



CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Date of decision 15 APRIL 2024

programmes where directed . to local authorities or where applicable Combined Authorities.

4. In preparation for LEP integration into Worcestershire County Council (WCC), the LEP Chief Executive was seconded from April 2022 to the role of Interim Assistant Director of Economy. Following a decrease in WLEP core funding from Government, an increase in the Council's base budget of > 0.1m was approved for 2022/23 onwards to enable the role to be joint funded by WLEP core funding and local authority base budget.

5. The Government will now support local and combined authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Where not already delivered by a combined authority, or in areas where a devolution deal is not yet agreed, the Government expects these functions to be exercised by upper tier local authorities.

6. Alongside this decision, government have published technical guidance for LEPs and local authorities to support them through this policy change. Within this technical guidance the upper tier authority is free to continue the existing model, should it wish to do so.

7. The County Council has always operated as the Worcestershire LEP Accountable Body, therefore providing financial and legal oversight of decision-making process and ensure compliance with legal and statutory obligations. The Board and wider partners across local government, business and education remain

robust, open, and transparent governance arrangements and decision-making processes, which take our Public Sector Equality Duties into consideration..

19. WLEP have consistently satisfied central government's independent scrutiny of these arrangements on an annual basis, via the Annual Performance Review process.

20. This proposal to transfer existing functions to the Council ensures continuity of the existing service arrangements; and as these are continuing delivery arrangements