

LEP Commerce Cornwall column – May 2017

Cornwall Business Week is a good time to ask a favour of our thriving business community, so here goes.

The LEP has been putting the finishing touches to an ambitious economic plan for our region called Vision 2030.

Based around three main themes of business, people and place, it sets out a vision that by 2030 Cornwall will be *the* place where businesses thrive and people enjoy an outstanding quality of life.

The plan has been developed with significant input from the business community, but we are going to need more help to put it into action.

That's why at events throughout Business Week you might have spotted our postcards asking people to get in touch if they think they could help us in the future.

This may range from giving your views on our future asks of Government, or perhaps attending a short business-focused event, or if a topic really interests you, you may want to join a specific task and finish group. So this is an appeal to get involved. Please visit our website www.cioslep.com where you can leave your details, and we will keep you informed about future activity and how to take part.

This was an approach we took during our recent consultation on the Government's Industrial Strategy, and we were pleased that so many businesses got involved.

The LEP's role is to influence, inform and invest, working in partnership to grow the economy of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. That's why we are in regular dialogue with government, travelling to Westminster and Whitehall to make sure we bang the drum for our region.

Recent discussions have included our Spaceport bid, relocating government departments to Cornwall, sector deals to develop our tourism, mining and agrifood industries, creating a multi-million business investment fund, piloting business rate relief and using our region as a testbed for new digital and energy technologies.

The LEP is a vital window to national government and investment, helping to feed the voice of business into the corridors of power.

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