

Item 2

Title: Mid-Year Review of Delivery Plan 2021/22

Date: 26th November 2021

Background

As part of the assurance monitoring process, the National Local Growth Assurance Framework requires all LEPs to publish an annual report and delivery plan. The delivery plan and annual report should set out a well-developed understanding of the local economic evidence base to identify opportunities and obstacles to inclusive growth, prosperity, and improved productivity. Government will work with LEPs to develop measures to report against in the plan and report. These will be considered as part of the annual assurance process. Delivery plans and annual reports should be published at the beginning of each financial year.

The LEP Board agreed a Delivery Plan for 2021/22 at their meeting on 22nd April 2021 and this was published on 12th May 2021. A copy of this is available at: https://solentlep.org.uk/media/3665/solent-lep-delivery-plan-april-2021-v7.pdf

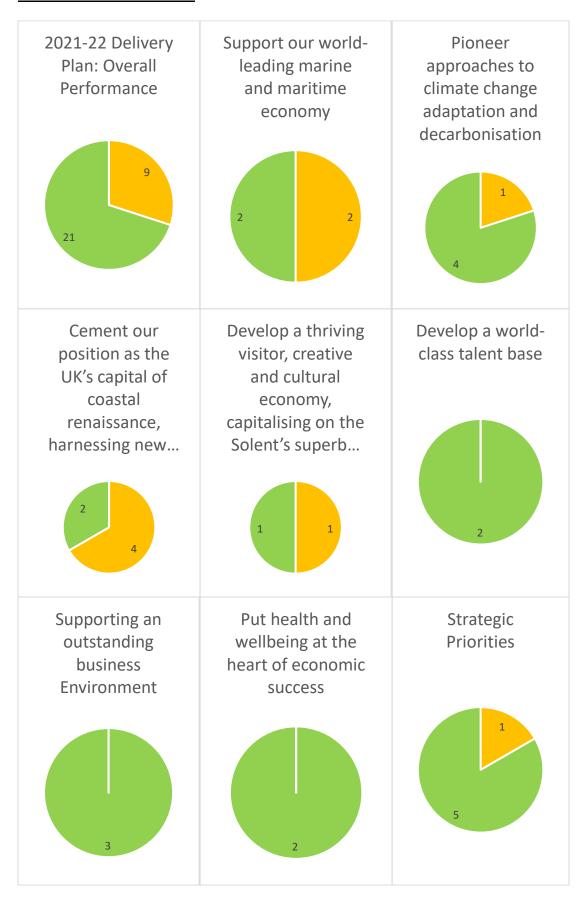
The LEPs next Annual Report will need to provide an update on progress against the delivery plan and it is good practice to undertake a mid-year review of activity against the delivery plan.

Mid-Year Review

The Solent LEP Delivery Plan includes a range of strategic objectives, supporting activities and associated outputs/milestones under each of the strategic priorities agreed by the LEP Board and included within the Solent Economic Recovery Plan. The LEP has undertaken a review of all activities in the Delivery Plan to include a mid-year status update (as of September 2021) and associated RAG rating.

A dashboard summary of performance against delivery plan activities, demonstrating the total number of red, amber, and green activities within the plan as a whole and in relation to each specific section is set out below.

Mid-Year Review Dashboard



Dashboard Commentary

The review indicates a strong performance from the Solent LEP within the first half of 2021/22 with 21 green, 9 amber, and no red rated activities.

The LEPs performance has been particularly strong in relation to supporting a world leading marine and maritime economy, pioneering approaches to climate change adaptation and decarbonisation, developing a world-class talent base, supporting an outstanding business environment and strategic priorities. This is positive considering the emerging narrative in relation to the role of LEPs coming forward as part of the LEP review which references strategy, key local sectors, net zero and business support.

In relation to amber rated areas, these include a few schemes where there are delays to the delivery of initial infrastructure / construction activity. In all these areas, the economic outputs continue to be brought forward by the LEP investment, and the primary concern is in relation to delays to originally forecast timescales. The LEP Board should note that this does have an impact in relation to progress towards our strategic priority to cement the Solent's position as the UK's capital of coastal renaissance, harnessing new technologies and approaches to revitalise coastal communities. However, it should also be recognised that the nature of risks impacting these investments, such as the ongoing economic uncertainty following Covid-19 / transition from the Governments Roadmap out of Lockdown to Build Back Better: Plan for Growth, are general risks and have the potential to impact across the LEPs portfolio of activity during the remainder of 2021/22.

In addition to the review of the delivery plan, it should be noted that the LEP has undertaken significant additional activity during the period which was not known during April 2021. This work should also be considered when reviewing the LEPs performance during 2021/22. Key examples of additional activity not included within the work programme when the delivery plan was considered include extensive use of convening powers to support key sectors such as maritime and aviation, and management of significant change at Board and Panel level to maintain governance position (including significant change in public sector board and panel representation following local elections).

Resolution:

SGF Members are asked to:

Note the mid-year delivery plan performance review.

Financial comments from the S151 Officer of the Accountable Body

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

The LEP Board and FFPMG receive finance update reports at each meeting where any particular financial issues or risks are highlighted by exception with appropriate advice for mitigation. Where applicable all of the projects, programmes and activities within the delivery plan are subject to approval through the Board and the associated funding is contained within the three-year rolling budget.