

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group 16 January 2019

ABBHEY MANOR BUSINESS CENTRE, THE ABBEY, PRESTON ROAD, YEOVIL BA20 2EN

Attendees

Andrew England (AE)	-	Torbay Council
Eifion Jones (EJ)	-	HotSW LEP
Judith Gannon (JG)	-	LEP Business Forum
Mel Squires (MS)	-	NFU
Mike Deaton (MD)	-	Devon County Council
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council/HotSW LEP
Tim Jones (TS)	-	Devon and Cornwall Business Council
Jon Rattenbury (JR)	-	SW Energy Capacity Hub Manager
Doug Eltham (DE)	-	Local Nature Partnerships

Supporting Officers

Rob Hensley (RH)	-	HotSW LEP Place Secretariat/Somerset County Council
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Apologies

Andrew Ardley	-	South Western railway
Barbara Shaw	-	Westward Housing
David Northey	-	Network Rail
David Ralph	-	HotSW LEP
David Scott	-	Federation of Small Businesses
Derek Phillips	-	South West Chambers of Commerce
Doug Bamsey	-	Somerset District Councils
Heidi Hallam	-	HotSW LEP
Helena Davidson	-	HotSW LEP
Ian Harrison	-	HotSW LEP Transport Board
John Dixon	-	Plymouth City Council
Mark Williams	-	Devon District Councils
Mark Worsfold	-	South West Water
Mel Sealey	-	HotSW LEP
Mike O'Dowd Jones	-	Somerset County Council
Pat Steward	-	Torbay Council
Sarah Jennings	-	Local Nature Partnerships

	Agenda item	Lead
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>MS Chaired the meeting as BS had sent apologies. MS welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies are noted above.</p>	MS
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations.</p>	MS

3.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the last Place Leadership Group meeting (14th November 2018) were approved as an accurate record.</p>	<p>MS RH – To forward minutes to publish.</p>
4.	<p>Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Overview</p> <p>EJ provided an overview of the work to date to set the context prior to seeking the views of the Place leadership Group.</p> <p>The key points that he highlighted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint session of the Leadership Groups was convened on 7th January 2019 to discuss the LIS • The evidence base for the LIS draws upon the information that was collated to develop the Productivity Strategy. • The Productivity Strategy identifies 10 or so opportunities that reflect the region’s unique strengths and how the region supports the delivery of the National industrial Strategy • At the Joint LIS discussion session, an overview of the analyses of this evidence was presented alongside an outline of the approach to the prioritisation of regional opportunities • The goals were to complete a first draft paper (being referred to as a Command Paper) to take to the HotSW Joint Committee (25th January) and HotSW Board (30th January). • The process will then move onto to the drafting stage, including local stakeholder engagement, with a view to the LIS being launched in the summer of 2019 <p>The discussion with the Place Leadership Group highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas for consideration were seen to include supply chains, Government’s Grand Challenges¹, regional distinctiveness and how much of a leading role is taken in the partnership with Government. • Is the aim to maximise the productivity of the best performers or support the growth of those that are underachieving? • HotSW is part of Wave 2 of LIS development. The LIS will be shared and owned across Government departments and provide input to future policy. • Whilst the LIS is not a bidding document, it will feed into the regional case for UK the Shared Prosperity Fund • For Place, key areas of interest include transport (such as through the Sub National Transport Body) and housing (as illustrated through recent and ongoing Housing Infrastructure Fund activity) • How will themes such as big data, ageing society, mobility and clean growth be factored in? • Will the LIS be market facing? 	<p>EJ</p>

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Command Paper will be an analysis of where we are, and Government is generally supportive. The views of the Place, Business and Skills Leadership groups will be sought • It was agreed that the practicality of bringing forward the March Place Leadership Group meeting to February should be investigated to set up a session to focus on the LIS • Discussions between regional LEPs are ongoing and a draft of the LIS will be shared informally. The Document will be in the public domain after the local elections in May • The importance of championing genuine local distinctiveness when in discussion with Government on the development of the LIS was flagged. This should also include the promotion of locally important issues such as inclusive growth. 	<p>RH to liaise with the Chair</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Collaborative Working on Energy</p> <p>Policy Context</p> <p>In addition to the Industrial Strategy¹, the context for the national emphasis on energy is the Government’s Clean Growth Strategy² which aims to promote clean growth through proposals to improve business efficiency, home improvement, low carbon transport, the delivery of clean, smart, flexible power and enhancing the benefits and value of natural resources. In so doing, the Government’s objective is to meet the legally binding targets to reduce emissions by at least 80% by 2050, as set out in the 2008 Climate Change Act³.</p> <p>BEIS Local Energy Programme</p> <p>To facilitate the achievement of the Industrial and Clean Strategy goals and drive increased investment in local energy, the BEIS Local Energy Programme was designed to build local capacity and support the development of energy strategies.</p> <p>SW Energy Capacity Hub</p> <p>JR provided an overview of the newly established Hub which is made up of a partnership of seven south west LEPs (CloS, HotSW, WECA, GFirst, SWLEP, Dorset, Solent) and hosted by WECA. It has been set up a budget from BEIS of £1 million.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim is to increase the number, quality and scale of local energy projects • Resourcing has been provided to employ expertise including external consultants • Currently advertising for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three Project Managers (to manage projects through the development process) - One Technical Manager (feasibility studies etc) - One Fund Manager (to check commercial and business cases and funding) • External consultants will be used for specialist aspects e.g. state aid advice • Hub should be fully mobile by April 2019 • Self-sufficient by the end of year two 	<p>RH to circulate Project Manager advert</p>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

- Looking to support projects of £5 million plus (e.g. efficiency, generation, heat, district heating and ultra-low emission vehicle infrastructure)
- Hub has revenue not capital funding
- Time and people will be offered in support of:
 - Feasibility
 - Business cases
 - Design and planning
- When funding is received the Hub will step back
- Aim is for a return of 1:6; £6 million return for each £1 million invested
- A refresh of the Defra/BEIS Rural Community Energy Fund is being advertised
 - Provides a feasibility grant of up to £40k especially for innovative solutions
 - Development grants of up to £500k for rural areas
 - A pre-feasibility grant of £5k might be introduced
- Priorities for the Hub will be around opportunities and barriers
- A long-list of projects is being collated
- Hub Board meets in January
- Will go to market for support if necessary

Joint CloS, Dorset and HotSW LEP Energy Strategy

RH gave an overview of the energy strategy that is being worked on jointly with CloS and Dorset LEPs after receiving funding from BEIS.

- The vision is to create an energy future that is low carbon and more affordable, maximising and retaining benefits in the region
- Some of the best renewable energy resources in the UK are located within the South West
- Opportunities and challenges include:
 - Electricity: the South West has the potential to be self-sufficient or even a net exporter of electricity by 2030
 - Transport: a rapid increase in electric vehicles over the next two decades with the potential for a longer-term transition to a hydrogen economy
 - Heat: an opportunity to tackle energy inequalities with more efficient buildings; deployment of heat pumps and heat networks
 - Infrastructure: investment into bigger and smarter transmission and distribution grids to unlock the above
- Recommendations include:
 - The LEPs should make energy a strategic priority
 - The LEPs have important roles to play to overcome barriers including leadership and influence, fund administration and knowledge sharing
 - Each LEP should have an energy champion

The subsequent discussion highlighted the following:

- The LEP needs to drive the strategy through active ownership
- When appointed, the Hub's local Project Manager will be engaged

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved grid infrastructure and capacity is key • The proposed Distribution Network Operator (DNO) transition to Distribution System Operator (DSO) will be important in future and the LEP must be engaged with the consultation on this, including with wider stakeholders such as National Grid and Ofgem • Unlike most of the region, Yeovil is the boundary between two network operators (WPD and SSE), so both need to be engaged effectively • North Devon Biosphere provides an opportunity to test concepts such as green finance, land management for carbon sequestration and clean energy. An important issue is how to commercialise this activity and create productive growth • For HotSW, issues such as connectivity and resilience are of key importance and current initiatives include Exeter City Futures. The delivery plan for the energy strategy will pick up these themes and be developed through engagement with LEP partners and the Hub • Should WPD and SSE be invited to a Place Leadership Group meeting? • The meeting felt that it was the role of the Place Leadership Group to pull in appropriate representatives and act as the LEP focal point on energy rather than creating or reinstating other groups. • The five Local Energy Capacity Hubs across England offer good potential to interact • Devon Local Nature Partnership is conducting a strategic review which will include climate and driving down carbon emissions as priorities • It was noted that agricultural emissions were not covered in the energy strategy • Heating for homes is a complex and significant local issue due to the lack of gas, use of oil and wood for fuel. There is also a heavy reliance on cars, particularly in rural areas 	
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Productivity Strategy Delivery Plan – Opportunity Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not an attempt to capture everything but areas for partnership to focus on including energy, connectivity, housing and natural capital • There is an opportunity to “sense check” that the right aspects are included to drive productivity • Feedback on draft document to RH <p>Future High Streets Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) was flagged • The expectation from MHCLG is that EOIs should include proof of engagement and support from stakeholders, including LEPs • LEP Management Team will discuss LEP engagement in the process. For now, the point of contact in the LEP is Heidi Hallam (LEP Partnerships Manager) 	<p>RH to circulate and collate feedback</p> <p>RH to draft note to advise PLG</p>

7.	Next meeting: 13 th March 2019 – Details to be confirmed	
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Actions Log Summary	Meeting Date	Owner	Status Update	Next Steps
To forward previous Place Leadership Group meeting minutes for publication on HotSW LEP website.	16/01/2019	Rob Hensley	Completed 24/01/2019	N/A
Option to bring forward March Place Leadership meeting to February to be investigated	16/01/2019	Rob Hensley	Superseded as Command Paper Published	Included on agenda for March meeting
Advertisement for SW Local Energy Hub roles to be circulated	16/01/2019	Rob Hensley	Completed 24/01/2019	
Feedback sought on Productivity Plan draft Opportunity Plan summary	16/01/2019	Rob Hensley	Completed 24/01/2019	
Future High Streets Fund note and documents to be sent to PLG	16/01/2019	Rob Hensley	Completed 05/02/2019	
HOTSW LEP summary note for NIC to be circulated to PLG	14/11/2018	Rob Hensley	Note was not sent	