

## The Next LEPs: Unlocking growth across our localities (Localis, March 2015)

### Full survey results

The following survey was sent to key LEP stakeholders from both public and private sector backgrounds between October 2014 and January 2015. 158 people responded in total to at least one question in the survey. Responses were gained from every region in the country and every tier of local government. At least one (and in the majority of the 39 LEPs, more than one) representative of every LEP has responded to our consultation process all told. The raw data here has been interpreted in various ways, not least in the regional GVA breakdowns provided in the executive summary. Where appropriate double counting has been eliminated and percentages rounded up in the report.<sup>1</sup> The report, published in March 2015, was authored by Richard Carr with research, editorial and logistical support from Jack Airey and Alex Thomson.

| 1. What position(s) do you hold?         |                          |                |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options                           | Response Percent         | Response Count |
| LEP Chair                                | 3.4%                     | 5              |
| LEP Chief Executive                      | 8.2%                     | 12             |
| LEP Board Member                         | 30.6%                    | 45             |
| Local Authority Leader                   | 23.8%                    | 35             |
| Local Authority Cabinet/Executive Member | 21.1%                    | 31             |
| Local Authority Chief Executive          | 18.4%                    | 27             |
| Other (please specify)                   |                          | 11             |
|  | <i>answered question</i> | <b>147</b>     |
|  | <i>skipped question</i>  | <b>11</b>      |

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<sup>1</sup> By way of elaboration, on p24 of the report it is asserted that 14 LEP board members were ascertained to be from BME communities. Using this we provide the estimate that 'fewer than 3%' of members are from these groups. This includes 49 cases where a lack of data made classification difficult, and thus we cannot use the full 607 board member total. Hence, in this instance, we have rounded up to 3% rather than down to 2%. This is inevitably a best estimate – but still indicates that BME representation on LEPs remains far lower than the 14% BME population in England and Wales: [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776\\_290558.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_290558.pdf)

| 2. If you hold a local authority position, what type of authority do you represent? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| County Council  | 12.7%            | 13             |
| Metropolitan Borough  | 5.9%             | 6              |
| London Borough  | 3.9%             | 4              |
| District-level Council  | 57.8%            | 59             |
| Unitary   | 19.6%            | 20             |
| <i>answered question</i>  |                  | <b>102</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>   |                  | <b>56</b>      |

| 3. Where is your local LEP based? |                  |                |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options                    | Response Percent | Response Count |
| East Midlands                     | 12.3%            | 19             |
| East of England                   | 9.0%             | 14             |
| North East                        | 2.6%             | 4              |
| North West                        | 11.6%            | 18             |
| South East                        | 25.2%            | 39             |
| London                            | 3.9%             | 6              |
| South West                        | 16.8%            | 26             |
| West Midlands                     | 12.3%            | 19             |
| Yorkshire and the Humber          | 6.5%             | 10             |
| <i>answered question</i>          |                  | <b>155</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>           |                  | <b>3</b>       |

| 4. Since 2010, how would you rate the performance of... |           |      |      |      |           |                |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Very good | Good | Okay | Poor | Very poor | Response Count |
| Your LEP  | 29        | 43   | 37   | 10   | 2         | 121            |
| Neighbouring LEPs                                       | 2         | 38   | 55   | 7    | 1         | 103            |
| LEPs in general   | 1         | 29   | 69   | 10   | 1         | 110            |
| <i>answered question</i>                                |           |      |      |      |           | <b>121</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>                                 |           |      |      |      |           | <b>37</b>      |

| 5. There are currently 39 LEPs across England. How many LEPs do you think there should be? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 9 or under   | 6.1%             | 7              |
| 10-14  | 2.6%             | 3              |
| 15-19  | 7.0%             | 8              |
| 20-24  | 12.3%            | 14             |
| 25-29  | 7.9%             | 9              |
| 30-34  | 13.2%            | 15             |
| 35-39  | 30.7%            | 35             |
| 40-44  | 11.4%            | 13             |
| 45-49  | 1.8%             | 2              |
| 50+  | 7.0%             | 8              |
| <i>answered question</i>   |                  | <b>114</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>  |                  | <b>44</b>      |

| 6. What TWO ways could central government best help LEPs in the first year of the next parliament? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Increase core funding to allow for additional permanent staff                                      | 24.8%            | 29             |
| Allow full local control (i.e. no ring fence) over already devolved funding streams                | 49.6%            | 58             |
| Convene regular meetings between the Secretary of State of DCLG and/or BIS and the 39 LEP chairs   | 9.4%             | 11             |
| Provide powers to intervene to speed up the planning process                                       | 11.1%            | 13             |
| Legislate to provide charging or tax raising powers  | 4.3%             | 5              |
| Commit to guaranteed funding levels for ten years  | 57.3%            | 67             |
| Deliver on all growth deals by the end of 2015   | 30.8%            | 36             |
| Other (please specify)   |                  | 22             |
| <i>answered question</i>   |                  | <b>117</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>  |                  | <b>41</b>      |

| 7. Leaving aside what would be ideal, how many years guaranteed central funding do you think your LEP needs to deliver effectively for residents? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 1-2 years   | 0.8%             | 1              |
| 3-4 years   | 16.9%            | 20             |
| A full parliament   | 48.3%            | 57             |
| Two full parliaments  | 30.5%            | 36             |
| More than two full parliaments  | 3.4%             | 4              |
| <i>answered question</i>  |                  | <b>118</b>     |

*skipped question*

40

| 8. What improvement (%) on local GVA could your LEP have by 2020 if...           |      |      |      |      |      |       |        |        |        |        |      |                |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | 0-1% | 1-2% | 2-3% | 3-4% | 4-5% | 5-10% | 10-20% | 20-30% | 30-40% | 40-50% | 50%+ | Response Count |
| Present levels of funding and powers were maintained                             | 13   | 23   | 20   | 4    | 19   | 12    | 8      | 3      | 1      | 0      | 1    | 104            |
| You received the powers and funding you have/are pressing central government for | 2    | 4    | 9    | 12   | 15   | 30    | 14     | 9      | 4      | 4      | 2    | 105            |
| <i>answered question</i>   |      |      |      |      |      |       |        |        |        |        |      | 106            |
| <i>skipped question</i>  |      |      |      |      |      |       |        |        |        |        |      | 52             |

| 9. Do you think LEPs should be incorporated as non-departmental public bodies with specific statutory duties? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes   | 23.5%            | 28             |
| No  | 59.7%            | 71             |
| Don't know  | 16.8%            | 20             |
| <i>answered question</i>  |                  | 119            |
| <i>skipped question</i>   |                  | 39             |

| 10. In terms of planning, do you think LEPs should be given statutory powers to...       |     |    |            |                |
|--|-----|----|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Yes | No | Don't know | Response Count |
| Help speed up decisions or appeals that become delayed in the local planning system      | 40  | 74 | 6          | 120            |
| Become the body that planning appeals are sent to, to speed up the local planning system | 22  | 88 | 8          | 118            |
| <i>answered question</i>   |     |    |            | <b>120</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>  |     |    |            | <b>38</b>      |

| 11. What BIS defined sector do you anticipate your local LEP putting the most resource into over the next five years? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Low tech manufacturing (e.g. foodstuffs, metals and plastics)   | 7.0%             | 8              |
| High tech manufacturing (e.g. chemicals, automotive, machinery and pharmaceuticals)                                   | 43.5%            | 50             |
| Production (e.g. construction of new infrastructure, mining and quarrying)  | 11.3%            | 13             |
| Knowledge services (e.g. communications, digital services, financial services, research and development)              | 35.7%            | 41             |
| Retail services (e.g. restaurants, transport and distribution services, administration services)                      | 2.6%             | 3              |
| <i>answered question</i>  |                  | <b>115</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>   |                  | <b>43</b>      |

| <b>12. Beyond any formal powers and the devolution of funds, which of the following should LEPs have a wider informal role in...</b> |                         |                       |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Answer Options</b>  | <b>Response Percent</b> | <b>Response Count</b> |
| Encouraging increased foreign investment to the locality   | 79.1%                   | 91                    |
| Encouraging corporate social responsibility amongst the private sector   | 35.7%                   | 41                    |
| Encouraging increased levels of tourism  | 49.6%                   | 57                    |
| Encouraging local firms, where feasible, to pay the living wage  | 21.7%                   | 25                    |
| Advising councils on the merits of local private sector partners, both large and SMEs  | 43.5%                   | 50                    |
| Other (please specify)   |                         | 12                    |
| <b><i>answered question</i></b>  |                         | <b>115</b>            |
| <b><i>skipped question</i></b>   |                         | <b>43</b>             |

| <b>13. Regardless of the current make-up of your local LEP board, which of the following do you think should be represented on LEP boards?</b> |                         |                       |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Answer Options</b>  | <b>Response Percent</b> | <b>Response Count</b> |
| Large national or multinational firms  | 83.1%                   | 98                    |
| Local small business   | 84.7%                   | 100                   |
| Local universities   | 83.9%                   | 99                    |
| Welfare agencies such as jobcentreplus   | 14.4%                   | 17                    |
| Local FE/skills providers  | 76.3%                   | 90                    |
| Local trade unions   | 14.4%                   | 17                    |
| Both lower and upper tier councils   | 80.5%                   | 95                    |
| Planning experts   | 22.0%                   | 26                    |
| Financial services experts   | 26.3%                   | 31                    |
| Legal experts  | 16.1%                   | 19                    |
| Local MPs  | 19.5%                   | 23                    |
| Local MEPs   | 6.8%                    | 8                     |
| Other (please specify)   |                         | 10                    |
| <b><i>answered question</i></b>  |                         | <b>118</b>            |
| <b><i>skipped question</i></b>   |                         | <b>40</b>             |

| 14. If LEPs could only have ONE of the following streams devolved, which would you press for?      |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Stamp duty receipts from property sales  | 7.1%             | 8              |
| The Skills Funding Agency budget   | 38.1%            | 43             |
| A greater percentage of transport budgets  | 23.9%            | 27             |
| The Education Funding Agency budget dedicated to University Technical Colleges and/or free schools | 2.7%             | 3              |
| UKTI appropriate budgets and functions   | 11.5%            | 13             |
| The opportunity to 'Earn Back' the additional tax receipt generated in a particular area           | 16.8%            | 19             |
| Other (please specify)   |                  | 19             |
| <i>answered question</i>   |                  | <b>113</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>  |                  | <b>45</b>      |

| 15. Would you be in favour of pooling the following up from individual local authorities... |                   |                   |       |    |            |                |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------|----|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Yes - all of this | Yes - a % of this | Maybe | No | Don't know | Response Count |
| Business rate income  | 17                | 49                | 14    | 33 | 2          | 115            |
| Council tax revenue   | 6                 | 10                | 12    | 79 | 3          | 110            |
| Community Infrastructure Levy monies  | 9                 | 35                | 23    | 39 | 6          | 112            |
| Council owned property  | 7                 | 12                | 15    | 71 | 5          | 110            |
| New Homes Bonus revenue   | 8                 | 19                | 24    | 56 | 5          | 112            |
| Underutilised public land and buildings   | 20                | 32                | 25    | 32 | 4          | 113            |
| Individual housing borrowing caps to create a (larger) LEP wide cap                         | 14                | 27                | 23    | 31 | 15         | 110            |
| Other (please specify)  |                   |                   |       |    |            | 7              |
| <i>answered question</i>  |                   |                   |       |    |            | <b>117</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>   |                   |                   |       |    |            | <b>41</b>      |



| 16. In terms of LEPs' geography, which of the following do you agree/disagree with?   |       |          |            |                |
|---|-------|----------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Agree | Disagree | Don't know | Response Count |
| My LEP represents a genuinely functional economic area  | 67    | 48       | 3          | 118            |
| LEP geographies in general should be bigger   | 34    | 68       | 13         | 115            |
| LEP geographies in general should be smaller  | 26    | 74       | 11         | 111            |
| There should be a movement both up and down, so that LEPs align better with larger counties, as well as smaller counties and districts grouping together under a single larger LEP                            | 64    | 29       | 20         | 113            |
| There should be more combined authorities in urban areas, and larger LEPs mirroring county (or counties) borders outside the cities   | 68    | 35       | 12         | 115            |
| There should be no overlapping boundaries between LEPs  | 73    | 38       | 7          | 118            |
| If a local authority cannot reach a decision on which LEP they wish to be a part of by May next year the Secretary of State of BIS should intervene to decide one way or the other after the General Election | 59    | 47       | 12         | 118            |
| <i>answered question</i>  |       |          |            | <b>118</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>   |       |          |            | <b>40</b>      |

| 17. If LEPs take on more local government responsibilities, do they need... |     |    |            |                |
|---|-----|----|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Yes | No | Don't know | Response Count |
| A direct democratic mandate   | 48  | 57 | 10         | 115            |
| A stronger indirect democratic mandate                                      | 75  | 26 | 9          | 110            |
| To change their name to some more overarching term                          | 29  | 57 | 25         | 111            |
| To directly align with Combined Authorities where feasible                  | 80  | 22 | 11         | 113            |
| To publish email addresses of all board members                             | 68  | 38 | 8          | 114            |
| To publish regular and transparent accounts                                 | 109 | 6  | 1          | 116            |
| To webcast their board meetings/publish all minutes                         | 61  | 36 | 17         | 114            |
| To be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000                        | 71  | 33 | 11         | 115            |
| <i>answered question</i>  |     |    |            | <b>118</b>     |
| <i>skipped question</i>   |     |    |            | <b>40</b>      |

| <b>18. Which or all of the following local government functions do you think LEPs are capable of fulfilling today; and with suitable expansion could be capable of fulfilling in 2030?</b> |              |                |                       |
|--|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Answer Options</b>  | <b>Today</b> | <b>In 2030</b> | <b>Response Count</b> |
| Housing  | 7            | 36             | 41                    |
| Education  | 6            | 26             | 32                    |
| Highways and Transport   | 33           | 32             | 58                    |
| Cultural Functions   | 10           | 19             | 27                    |
| Environmental functions  | 6            | 19             | 24                    |
| Planning   | 15           | 30             | 43                    |
| Social care  | 1            | 18             | 19                    |
| Waste  | 7            | 17             | 23                    |
| Central services e.g tax collection  | 5            | 11             | 16                    |
| Commercial and trading activities  | 20           | 20             | 35                    |
| None of the above  | 49           | 31             | 51                    |
| All of the above   | 0            | 2              | 2                     |
| <i>answered question</i>   |              |                | <b>109</b>            |
| <i>skipped question</i>  |              |                | <b>49</b>             |