

Cumbria LEP

Autumn newsletter November 2018

NEW BOARD MEMBERS STRENGTHEN LEP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Cumbria LEP has strengthened the composition of its board in recent months with the addition of four new board members.

Rebecca Weston, Enterprise Director at Sellafield Ltd, joined the board of the LEP in July, having been nominated for the role by the nuclear sector following a request by the LEP board for a nomination from the sector. She will serve on the board for an initial period of three years.

Rebecca has wide experience across Sellafield Ltd having held senior leadership positions in Operations, Technical and Commercial. She is currently Enterprise Director with responsibility for Strategy and Planning, as well as Corporate Affairs and Transformation.

In September the LEP appointed three new private sector members, Graham Booth, Dr Steve Curl and Mike Smith OBE to join the board, taking its structure to 16 in all and increasing private sector membership to ten.

Mike has over 35 years of experience working both in and with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector, as well as in the nuclear industry. Steve has extensive experience in the energy and nuclear industry and as a senior executive in international technology companies, whilst Graham is an established business and retail expert working as a family Board Director for E H Booth and Co Ltd.



Rebecca Weston



Graham Booth



Dr Steve Curl



Mike Smith OBE

CUMBRIA LEP SEEKS TALENTED FEMALE BUSINESS LEADERS TO JOIN ITS BOARD

Cumbria LEP is calling on leading local business women to come forward and join its board.

The LEP is looking to recruit excellent female business leaders from Cumbria's business community to strengthen representation on its Board. Applications are also sought from those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Successful candidates will have significant experience and a successful track record in an ownership or senior managerial or executive capacity within a business organisation active in the Cumbria LEP area. They will also demonstrate the necessary leadership and corporate governance skills to operate effectively at Board level.

The LEP is particularly keen to hear from female business leaders operating in construction, logistics, professional services or the rural economy, although applicants from other sectors would be equally welcome.

Cumbria LEP board member Julie Mennell says: "This is a great time for more local business women to join our board as we take forward the development of the county's new and ambitious Local Industrial Strategy."



For further information and application details, [click here](#)

LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION CONTINUES



Over 80 people have taken part in the second round of consultation events for Cumbria's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). The draft outline LIS sets out how the LEP and its partners will work together to deliver economic growth, prosperity and productivity improvements in Cumbria, as well as making a compelling case to Government and the private sector for investment up to 2030.

The LEP held four consultation events across Cumbria in July followed by two more in October and November to ask businesses, public and voluntary and community sector partners to contribute their ideas for the development of the strategy and how this can best be delivered.

“Cumbria's economy has the potential to go further, faster. We are developing the new Local Industrial Strategy to be a transformational document for the county.”

Cumbria LEP Chief Executive Jo Lappin says: “We again invited partners to join us and comment on the first outline draft of the Local Industrial Strategy, which has been developed with a wide range of our partners involved through our Steering Group. Importantly, the draft reflects the feedback provided during our previous consultation events.

“We're committed to making sure that the new Local Industrial Strategy is evidence-based with a shared long-term economic vision based on local consultation. It will set out how we can maximise Cumbria's economic opportunities, increase productivity and prosperity and also address our key challenges. The events confirmed that there was a real commitment from all of our partners to work together in the best interests of Cumbria, our businesses and our people.”

An outline draft of the strategy is now available for further online consultation until 14 December. You can access the draft strategy [here](#) and provide your comments via our feedback form [here](#)

Partner organisations and interested parties can continue to submit their views and comments on the draft as it is further developed. The final draft document is due to be ready in March 2019 and then submitted to government for its consideration.

LEP'S LATEST ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED



Cumbria LEP has published its annual report for 2017-18.

The comprehensive 48 page document features a wide range of project updates and developments across the county's geographical areas and key industry sectors, showing how the LEP and its partners are working together and investing in economic growth.

The annual report reflects the themes in the Industrial Strategy - People, Infrastructure, Business Environment, Innovation, and Place - and how well Cumbria is contributing to these and how it intends to take this forward in the future.

The report also includes an economic assessment of the county, information on the development of the county's Local Industry Strategy, and provides a spotlight on sectors where Cumbria has key economic strengths: the Energy and Nuclear sector, the Rural and Visitor economy, and its strong manufacturing base and supply chain.

You can read the annual report in full [here](#)

CONSULTATION ANNOUNCED FOR EXPANSION OF A595 NEAR WHITEHAVEN



The Government has announced that it is making a 'cast-iron' commitment to improve the county's roads. On a tour of Whitehaven in early November, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced the launch of a Highways England public consultation to cut congestion and improve safety for drivers on the A595.

The Department for Transport's commitment to investment in the North will see spending of over £13bn through to 2020, with Cumbria's crucial road links set to benefit from major investment, delivering safer, faster, and more reliable journeys.

The A595 consultation is focused on upgrading a pinch-point, which causes traffic delays between Carlisle and Barrow-in-Furness, and will look at ways of cutting congestion, improving safety and reducing rat-running on other local roads, with construction set to begin in 2025.

Cumbria LEP Board Member Jim Jackson said: "This is an important road improvement in its own terms, and secondly it is another key step towards creating a coherent transport network for Cumbria as a whole, which is what the county requires.

"It is great news to see further progress on the transport infrastructure plans which the LEP and Cumbria County Council have developed and championed alongside our other partners."

Cllr Keith Little, Cumbria County Council Cabinet member for Highways and Transport, added: "The A595 is a vital artery connecting communities and the proposed investment will be key to achieving improved road safety, enhanced connectivity and stimulating economic growth."

For further information, click [here](#)



WELL ATTENDED AGM SETS THE SCENE FOR FUTURE PLANS

Cumbria LEP's 2018 AGM took place at the end of September with a series of presentations on the LEP's activities to date, as well as an outline of its future plans which will be contained in the emerging Local Industrial Strategy.

Over 70 business people and public and voluntary and community sector partners attended the event at Cumbria LEP's Conference & Business Centre near Penrith.

Cumbria LEP Chair Lord Inglewood outlined how the LEP was changing to respond to new expectations from Government. Stephen Nicol of Nicol Economics then provided an economic 'state of the nation' overview of the county, before Jackie Arnold, MBE, the LEP's Deputy Chair, updated attendees on performance to date, including a short video outlining some of the LEP's recent activity.

Chief Executive Jo Lappin provided a forward look on the emerging priorities for the Local Industrial Strategy, followed by spotlights on three of the LEP's future priorities – skills, transport and sectors – delivered by LEP Board members John Coughlan, Jim Jackson and Nigel Wilkinson. Nigel Wilkinson also provided the LEP's annual financial statement to attendees.

Cumbria LEP Chair Lord Inglewood said: "The AGM was very well attended and gave those present the chance to hear first-hand about what the LEP is doing to transform its governance, add strength to private sector representation on the Board, and crucially how our plans for the new Local Industrial Strategy are taking shape. We were delighted that partners joined us for this."

You can view the presentation slides from the 2018 Cumbria LEP AGM [here](#)

NEW CAREERS HUB MANAGER APPOINTED

A new manager has been appointed to take forward the development of Cumbria's Careers Hub and help transform careers education for young people.

Caroline Ledward will lead the Cumbria Careers Hub project, one of only 20 to be piloted in England. It is designed to improve the quality of careers education and guidance and give young people more and better access to effective work experiences by connecting schools and colleges with employers and careers programme providers.

A Careers Hub is a group of 20 to 40 schools and colleges working together with universities, training providers, employers and career professionals to improve careers education. Working with the Careers and Enterprise Company, local education and skills providers and employers, the LEP is set to launch the county's Careers Hub in early 2019 with Caroline at the helm.

Caroline says: "My role will be to ensure that the Careers Hub effectively co-ordinates activities between our schools, colleges, enterprise advisors and employers, as well as evaluating progress as it becomes established."

The Cumbria Careers Hub will contribute to the LEP's Careers Strategy for Cumbria, improve local careers education and help prepare young people for the world of work.



NEW FUNDING FOR R&D, CARBON REDUCTION AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



European Union
European Structural
and Investment Funds

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) resources are helping Cumbrian businesses to take forward Research & Development (R&D), carbon reduction and resource efficiency projects.

£8.7m in total is helping support Cumbria's continued drive to develop stronger R&D capabilities and move towards a more energy efficient, low carbon economy.

Cumbria LEP is supporting government to deliver the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) programme up to 2020, which includes ERDF as well as the European Social Fund (ESF) and European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Up to £4m of ERDF funding has been made for projects supporting growth in R&D across the county, and the LEP is looking for project

applicants for projects seeking to create new R&D space to help SMEs grow, realise innovation potential and increase their productivity. They could also be looking to establish packages of highly specialised support to help local businesses conduct more R&D work using high tech facilities.

A further £3.4m has been earmarked for business support packages designed to make local SMEs more energy efficient, provide innovative, low carbon solutions and introduce new sources of energy generation and storage. The remaining £1.3m is to be applied to projects which can increase resource efficiency and promote bio-diversity by maximising the county's natural capital.

For further information about the ESIF programme, contact Corinne Watson at corinne.watson@thecumbrialep.co.uk

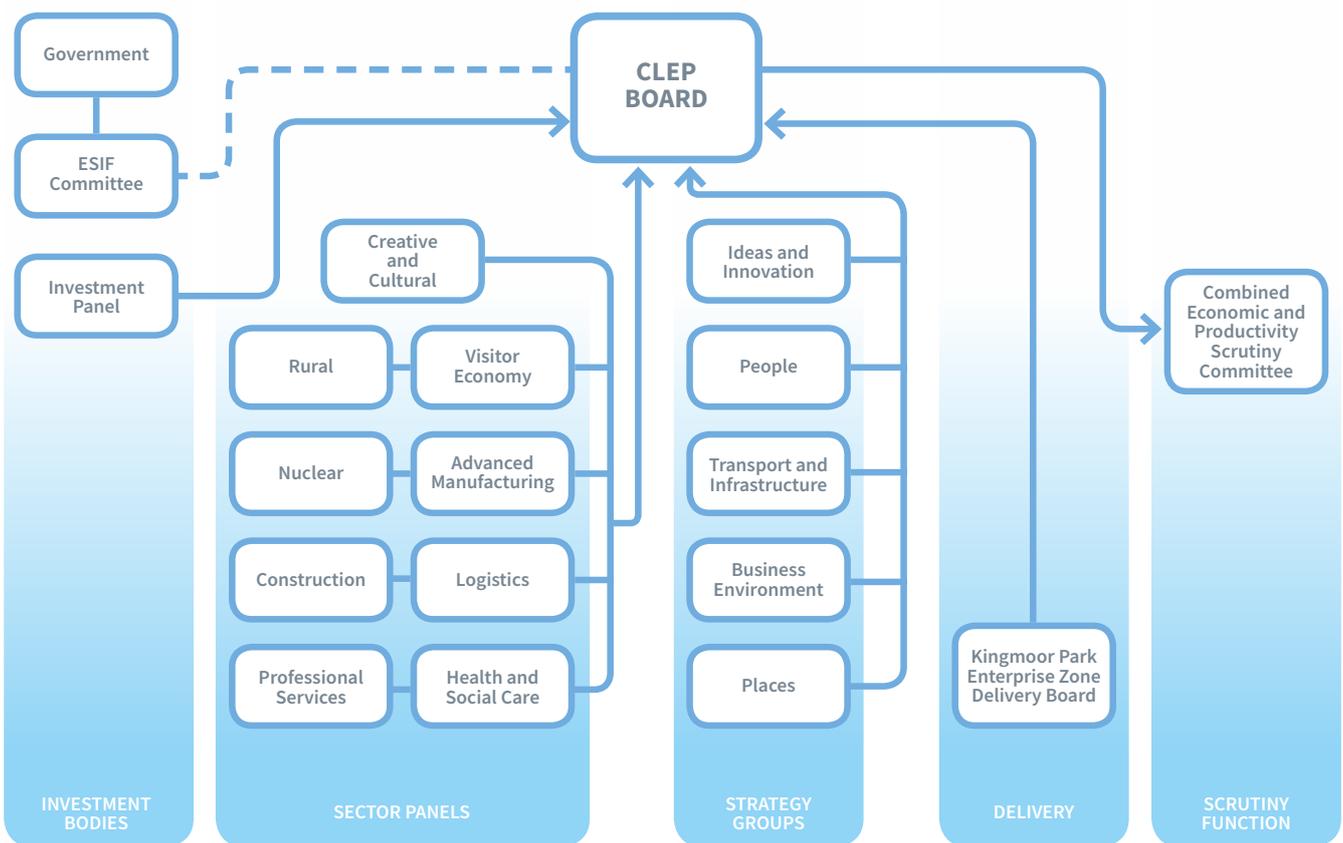
NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE

Cumbria LEP is changing its governance structure to ensure that it is inclusive, action focused, aligned to Cumbria's strategic priorities and operates to the highest standards of accountability and propriety.

The Board is committed to making sure that the LEP is working with all of our key partners from business, the public sector and voluntary and community sectors, and as such has introduced new Sub-Board governance arrangements.

The new structure aligns with the emerging Local Industrial Strategy. The LEP will have Strategy Boards that reflect the five foundations of productivity – Ideas and Innovation, People, Infrastructure, Business Environment and Places. It will also focus on Cumbria's nine key sectors:

- **Advanced manufacturing**
- **Construction**
- **Creative and cultural**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **Logistics**
- **Nuclear**
- **Professional Services**
- **Rural Economy**
- **Visitor Economy.**



The LEP will retain an Investment Panel responsible for overseeing and developing the pipeline of investment opportunities.

The LEP's aim is to operate in a way that is clear, transparent and accountable. These new arrangements build on the good work to date and incorporate the membership of our existing governance bodies. They will also look to widen membership to make sure that we really do reflect the communities that we serve in Cumbria.

LEPS STRENGTHENED TO BOOST WORK WITH GOVERNMENT.

Cumbria LEP has been making significant progress in meeting the new expectations of LEPs that were outlined in the 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' report, which provided the conclusions of government's policy review of LEPs.

The LEP has already produced a revised Local Assurance Framework, which each Local Enterprise Partnership must have to demonstrate that the necessary systems and processes are in place to manage delegated funding from central Government. This ensures Cumbria LEP is equipped to operate to the highest levels of transparency and good governance, and meets many of the expectations that are likely to be required by Government moving forward.

The report requires all unincorporated LEPs like Cumbria LEP to move to incorporated status before the end of the 2018/19 financial year. Cumbria LEP has plans in place to achieve this.

The report also recommended that all LEPs consider geography where there are overlaps with other LEPs. Cumbria does not have an overlap and instead was invited to consider its relationship with neighbouring geographies. The LEP Board confirmed that it was keen to work in partnership with both Lancashire and the North East LEP but wished to remain as a separate LEP, reflecting that we have the eighth largest LEP geography of the 38 LEPs nationally.

For further information about the Local Assurance Framework, [click here](#)

LEADING CUMBRIAN FIRMS JOIN POWERHOUSE EXPORT INITIATIVE



Two of the county's leading firms and global exporters, New Balance UK and Playdale, together with Britain's Energy Coast Business Cluster (BECBC), have joined the Northern Powerhouse Partners Programme.

The government initiative brings together businesses and organisations from across the North of England to forge a network of partners seeking to drive forward the economic potential of the North, as well as supporting the required combined effort by government and business to realise that potential.

Northern Powerhouse exports now account for nearly 20% of the UK's total goods and services output. According to the latest statistics, exports have helped propel the value of the Northern Powerhouse economy to £330 billion – greater than the economies of Austria, Belgium or Norway.

Flimby based New Balance UK employs 270 people at its site, producing 500,000 pairs of shoes a week with 80% of sales revenues from exports.

Playdale is a Cumbrian family business dating back to 1735. Its head office, manufacturing facilities and global distribution centre are situated on the edge of the Lake District near Ulverston. To date, it has created over 22,000 play areas in 47 countries across the world.

Over £7 million has been committed to establish a Northern Powerhouse Taskforce to boost trade and investment across the North, and the LEP wants to make sure that more of our firms are benefitting from this and driving up exports, growth and productivity in the North of England.

For further information, [click here](#)



NEW £1.2M TRANSPORT HUB FOR MARYPORT

The official opening of a new £1.2m transport hub at Maryport Railway Station took place in the summer.

Cumbria County Council delivered the new hub, which is designed to encourage more sustainable travel by train along the Cumbrian Coast, to reduce traffic congestion and to improve access to Maryport rail station.

Cumbria LEP funded the project, which involved the creation of a new 78-space car park. A new footpath has been built linking the car park to the station, along with a new access, fencing and landscaping works.

Cumbria LEP Chief Executive Jo Lappin said: "Maryport station is a key transport hub and this is another step forward in delivering rail network and transport improvements in line with Cumbria's Infrastructure Plan. Our businesses have stressed the importance of investment in our transport system and with our partners we are working to deliver much needed improvements to the road and rail network."

The Maryport Transport Hub is part of an overall investment of £7.8m from Cumbria LEP in infrastructure improvements in the county.

For further information, [click here](#)

KEEPING PARTNERS AND COLLEAGUES UP TO DATE WITH CUMBRIA LEP'S LATEST NEWS

Cumbria LEP's newsletter highlights some of the LEP's work, key projects and business support opportunities.

We will also use the newsletter, and other mailings, to publicise opportunities to get involved with the LEP's work, for example when we are recruiting new board members, or running a consultation event about skills or the new Local Industrial Strategy. Going forward we intend to produce the newsletter more frequently to ensure that all of our businesses and partners are up to date with developments.

If you have colleagues who may be interested in this newsletter, please tell them about it. In line with the current EU General Data Protection Regulation, if they want to receive our newsletter, and any other LEP mailings, they need to let us know. They can do this by simply clicking on the button below.

**To register for our newsletter,
email us at info@thecumbrialep.co.uk**

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VISIT THE CUMBRIA LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE AT
www.cumbrialep.co.uk