



APPG ON LOCAL GROWTH, LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS AND ENTERPRISE ZONES

An Inquiry into the Effectiveness of Local Enterprise Partnerships

Terms of Reference, Timetable and Format

June 2012

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Background

In June 2010, the government announced that Local Enterprise Partnerships would be the chief mechanism and vehicles for creating the conditions for local growth and prosperity across England.

This would mark a departure from previous organisations charged with promoting local economic growth, namely the Regional Development Agencies, by being a formal partnership between public and private concerns. Areas would also be able to come together and create their own groupings based around their own local determinants and factors rather than on previous geographical localities.

As of June 2012, there were 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships that cover nearly the whole of England.

Local Enterprise Partnerships have a range of tools and funding sources available to them that can be used in meeting their stated objectives of fostering and encouraging local growth.

APPG on Local Growth, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Enterprise Zones

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Local Growth, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Enterprise Zones was established in October 2011 to consider and promote the importance of local growth within parliament and to look at the effectiveness of those mechanisms and structures charged with its development.

The Group now wishes to conduct its first inquiry into the effectiveness of Local Enterprise Partnerships and lessons learnt to date. In doing so the Group is publishing a terms of reference and indicative timescales for the inquiry. It is keen to engage with and hear from as many individuals, businesses and organisations involved in local growth and Local Enterprise Partnerships as practical.

Terms of Reference

An inquiry into the effectiveness to date of Local Enterprise Partnerships in creating the conditions for sustainable local economic growth and private sector job creation and with particular reference to the effectiveness of the role of government agencies, both national and local, and in respect to the use of public monies in support of this work.

Key lines of inquiry

- What's working well to support LEPs?
- What's not working well to support LEPs?
- Why are some LEPs developing quicker than others and what are the consequences for this in terms of both local and national economic growth and job creation?

- Is the issue of displacement between areas a particular cause for concern?
- How effective has the use of public money been to date?
- What are the views of business as to the effectiveness of LEPs?
- What more could be done by public agencies to support the programme?
- How effective is, and has been, the role of local political leadership both in supporting LEPs and in creating a business friendly environment?
- How effective is, and has been, the role of Whitehall in supporting LEPs and EZs and enabling successful economic growth.
- What lessons are there moving forward?

Proposed format and Indicative timescale

- **Early June:** Agree scope of inquiry including case study areas and any resources to undertake case study work.
- **Mid June:** Public call for evidence
- **July:** Evidence gathering sessions with Officers of the Group within Parliament
- **August:** Writing up
- **September:** Report and recommendations published

Submitting Evidence

The APPG welcomes those that wish to contribute evidence to the inquiry.

Memoranda addressing any of the issues set out under the terms of reference and particularly around the key lines of inquiry, in accordance with the guidelines set out below, are invited by **1st August 2012**.

Each submission should:

- Be no more than 3,000 words in length;
- Begin with a short summary in bullet point form;
- Be in Word format with as little use of colour or logos as possible; and
- Be accompanied by a covering letter or email containing the name and contact details of the individual or organisation submitting evidence.

A copy of the submission should be sent by e-mail to the contact below and marked "APPG LEP INQUIRY".

Giving evidence in person

The Officers of the Group will be holding a number of hearings to receive evidence first hand. These meetings will be held in public and within parliament. The provisional dates for these hearings are listed below:

July

3rd 11am

10th 11am

16th 3pm

Those wishing to give evidence in person should indicate their interest to the contact below, stating their name, the organisation that they are representing and a short summary of the evidence they wish to present. This should be done by **5pm on 25th June**. Regrettably, due to anticipated numbers, it will not be possible to accommodate all those that wish to give evidence in person.

Contact

Majeed Neky mneky@westminster.gov.uk or 0207 641 2127

Evidence provided to the APPG, either verbally or in written form, will be considered to be public unless otherwise stated.