

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.4**

**CHIEF OFFICER MANAGEMENT TEAM      5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

**CABINET      22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2012**

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE-GREATER PETERBOROUGH LOCAL  
ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP:  
INCORPORATION AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
(Report by Managing Director, Communities, Partnerships & Projects)**

**1.      PURPOSE**

- 1.1      To consider the District Council becoming a corporate member of the Greater Cambridge-Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as part of its incorporation as a company limited by guarantee.

**2.      BACKGROUND**

- 2.1      In Summer 2010, the Coalition Government invited proposals for locally-driven, business-led LEPs as the key body to drive economic growth at the sub-national level. The proposal put forward by our area, with significant input from the District Council, was to form a LEP based on the overlapping travel to work areas for the cities of Cambridge and Peterborough. The proposal was one of the first to be accepted by Government. The LEP Board was formed in March 2011. Councillor Jason Ablewhite is a Board Member of the LEP. An early LEP success has been securing an Enterprise Zone for the former Alconbury Airfield.

**3.      MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1      The LEP Board has agreed that it makes sense to incorporate the LEP, so that it becomes a legal entity and can more readily take actions in a number of areas (including, for example, entering into contracts).
- 3.2      The LEP Board has proposed that the 13 Local Authorities making up the LEP should be corporate members of the LEP, and is in the process of finalising legal documentation to give effect to this. The documentation has been reviewed by the Council's Legal Services Team who have no substantive comments.
- 3.3      Corporate membership of the LEP formally acknowledges the role of the LEP-area local authorities, but does not bring additional financial commitments for the Council. Key decision making on issues within its remit remains with the Board of the LEP, which has a private sector Chair and a private sector majority, in line with Government's policy aims for LEPs.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

##### **That the Cabinet:-**

- 4.1 Support the incorporation of the LEP as a Company Limited by Guarantee.
- 4.2 Delegate authority to the Managing Director, Communities, Partnerships and Projects, together with the Head of Legal and Governance to complete the appropriate legal documentation and processes.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

None

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