

## South East LEP Local Industrial Strategy

### What is it and why do we need it?

Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) are long-term ambitions set out for each Local Enterprise Partnership area, based on clear evidence and setting out how we will address the challenges and opportunities in the national [Industrial Strategy](#), in ways that are unique to our region.

They should set out clearly defined priorities for how the area will maximise its contribution to UK productivity, allowing places to make the most of their distinctive strengths. They are not to replace other local strategies but should help to coordinate economic policy at the local level and ensure greater collaboration across boundaries. They will help to inform local choices, prioritise local action and, where appropriate, help to inform decisions at the national level.

The strategy should set out our response to the five foundations of productivity – **Ideas, People, Place, Business Environment and Infrastructure**. It should also consider the contribution and impact the area can have on the national grand challenges of **Ageing Society, Artificial Intelligence & Data, Clean Growth and Future of Mobility**.

They will also provide strategic overview which will inform the LEP's approach to any future local growth funding deployed through them. In conjunction with the key reforms set out in the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships, the LIS will help local areas in England decide on their approach to maximising the long-term impact of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The UKSPF will be announced after the spending review.

Once a draft of the strategy has been agreed locally, we enter a co-design stage with Government. This process will test the line of sight from the evidence base to our priorities and agree the set of priorities through which the LEP will address the five foundations of productivity, including our offers and asks of Government. The final published document will be jointly owned by Government, SELEP and its partners.

### What are the timelines for producing the LIS?

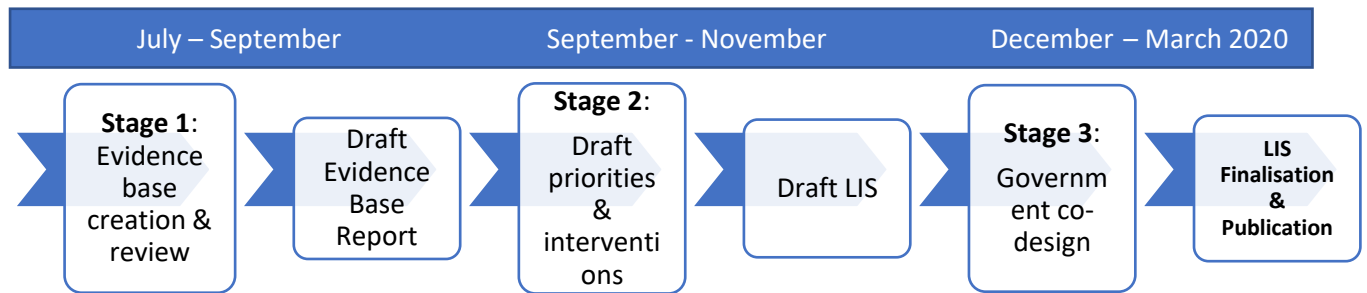
There were three waves of development announced and we are now seeing some of the [earlier wave publications](#). For the remaining, the deadline for agreeing the LIS with Government is March 2020.

Most LEPs, including SELEP, are therefore aiming for the co-design stage to commence from January 2020.

### How is the SELEP approaching the development of its LIS?

Fortunately, we are not starting from scratch with much work being undertaken as part of developing our refreshed strategic position, in the [Smarter, Faster, Together](#) document.

The SELEP is therefore taking a 3-stage approach to the development of the LIS –



**Stage 1** focuses on creating a robust, comprehensive and fit for purpose evidence base. There is a significant amount of information and data available and that was collated for Smarter, Faster, Together. This will be reviewed and recast for the LIS, with gaps identified and filled. Each of the four federated areas also have in place, or are currently producing, a local economic/productivity strategy which will be a key source of information for the LIS. As the consultation develops, the evidence base will continue to be strengthened and shaped.

The evidence base will need to stand up to Government scrutiny via the LISA (local industrial strategy analytical) panel to ensure a clear line of sight from the evidence to the interventions and asks cited in the LIS.

**Stage 2** focuses on wide consultation with partners and stakeholders regarding the evidence base and emerging focus and interventions. These will be tested, refined and further developed to provide a strong framework from which to draft the LIS document.

Consultation will take place primarily through existing boards, networks, forums and other channels. In addition, the LEP will arrange thematic workshops that will focus on developing the priorities, interventions, local commitments and asks of Government. In parallel to the consultation, the LEP will be liaising with Government departments to help secure alignment with the content of the LIS.

**Stage 3** will follow local agreement to the content of the LIS to enter the co-design stage with Government. Sign off for the final draft is expected at an extraordinary meeting of SELEP Board in January. Government co-design will then commence involving in-depth discussions with departments to achieve agreement and final publication of the strategy.

## Partner Engagement

SELEP is keen to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the development of the LIS. In May, we set up a LIS core group and stakeholder group of partners to support the development of the LIS. Through these, SELEP has compiled an engagement calendar which sets out opportunities for LIS engagement over the coming months. This includes, but not limited to, SELEP working groups, local business boards, strategic partners and other LEPs. We will also be providing details of specific engagement opportunities through the [website](#) and newsletter as these develop.

SELEP will be engaging with all the Federated Boards as part of the process, seeking input and steer in September, as part of the evidence base and consultation, and then agreement on a draft of the LIS in November.