

New Anglia Transport Board
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Agenda Item 5

New Anglia LEP Recovery Plan

Author: Laura Waters

Summary

This paper provides a summary of the New Anglia LEP economic recovery plan, setting out the aim and approach to developing the plan. The plan will have two phases:

Restart: A tactical plan covering the period starting from June and covering the subsequent 12 months while businesses restart and start trading in an environment dominated by social distancing. This will of course include initiatives already launched in the Response phase.

Rebuild: A longer term 3-5 year plan to rebuild the economy which builds on the Economic Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy and responds to long term changes brought about by the pandemic.

The intention is to publish the short-term economic recovery plan in mid-June, this is a live document with updates planned in July and August. The long-term plan will be developed over the next year and published in the summer of 2021.

Recommendation

The Transport Board is asked to:

- Support the development of the recovery plan in two phases Restart and Rebuild as outlined in the paper

Aim

Develop a plan that accelerates the economic recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 across Norfolk and Suffolk which builds upon the Economic Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy.

Approach

There is a need to be swift and agile to provide the clarity and support needed to get our economy back on its feet as quickly as possible. The proposed approach has two phases:

Restart: A tactical plan covering the period starting from June and covering the subsequent 12 months while businesses restart and start trading in an environment dominated by social distancing. This will of course include initiatives already launched in the **Response** phase.

Rebuild: A longer term 3-5 year plan to rebuild the economy which builds on the Economic Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy and responds to long term changes brought about by the pandemic.

There will be different phases of recovery as the lock down is likely to be lifted gradually and impact different parts of the economy at different times meaning some response and recovery activity may run simultaneously.

It is important that our approach considers the transition between response and recovery and be agile to the possibility that we may need to transition back into response if there are further lock downs.

Evidence Base

The statistical impact on the economy will not be available for some time. Baseline data will start to be available from Spring 2021. Business intelligence and scenario planning will be the most effective way in the short term to help inform a recovery plan.

The evidence base that informs the short-term recovery plan is made up of a number of products some of which have already been developed:

- **Trend analysis of business intelligence.** This sets out an analysis of trends identified in the weekly business intelligence reports and is aligned with government announcements on support schemes.
- **Sector heat map** which considers the risks and opportunities for each sector covering – demand, supply chain, workforce and operations.
- **Business support gaps analysis** – sets out the identified gaps in government support schemes.
- **Escalation log** – A record of issues and challenges effecting the economy which have been escalated to government.
- **Scenario planning** – a series of scenarios which will build projections as to when the Norfolk and Suffolk economy could expect to return to pre-outbreak levels of growth.
- **Sector snapshots** – an illustration of the challenges and opportunities initially focused on critical sectors which will include some projected data based on a range of scenarios.
- **Place snapshots** - an illustration of the challenges and opportunities within a geographical area.
- **Analysis of impact on projects and initiatives** – assessment on local projects identifying potential delays.

It will be important to develop a more robust evidence base and the mechanisms to inform intervention developments, monitor progress and ensure interventions are creating the most appropriate environment to support a fast recovery. Over the next 12 months we will need to:

- Review and carryout an assessment of economic indications and develop new mechanisms to help track the economy.
- Expedite the work on supply chain analysis.
- Update of evidence bases in Q1 2021.

- Set up sector Focus groups of up to 12 businesses who will invited to take part in a series of sessions over a period of time, to measure and track changes in circumstances and inform the long-term recovery plan.

Much of the development work can be done by LEP and local authority colleagues, but we will also utilize Metro Dynamics to provide a small amount of specialist support, particularly to look ahead to how emerging trends such as home working and changes to commuting patterns will impact on the restart and rebuild of the economy.

It is also our intention to work in partnership with our local universities on developing the evidence base and scenario planning.

Interventions

It is important that both the short term and long-term recovery plans provide clear direction on the interventions available to support the economy to get back on its feet as quickly as possible, as well as making advances where possible.

Some of these interventions will be LEP wide, with others county wide or district wide.

The proposed approach to identify and develop the interventions for the interim plan includes:

- Review the impact of interventions delivered through the response phase to consider extending or amending.
- Review the Economic Strategy and LIS interventions to identify relevant intervention currently being implemented.
- Work with Local Authorities to consider local authority led interventions which use their regulatory and statutory powers e.g. business rates relief discretionary grants and changes to planning rules.
- Review the Expression of Interest received to date as part of the development of the LEP's Investment Plan.
- Complete a mapping and gap analysis of local and central funding.
- Consider new interventions including ones that will support people made redundant and require skills support.
- Consider new interventions to support businesses move online and adapt their operations in the light of social distancing measures.

Governance

It is proposed that an officer led Economy Recovery group (which will be based on a similar structure to the Economic Strategy Delivery Coordinating Board) will form and take on the role of Steering Group for the day to day development.

This would report into the LEP Board, the Local Authority Leaders groups and the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Resilience Forum recovery groups.

The LEP Board, LA Leaders and Sector Chairs will be engaged during the development and is proposed to be done through a series of briefings and existing meetings to ratify direction and test the emerging plan.

Recommendation

The Transport Board is asked to:

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