

# Summary of recommendations

## Recommendations to Government

- 1)** Government needs to trust LEPs and give them time to work without imposing radical changes to the fundamentals of the system or introducing time-consuming bureaucratic requirements.
- 2)** Government should commit to providing a modest amount of core funding to LEPs in order to ensure that they have a basic level of staffing and the ability to act independently and balance different local interests.
- 3)** Government should commit to consolidating funding streams available to LEPs and extending local financing mechanisms to enable LEPs to invest in local economies.
- 4)** Government should commit to negotiating local growth deals which devolve funding and powers to LEP areas, building on the first wave of 'City Deals'.
- 5)** Government should commit to empowering LEPs to play a greater coordinating role on work and skills provision in their areas, and actively explore how this can be done.
- 6)** Government should maintain high level access to Government for LEPs, ensure consistent communications with LEPs and Enterprise Zones (EZs) across departments and provide a single point of contact on LEP issues.
- 7)** Government should ensure that all departments and agencies are committed to local growth objectives and involve LEPs in setting the national economic agenda.
- 8)** Government should ensure that England's inward investment offer is aligned with LEPs and particularly with EZs.

## Recommendations to LEPs

- 9)** LEPs, supported by Government, need to strike the right balance between formulating a strategic vision for their areas and undertaking project delivery.
- 10)** LEPs need to widen and deepen engagement with a broader spectrum of local businesses and with key sectors in the local economy, industry and the community.
- 11)** LEPs, supported and incentivised by Government, need to collaborate across boundaries, particularly on strategic planning, transport, housing and infrastructure.

## Recommendations to local authorities and others

- 12)** Drawing on their unique local democratic mandate, local authorities should show leadership in promoting a business-friendly environment across their whole LEP area(s), and use LEPs to help them collaborate across tiers and boundaries.