

Following the conclusion of the Annual Performance Review process we have determined that the LEP is compliant with the National Assurance Framework. Feedback under each theme is set out below:

Governance

The LEP's governance is considered to be good.

I recognise the improvements you have made to your governance arrangements in the past 12 months. A demonstrable difference has been made in relation to: the closer working relationship with your Section 151 Officer, the independent audit completed of governance arrangements by Worcestershire County Council and resultant actions from this and finally the setting up of local authority scrutiny arrangements.

Arising from the Annual Performance Review, the following actions were identified to help your continuous improvement in governance:

- LEP to detail proposals for new approach to business engagement through refreshed Business Board and other mechanisms by end of July 2019.
- It is recommended that a Programme Delivery Sub-Board structure or similar, which reviews all LEP funded projects and considers the future project pipeline, be put in place for 2019-20 financial year.

Delivery

The LEP's delivery progress is considered to be good.

I welcome the excellent work which has taken place this year on delivering the 5G and Betaden projects, alongside your continued good performance on delivery of Local Growth Fund projects.

Arising from the Annual Performance Review, the following actions were identified to strengthen project delivery:

- The LEP to do more post implementation reviews on projects - to ensure lessons are fed back into future programme and to wider partners.
- LEP to do further work to update and review the project pipeline during 2019.
- LEP to use capacity funding to best effect to support Local Industrial Strategy development during 2019 and to put in place a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Programme Board in 2019 to deliver this important piece of work.
- LEP to address distributional concerns across the County (north and south of County split) as part of the Local Industrial Strategy development and consultation process – through 2019.
- Programme and spend to also be monitored through 2019 to provide evidence of distribution of resources across the County (north and south of County split).

Strategy

The strategic impact of the LEP is considered to be good.

I recognise your strategic leadership of the 5G work at local, regional and national level, which should be built upon and exploited in your Local Industrial Strategy as it develops in the next 12 months.

The following actions were identified to strengthen the LEP's strategic influence: