

APPENDIX 5

REVENUE SUPPORT TO DEVELOP A BERKSHIRE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

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Preamble

1. In February 2018, a joint LEP/LA Task & Finish Group (TAFG) was established to ensure early and critical input from the local government sector into the development of a Berkshire Local Industrial Strategy (BLIS). At that stage, the LEP and the Berkshire Chief Executives' Group (BCEG) acknowledged the need to secure professional support and after competitive procurement, SQW was appointed and the TAFG has since acted as a client steering group. The TAFG is made up of lead officers (from different disciplines in the six TVB unitary authorities) and LEP staff.
2. SQW is accountable to Thames Valley Berkshire LEP Ltd and was appointed to "*advise and implement (a) best practice approach to developing a BLIS*", building on a Strategic Narrative approved by the LEP and the Berkshire Leaders' Group (BLG).

Timescale and key milestones

3. The TAFG meets for the fourth time on 12 November. Its progress thus far and that of SQW has been reported to the BCEG, the BLG and is overseen by the LEP Executive Board.
4. The timetable for the production of a BLIS has been agreed as:

BLIS - Phase		Timeline
1 & 2	Evidence gathering & analysis; scoping, engagement, challenge and strategic framework	July to December 2018
3	Developing the draft BLIS	January to March 2019
4	Trigger the consultation on a draft BLIS at meeting of the LEP Full Forum	Tuesday 26 March 2019
4	Consultation and independent business survey on BLIS	April to June 2019
4	Publicise the draft BLIS (<i>prior to HMG sign off</i>) at a LEP AGM <i>after</i> local government elections (2 May 2019) to allow new councils time to be formed and then consider the draft BLIS	Anticipated as July 2019

Funding the production of the BLIS

5. The current workstream was commissioned on a budget of £90,000 and agreed to be found from the BRRP funds allocated to the LEP by the Berkshire unitary authorities.
6. Further work by SQW – identified by the TAFG – will be funded through an application to central government for further LEP capacity funds.

Item 9 Appendix 5 BLTB 15 November 2018 TVB LEP LIS - Revenue Support