



## Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group 6 January 2015 Westward Housing, Newton Abbot

**Attendees:** Barbara Shaw (BS), Barbara Richardson (BR), Doug Bamsey (DB), Ian Harrison (IH), Joe Keech (JK), Jonathan Bell (JB), John Tucker (JT), Judith Gannon (JG), Kat Deeney (KD), Mike O'Dowd Jones (MODJ), Natalie Wainwright (NW), Paul Hickson (PH), Paul Taylor (PT), Pat Steward (PS), Peter Ashton (PA), Stephen Bird (SB), Tim Jones (TJ).

**Apologies:** Chris Garcia (CG), Derek Phillips (DP).

Agenda Item	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b> BS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted (as above).</p>	
<p><b>2. Declarations of Interest</b> For consistency it was agreed that the Group should utilise an existing template for capturing Declarations of Interest. PT would confirm whether the LEP Board or EUSIF Committee template should be adopted by the Leadership Groups for this purpose. This would be circulated for completion by all members.</p>	<b>PT/NW/All</b>
<p><b>3. Notes of meeting – 3 November 2014</b> The notes of the meeting held on 3 November 2014 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the addition of Stephen Bird's name among the list of attendees.</p>	<b>NW</b>
<p><b>4. Matters Arising</b> Please refer to the updated actions log at the end of these notes.</p>	
<p><b>5. Local Growth Focus – Growth and Regeneration in Torbay</b> Pat Steward, Strategic Planning Manager at Torbay Council presented the highlights of Torbay's growth and regeneration activity, focusing on The Bay's Unique Selling Points and Under-Sold Potential (Slide 3), Successes (Slide 4), Torbay's vision and master plans.</p> <p>Key projects and asks include: continued investment in connectivity: ICT, road, rail, sea and air travel; a jobs-led growth programme, in parallel with housing delivery, across Torquay Town Centre, Paignton Town Centre, Torquay Gateway, Collaton St Mary and Brixham Town Centre; along with the development of a number of strategic Employment Sites. Torquay town centre had seen an increase in demand for innovation space, whilst enhancements of commercial/retail space on Union Street was intended to capture and/or retain existing large retail investors.</p> <p>The Group posed a number of questions following the presentation to which PS responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of development sites have been slow to come forward as they are not viable;</li> <li>• Demand for office space is extremely low, alternative, flexible business space options are being explored;</li> <li>• There is a need to punctuate residential areas with image-enhancing business space, i.e. as per Torquay Gateway.</li> </ul>	 Torbay - LEP Place Leadership Group Jan

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the withdrawal of supermarkets like Tesco many areas are now faced with the challenge of finding replacement drivers. Hotels have made substantial investments in Torbay and look to provide a sustainable alternative for the time being.</li> </ul> <p>Torbay Council was asked to consider how it could make a stronger case for LEP investment, e.g. by making more of its underused Marine Asset. There was interest in the findings relating to business and tourism demand for helicopter landings across Torbay. There would be value in reviewing this with Exeter and Plymouth.</p> <p>PH asked how the Group would like to proceed, i.e. future presentations from other areas, e.g. by the National Parks, Yeovil, North Devon? It was agreed that presentations had been valuable but that greater benefit could be derived from drawing together and understanding the common issues across the patch that the LEP /LAs can tackle collectively. PH and PT would consider how this is done in the context of the emerging Spatial Framework.</p> <p>PT proposed that the LEP prepare its 'manifesto' for Government ahead of the elections so that it was prepared to enter negotiations, irrespective of the outcome.</p>	<p>PH/PT</p>
<p><b>6. Growth Deal 1</b></p> <p><b>a. General Progress</b></p> <p>PT provided an update on Growth Deal 1, focusing on the emerging governance arrangements and implications for the leadership groups. This includes issuing calls for proposals, which will be assessed and presented to the Strategic Investment Panel (SIP).</p> <p><b>b. LTB Assessment of Business Cases</b></p> <p>IH presented a number of slides, which included the outcomes of the Local Transport Board's Assessment of Business Cases submitted under Growth Deal 1. He emphasised that transport infrastructure is a major facilitator of growth. Work was ongoing to move from the technical detail to the anticipated outputs and financial profiles of each scheme.</p>	 <p>Place Leadership Group GD1 transport 1</p>
<p><b>7. Growth Deal 2</b></p> <p>PT confirmed that there had been a reduction in the Growth Deal 2 budget and that the LEP was expecting an allocation, rather than a competitive bidding process to unlock additional funds.</p> <p>Positive feedback had been received regarding the projects included within the LEP's pipeline. A further update to the LEP Board is scheduled for the week commencing 12 January with a final announcement anticipated from Government by the end of January.</p>	
<p><b>8. European Structural Investment Funds (EUSIF)</b></p> <p><b>a. Notification of delays</b></p> <p>A short briefing note was circulated prior to the meeting, explaining recent delays to the launch of the EUSIF programme. PT made it clear that work was continuing in order that project specifications were sufficiently developed by the time the monies were released at the beginning of the 2015/16 financial year.</p> <p><b>b. Timetable of calls</b></p> <p>At the time of the meeting, the Structural Investment Funds (SIF) Panel had met twice, with a further meeting scheduled for February, at which the detail behind the call timetable (included within the Draft Implementation Plan) would be discussed, i.e. what specific actions would be required to respond.</p>	

Stephen Bird added how useful the first two meetings had been in bringing everyone up to speed with the connections to the LEP strategy. He also stressed the importance of exploring the LEP's ambitions beyond the UK; into Europe and globally.

### 9. Transport Infrastructure – Update from Autumn Statement

IH explained how the Infrastructure Bill would lead to the replacement of the Highways Agency with a government-owned company called 'Highways England'.

There was nothing new within the Autumn Statement relating to Local Authority roads funding, although much can be read into the reference to improvements to the rail line at Dawlish. The 'Expressways' referred to are defined as High-speed dual carriage ways with limited frontage access.

IH highlighted the Challenge Fund for local highway maintenance projects over £5m for which £575m had been set aside. The fund is open to transport authorities; National Parks, LEPs and District Councils. However, the latter three would need to have the support of the local transport authority to proceed. There could be significant benefit derived from the LEP facilitating a cross-authority area project proposal, e.g. low energy street lighting.

The LEP should build on the relationship with the Highways Agency to encourage the inclusion of projects currently excluded from their investment plans, whilst recognising the constraints that the Agency face in terms of their capacity to deliver more schemes.

SB suggested that the LEP familiarise itself with the five year planning and investment cycle of the HA/Highways England to aid delivery.



Place Leadership  
Group Autumn Statement

### 10. Task and Finish Group Updates

Notes of the last Task and Finish Group meetings had been circulated with a copy of the agenda.

#### a. Housing

BR gave an overview of the draft scoping document, intended to support the production of a Barriers to Housing Delivery in the HotSW Report. It was agreed that the scoping document be circulated to the Group and any comments sent directly to [Barbara.Richardson@yhg.co.uk](mailto:Barbara.Richardson@yhg.co.uk) within a week of issue (**By Friday 16 January**).

#### b. Environmental Resilience

KD reminded the group of the aims of the Task and Finish Group, which were to embed the aspirations of resilience, climate change and sustainability, articulated by the LEP in the SEP, within project development and delivery.

Attention was drawn to the Workstream Plan and the need for the LEP/LAs to issue a call for projects to be included in a 'warts and all' review. It was agreed that at least one project, from each of the upper tier authority areas, be sought; ideally covering the three thematic areas and key sectors.

SB suggested that a review of LA Climate Change strategies may also be timely.

PH/NW/All

### 11. Food Enterprise Zone / Food and Farming Local Development Order

PH circulated a letter to the LEP Chair, which explained that DEFRA are looking at the role that Local Development Orders (LDOs) could play in facilitating the development of food chain businesses by giving permitted development rights to these businesses in a geographical area,

## Local Enterprise Partnership

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

<p>or in specific locations. £50,000 is offered to each local planning authority interested in developing an innovative and pioneering food LDO.</p> <p>Expressions of Interest are sought from LAs by 9 January. Possibilities include: the Bath and West Showground; Holsworthy Market – SW Agritech focus; and a marine/fishing focused proposal. The Management Team is to make recommendations to the SIP before final submissions are made towards the end of January. The potential for sharing core costs across the LEP area was discussed.</p>	
<p><b>12. Next Meeting</b> 13:00-15:30, Tuesday 3 March, Yarlington Housing Group Offices.</p> <p>To include an agenda item on Broadband (proposed at the meeting) and the Strategic Investment Panel's Scheme of Delegation (proposed after the meeting).</p>	
<p><b>13. Any Other Business</b> No items of AOB were noted.</p>	

Actions Log	Meeting Date	Owner	Status Update	Next Steps
<i>Amend minutes of the last meeting to include Sue Williamson of the FSB.</i>	03/11/2014	Natalie Wainwright	Completed	Closed
Consider the questions under Item 6 and provide responses to NW before 06/01/2015.	03/11/2014	All	None received	
Start work on flexible prioritisation methodology to develop and progress pipeline/'hopper' projects.	03/11/2014	Paul Taylor	In progress	Continue
Obtain statistical evidence of the impact of road closures within the HotSW from the Highways Agency.	03/11/2014	Ian Harrison	Completed	NW to circulate note by email.
Send notes of meeting to Ian re: heavy-lifting gear from Wales.	03/11/2014	Peter Ashton	To be completed	Action to be carried forward.
Send notes of most recent meetings to T&F Group members and cc PH.	03/11/2014	Barbara Richardson/ Mark Robins	Complete	Continue
Share T&F Group report with other LEP Leadership Groups for comment.	03/11/2014	Paul Hickson	To be completed	Action to be carried forward.
Present scope of Spatial Framework at meeting on 06/01/2015.	03/11/2014	Paul Hickson	Delayed until March 2015.	NW to include as a future agenda item.
Circulate forward plan of dates for all LEP Leadership Meetings in 2015/16.	03/11/2014	Natalie Wainwright	In progress, awaiting details of Board meetings from July 2015 onwards.	NW to circulate revised timetable when available.

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