

From Councillor Sebastian Kindersley to the Planning Portfolio Holder:

"Would the Portfolio holder please advise Council what the Administration's position is on Local Enterprise Partnerships? In particular I am interested to know with whom the Council expects to work; what the anticipated timeline for this is and what discussions have so far taken place."

On 29th June, the Secretaries of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and for Communities and Local Government wrote to local authorities and business leaders requesting outline proposals from partnerships of local authorities and businesses for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) by 6 September.

The Government's stated expectation is that Local Enterprise Partnerships will be about setting the right conditions for growth and business, tackling issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure priorities, employment and enterprise and the transition of the low carbon economy. Supporting small business start-ups will be important. The Government has also said that Partnerships will work closely with academic institutions and that tourism will be important in some areas.

It is expected that Partnerships will focus on supporting and enabling the private sector.

The Council expects to work with the city council, the county council, the business and academic communities (especially these two) to submit a proposal for a LEP by 6 September. Discussions with these and other parties is ongoing, with the next high level meeting arranged for 28 July.