

Strategy	Item	Target Date	Current Status	Action Owner	Rating
	We will work with partners to ensure our road network contributes to the improved economic performance and growth in Cheshire and Warrington. This will include through the following:				RAG
Transport	Working with Highways England to develop schemes that facilitate growth and address key constraints on the Strategic Road Network	On-going	C&W sub-region input into Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) via Transport for the North working group. Highways England invited to attend Transport Advisory Group and Local Transport Body meetings. M6 smart motorway junction 16 to 19 completed. M6 smart motorway junction 21a to 26 delayed due to need to complete M62 smart motorway scheme first. M53 smart motorway scheme being reviewed.	Roy Newton	A
	Working with Local Authorities and TfN to define and enhance a Major Road Network	On-going	Major Road Network has been defined. C&W sub-region continuing to engage via TfN highways working group	Roy Newton	G
	Working with the three local authorities to prioritise Local Highway Measures that provide access to key strategic development sites, enhance town centre access and address congestion.	On-going	C&W LEP has allocated £400,000 towards the development of business cases/studies for infrastructure to support the Local Industrial Strategy. C&W LEP has worked with the 3 Cheshire Authorities to identify priority schemes for business case development to be reported to Strategy Committee for consideration of financial contribution. The first three projects secured approval at the July '19 Strategy Committee.	Roy Newton	G

Skills & Education	We will work with the rail industry to maximise the potential for rail to contribute to economic development and performance, including in relation to freight movements. This will include capitalising on the unique opportunities for rail afforded by the arrival of HS2 at Crewe Hub and development of the Northern Powerhouse Rail Network	On-going	Work continuing on Crewe Hub. Government has accepted the concept of 5-7 HS2 trains per hour calling at Crewe and Network Rail has designed a track and signalling layout to accommodate these plus provide capacity for future enhanced regional services into Crewe. Work on-going to identify potential funding sources including a possible Enterprise Zone to deliver an enhanced station.	Roy Newton	A
	We will collaborate with the bus industry in order to improve bus services that support access to employment, education and services. We will work with partners to ensure the bus network supports and is integrated with growth	Q3 2019-20	The LEP has worked with regional and sub-regional partners to identify rail enhancement aspirations and is currently working with Network Rail to identify a practical sequencing of these aspirations C&W LEP is currently working with the local authorities and bus companies to develop a draft bus strategy. This work will also include engaging with Merseytravel and Transport for Greater Manchester.	Roy Newton	G
	A coherent programme of action around employers inspiring, informing and communicating via a network of pledges	Q3 2019-20	Pledge Network was formally launched on 21st June at Alderley Park. One Pledge Commitment is now in place with a target of 20 by 2021.	Pat Jackson	G
	A more coherent and 'outstanding' curriculum offer – an 'Institute of Technology' for Cheshire and Warrington	Q3 2019-20	Final sign off by Government on the Virtual Institute of Technology is still awaited. A plan for roll out is in place, however delays in securing final approval may cause some delivery challenges.	Pat Jackson	A
	Communications Hub	TBC	TBC	Pat Jackson	A

Energy & Clean Growth

Support for local implementation of the Nuclear Sector Deal which sets out a secure long-term future for the nuclear industry locally and in the wider area. This will also include identifying potential programmes to support SMEs to enter the nuclear supply chain.

Ongoing

The LEP has been working with NAMRC, Cumbria LEP and LEPs in the SW & SE of England to develop a business case for a nuclear sector supply chain programme, as proposed in the Nuclear Sector Deal. The initial business case was not accepted by BEIS and work is now underway to review the approach, make the case for a supply chain programme clearer and strengthen the links with senior sponsors within the industry. Stronger links have been developed with the Winning UK Business sub-group of the Nuclear Industry Council and it is expected this will lead to a much closer, clearer strategic fit.
Target date for submission of a revised business case is October 2019

Andy Hulme

A

The LEP will provide a 'critical friend' role to existing industry forums and encourage greater cooperation and joint working between these groups to develop a strong, consistent narrative on the expertise and potential for the Cheshire and Warrington energy sector to help Government address the challenge of Affordable Energy and Clean Growth. This narrative will also highlight the opportunities and benefits of collaboration across boundaries and borders on key energy projects

Ongoing

The LEP has been engaging with the Cheshire Energy Hub in the development of its high level messaging and also to a degree with the North West Nuclear Forum based at Birchwood. Officers have also been heavily involved in the development of an industry-supported cross border Energy and Clean Growth prospectus which is scheduled for publication in September 2019.

Andy Hulme

G

Support development of cross-border energy sector opportunities including inputting to the development of an Energy Prospectus in conjunction with the Mersey Dee Alliance and North Wales Economic Ambition Board

Q2
2019-20

LEP has been leading on the development of a cross-border energy prospectus, working with officers from the MDA and NWEAB, as well as an industry Steering Group. Document is currently undergoing final checks before publication

Andy Hulme

G

The LEP will launch its Low Carbon Energy Innovation Fund to stimulate development and adoption of low carbon technologies by and for industry. Where possible we will look to align the fund with remaining ERDF Low Carbon monies and Innovate UK funding for maximum impact.

Q3
2018-19

Fund was launched within the original timescale (Q3, 2018-19) however the response received was below expectations in terms of quantity and quality. Further work has been undertaken to raise the profile of the Fund and its objectives, and a further round of calls issued in mid-June with a closing date of mid-August 2019. 15 submissions were received and are being considered by the Strategy Committee at its September meeting.

Andy Hulme /
Rachel
Brosnahan

A

Quality of Place

By September 2019 we will finish creating a branding framework and 'value proposition' that can be used to actively promote Cheshire and Warrington as a great place to 'Live, work, invest and relax'. During this period the LEP will also work with key partners to develop an agreed programme of Inward Investment marketing and promotion for the ensuing 18 months.

Q2
2019-20

Work is progressing, led by the LEP's Director of Marketing and Communications and with the support of Marketing Cheshire. Timescales have been adjusted slightly with proposals now expected in October 2019

Catherine Walker

A

During 2019 we will work with partners to develop proposals for creation of a programme to enhance our cultural and leisure offer, including sporting activities and promotion of active lifestyles, and examine potential sources of funding to deliver

Q2
2019-20

LEP has been supporting Marketing Cheshire and other partners on their 'Cultural Destinations' project (part-funded by Arts Council England). The project is examining existing audiences and market potential for cultural and leisure activities to drive economic growth.

Andy Hulme / Mark Livesey

G

During 2019/20 the LEP will, in collaboration with the Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature Partnership, review the implications of the Government's new 25-year Environment Plan for the sub-region. This will include developing proposals by September 2019 for establishing a Natural Capital Plan for the sub-region

Q3
2019-20

Underway. Working with Mersey Forest and LA partners (plus Local nature Partnership) proposals for a Natural Capital Audit to be finalised by Q2, 2019-20 for procurement Q3, 2019-20

Andy Hulme

G

Housing

Identifying a clear portfolio of investment opportunities where there is scale and scope for growth (i.e. the Crewe proposition and Warrington town centre) and being clear about what role the private sector can play

Q2
2020-21

Draft sub regional investment pipeline is under development and will be reviewed by the Sub Regional Housing Board at its meeting in February 2020

Andy Farrall

G

Acting as a local 'signpost' for government development finance for housing to increase take-up and its application to the type of products and places that we recognise to be important

Q2
2020-21

Work underway between the LEP and Local Authorities to develop mechanisms for raising the profile for housing opportunities and associated support programmes for developers

Andy Farrall

G

Work with Homes England and Local Authority partners to review the ability to provide dedicated capacity to intervene on the ground to release or accelerate housing developments in a Brownfield setting

Q2
2019-20

Sub Regional Housing Board has been established and met has now met twice. A series of initial priority actions have been identified and work is underway to progress these including development of proposals for a series of pathfinder projects in conjunction with Homes England

Andy Farrall

G

Considering whether there are opportunities to create new vehicles focusing on housing or to adapt and expand the role of others within these areas to lever-in private (and public) sector funding.

TBC

This work will be directed by the new Sub Regional Housing Board - timescales to be agreed

Andy Farrall

G

Science and Innovation

The LEP will re-establish a dedicated Science and Innovation Board, made up of senior representatives from business, academia and government (BEIS / Innovate UK) to oversee the implementation of this Strategy and to ensure that it remains current and responsive to changes in policy for the science and innovation environment.

Q3
2019-20

Ongoing discussion regarding an amendment to this activity to move away from the idea of a formal board and towards more general 'thought leadership' to support development of key Science and Innovation sectors and clusters. Work has been commissioned from BioNow (the industry group for Life Sciences in the North West) to understand how this could be done initially for the Life Sciences Sector

John Adlen /
Andy Hulme

G

Supporting ongoing development of the Cheshire Science Corridor including marketing and investment propositions and an investment plan for the Science Corridor EZ

Q4
2019-20

Updating of the Marketing and Investment propositions is behind schedule, pending the wider LEP place marketing exercise currently underway. £30m investment pipeline is in place covering 13 projects. This will be converted into a sequenced investment plan by Q4, 2019-20. A Future Directions paper has been prepared for consideration by the EZ Board.

John Adlen

G

The LEP will build better relationships with relevant regional and national assets (such as the Catapult Network) and innovation agencies to help better connect businesses to the resources and expertise available through those assets.

Q4
2019-20

Conversations initiated between the Growth Hub and Innovate UK plus other key innovation agencies in order to fully understand the support available and appropriate routes for sign posting to that support

Andy Devaney
/ John Adlen

G

Linked to the development of a Local Industrial Strategy, develop a finer-grain understanding of our business base, sectoral strengths within science and innovation and the opportunities for smart specialisation

Q3
2019-20

Initial conversations have taken place in respect of Life Sciences. Other sectors to be reviewed and agreed.

Andy Hulme /
John Adlen

G

Understand the opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with other parts of the UK and internationally linked to our specific areas of strength

Q4
2019-20

Some level of understanding has been developed through the LEP's involvement in a number of Science and Innovation Audits and with the northern LEP's Innovation Group. The Local Industrial Strategy process is seen as a potential vehicle for supporting closer collaboration between LEPs on science and innovation and an initial workshop to this end was held in Leeds on June 2019.

Andy Hulme

G

Engaging and shaping the Made Smarter NW Pilot to support SMEs to innovate through adoption of digital practices and processes including securing appropriate sector-level engagement in the mentoring process for SMEs

Ongoing

LEP was fully engaged with the development of the Business Case and launch of the NW Made Smarter Pilot (launched January 2019). This is being actively promoted through the Growth Hub and as of May 2019 47 Cheshire and Warrington companies have engaged with the programme.

Andy Devaney

G

	Review how support for innovation activity is provided through the Cheshire and Warrington Growth Hub and consider options for either enhancing provision or making the current offer more effective	Q4 2019-20	Ongoing conversations between the Growth Hub and our Innovate UK Regional Lead to determine how best to achieve innovation support for SMEs	Andy Devaney	G
	Consider how to replace current ESIF for innovation post-2020 including influencing the shape and priorities for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Q4 2019-20	Still unclear when the HMG consultation on UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be launched.	TBC	A
Skills	Continuing to support activities to engage and inspire young people to pursue careers in science, research and development	Ongoing	Key priority for the LEP Employer Skills Board work programme. Pledge Programme was launched in June 2019 and a team is now established in the LEP to promote this	Pat Jackson	G
	Encouraging business to work with the LEP's Education and Skills Board to ensure skills needs are properly identified and that the education and skills system responds accordingly	Ongoing	Key priority for the LEP Employer Skills Board work programme	Pat Jackson	G
	Identify and encourage stronger links with FE / HE institutions to link research, innovation and skills needs for business	Ongoing	This work will be progressed through the Local Industrial Strategy 'Ideas' workstream	Pat Jackson	G
Digital	The LEP will commission support to develop a Digital Infrastructure Plan, which will, by July 2020, set out the current digital infrastructure position for the sub-region, consider the digital infrastructure needs to support a "£50 billion economy", create smart and connected places and at the steps required to maximise digital connectivity to support economic growth.	Q2 2019-20 Q4 2020	Growth Directors held a workshop on 5th December to scope out requirements in developing a digital infrastructure plan. A brief is now being developed to procure external support to develop the plan and this should be issued for tender Q4/2019	Roy Newton / Andy Hulme	A
	The LEP, through its Growth Hub, will continue to support the roll out of programmes such as Made Smarter which aim to increase awareness and uptake amongst businesses of digital technologies and process to improve performance and productivity	Ongoing	The Made Smarter Programme is operational - at the start of April, 36 companies were being engaged	Andy Devaney	G
	The LEP will progress the development and roll out of its Virtual Institute of Technology (Accelerate), investing up to £30 million of funding between 2019 and 2022.	Q3 2019-20	Government has approved the project funding and contract discussions are now progressing with University of Chester as the Accountable Body.	Pat Jackson	A