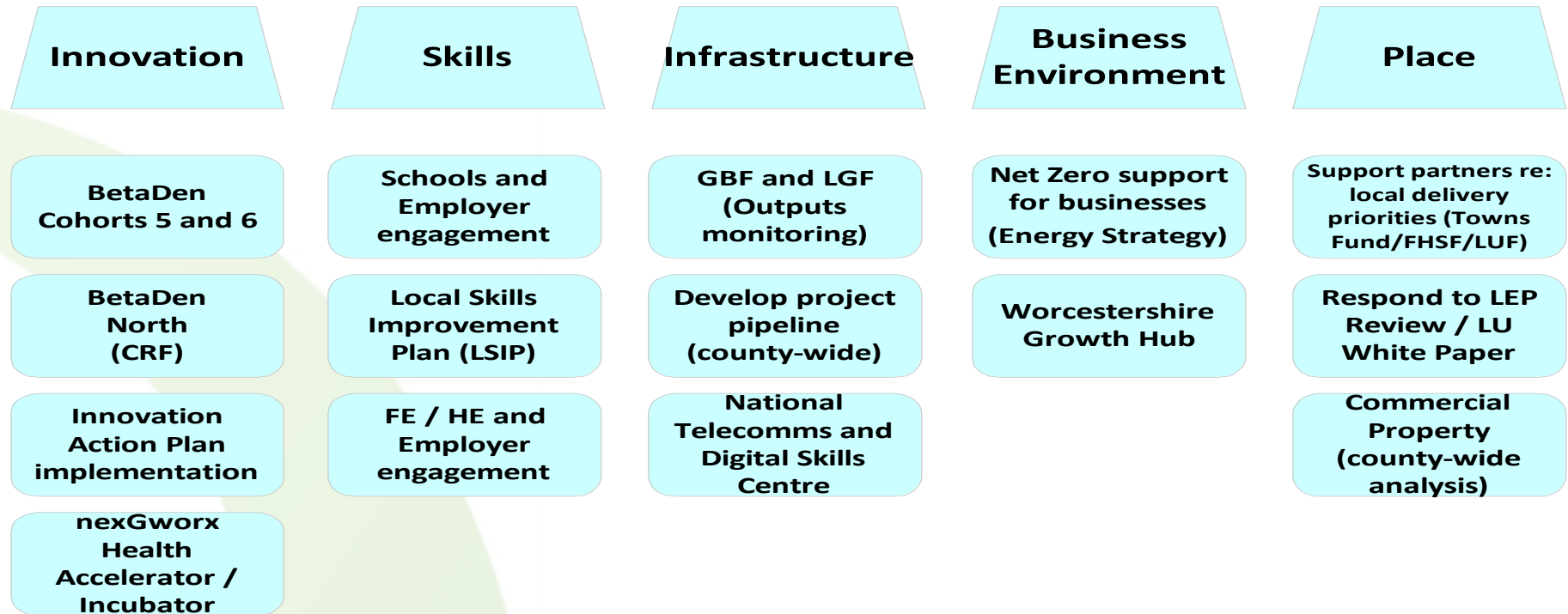
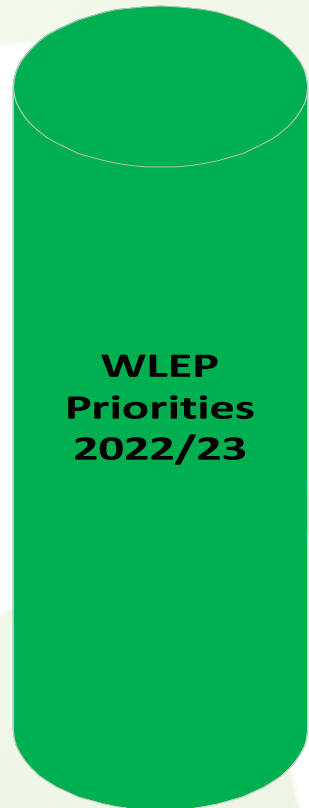


# WLEP Delivery Programme – 2022/23

(reference Appendix 1)



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# Next Steps...

- Board to discuss and advise on WLEP priorities for 2022/23
- WLEP Executive Team to develop quarterly planner to identify key resource and deliverables for 2022/23 based on priorities identified
- Continue to monitor National LEP Review and Levelling Up White Paper developments
- Develop and deliver a proactive communications campaign outlining priorities for year ahead to local stakeholders including MPs
- Return to WLEP Board with options and recommendations for medium-long-term delivery of economic development once outcome and paper published and considered





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## Worcestershire 2040 Vision:

**“A connected, creative, dynamic economy for all.”**

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