

**Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group
4 November 2015
Caddsdawn Business Support Centre, Bideford**

Attendees:

Barbara Shaw (BS)	-	Westward Housing
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council
Pat Steward (PS)	-	Torbay Council
Judith Gannon (JG)	-	LEP Business Forum
Doug Bamsey (DB)	-	Somerset District Councils
Mark Robins (MR)	-	Devon, Plymouth and Somerset
Local Nature Partnerships		
Joe Keech (JK)	-	Devon County Council
Tim Jones (TJ)	-	HotSW LEP Board
David Northey (DN)	-	Network Rail

Presenters

Ellen Vernon (EV)	-	North Devon Council
David Green (DG)	-	Torrige District Council
Mark Pollock (MP)	-	Mark Pollock Planning
Consultancy		

Supporting Officers

Natalie Wainwright (NW)	-	HotSW LEP Place Secretariat/Somerset
County Council		
Paul Taylor (PT)	-	HotSW LEP
Helena Davison (HD)	-	HotSW LEP

Apologies

Stephen Bird (SB)	-	South West Water/ HotSW LEP
-------------------	---	-----------------------------

Board

Barbara Richardson (BR)	-	Yarlington Housing Association
Ian Harrison (IH)	-	HotSW LEP Local Transport Board
Mike O'Dowd Jones (MODJ)	-	Somerset County Council
Jonathon Bell (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council
Derek Phillips (DP)	-	South West Chambers of

Commerce

Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	HotSW LEP
Terry Schofield (TS)	-	Federation of Small Businesses
(FSB)		

	Agenda item	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies BS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted, as above.	

2	<p>Declarations of interest None recorded.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising Minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record. Group members remembered Peter Ashton, FSB representative, who sadly passed away.</p>	
4	<p>A Spotlight on: Bideford and Barnstaple Growth Agenda Ellen Vernon and David Green presented the Local Plans for the two areas. <i>Questions/Discussion:</i> The challenge of aligning Local Plan and Devolution timescales was acknowledged. Devolution opportunities for the area include tidal and live-work space. Understanding the transformational opportunities/ambitions of the towns would be helpful, since the Local Plan recognises only the existing demand for Growth. Highlighting what is different and unique about these two places is important, balanced with an understanding of the themes that they have in common with other parts of the HotSW. Connectivity is clearly a major issue, as well as the dependence on tourism and how that affects economy. The area does demonstrate some good examples of private sector innovation. Viewing the environment as an asset, rather than something for ‘protection’ only is critical. The coastal zone, as a piece of valuable natural infrastructure presents huge opportunity. DN added that the Barnstaple rail link is used by some half a million people. The benefits that the rail link brings, in addition to tourism, should be further explored. A separate conversation will follow between the Councils and Network Rail, since it is recognised that the capacity of roads to manage further traffic is limited.</p>	<i>EV/DG/DN</i>
5	<p>Housing Report MP was praised for his work on the final report. He provided the background to this piece of work, to which a number of Leadership Group members had contributed. Thanks are due to HAILO for financially supporting this work. BS will take a final version of the report and key recommendations to the LEP Board on 17 November 2015. The group reflected on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability of Local Authorities to bring forward new sites; • How to make better use of the public sector estate and foster more effective public-private partnerships; • The possible implications of the Autumn Statement; • The role of the HCA and their openness to ‘radical’ new options to meet local needs; • Getting the name and membership of the proposed Strategic 	

	<p>Housing Delivery Board right;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the Board was a structural fix to a behavioural problem; • How to gain political buy-in for what is a highly political and emotive subject; • Challenging/conflicting LEP Board and Devolution Deal timescales – the report has been shared and incorporated into the relevant Devolution workstream discussions; • Government open door to community engagement in planning needs further consideration; • Possible revolving use of the New Homes Bonus – creative finance • How best to present the recommendations to the Board, i.e. possible focus on delivering needs of the community as a priority. <p>NW to circulate slides.</p>	<p><i>NW</i></p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Growth Deals and Devolution</p> <p>Approach to Growth Deal paper – PT invited the group to comment on the approach outlined. The packages and programmes are designed to dovetail with devolution discussions. More input is welcome.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <p>The word ‘transformational’ needs to be more clearly defined.</p> <p>New forms of financial engineering are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA announcing Green Bonds, which would suit the HotSW area, since there is an opportunity to sell our patch as a test-bed for new approaches in rural innovation. • Municipal bonds. <p>DB made the point that the LEP should not simply respond to GD or other funds, but what is required in our locality. The projects, packages and programmes approach was still a little unclear but has its roots in Heseltine’s suggestion of a single capital pot, used in a variety of ways. The horizontal bands represent different funds that could be topped up by a variety of means at different times. Particular projects may require access to a number of these funding streams at any one time, represented by the vertical lines. Hinkley Point C is cross-cutting example. It was felt to be important for the LEP to have a flexible fund.</p>	<p><i>All</i></p>

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

	<p>EV indicated that many North Devon projects will not fit within packages and although programmes should address everybody's issues they will not be exciting to Government. In contrast, JG thought that the list of packages were less 'Government speak' and are therefore more exciting to the private sector. BS summarised by suggesting a need for fluidity to enable mixing and matching of divergent approaches.</p> <p>MR asked if this was about 'identifying key nuts to crack', so that the focus for the LEP remains irrespective of the opportunity? PT agreed but reminded the group that Government are still looking for deliverability. DB/JG agreed.; the projects that we are dealing with are an inheritance that often only come forward because Government are seeking deliverability. What we need to do is start with what we need to make a difference.</p> <p>JG felt unclear re: the projects listed in the paper. Are they really the most transformational? She would benefit from more information on each of the projects in order to draw her conclusions.</p> <p>PT to report back on what was said at SIP to Group members via email.</p>	<p><i>PT</i></p>
<p>7</p>	<p>'Good to Know' - Updates</p> <p>a. Programme Management Update – SIP continues to move projects from BC to signed funding agreement. All slippage dealt with by some re-profiling of projects.</p> <p>b. Enterprise Zones – A multi-site Low Carbon Energy Enterprise Zone bid was submitted. Currently awaiting announcement on 25 Nov. The LAs continue to work on the infrastructure requirements of these projects.</p> <p>c. Task and Finish Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resilience – MR – Meeting of the task and finish group to be held before Christmas. Workshop session to follow in January and final recommendations due to be shared with the Leadership Group in March 2016. <p>d. No transport update today.</p> <p>e. Spatial Assessment –First phase of evidence base gathering is in</p>	

	<p>progress. The Working Group is meeting on Friday to agree next steps. A stakeholder workshop will follow.</p> <p>f. Other Groups - ESIF – Government has recalibrated its allocation of funding, which devalues our capital pot by £9m. Unlocking Growth Fund - Steering Group formed, currently looking at EOIs and completing assessments.</p>	
8	<p>Scoping Future agenda items</p> <p>Following a series of geographically focused meetings during 2014/2015, TJ proposed we looked at sectors next, including the ill-defined challenge of resilience. Identifying connectivity and common challenges across each sector will be important.</p> <p>It was proposed that National Grid also attend the January meeting and contribute to the Energy Distribution agenda item, since connection to the Grid can often stall sites. The Energy theme fits with the Devolution discussions. This agenda item could be broadened further to include Tidal generation also. PH/NW to develop and approach relevant individuals to attend and contribute.</p>	<i>PH/NW</i>
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Updated Terms of Reference – Agreed that the ‘strategic lead’ wording would be amended and a copy published on the LEP website for review and approval at the next meeting.</p> <p>b. Attendees supported the suggestion that DN, Network Rail, attend all future meetings.</p> <p>c. BR will leave her role on the Leadership Group at the end of the month. We all wish her well for the future. BS to seek a new RSL representative from the Housing Associations.</p>	<i>NW</i> <i>BS</i>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting: 13 January; 10:00-12:30;</p> <p>To be followed by a presentation on Natural Capital Accounting from 12:45-13:45 (TBC) and the Environmental Resilience Task and Finish Group Workshop from 14:00.</p>	

See Actions Log Summary Overleaf

Actions Log Summary	Meeting Date	Owner	Status Update	Next Steps
----------------------------	---------------------	--------------	----------------------	-------------------

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

Heart of the South West LEP CIC, is a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales.
No. 8880546, Registered Office, PO Box 805, Exeter, Devon, EX1 9UU

Present scope of Spatial Framework at meeting on 06/01/2015.	03/11/2014	Paul Hickson	Project Plan presented 07/05/2015	Workshop preparation
To complete and return Declarations of Interest form	07/05/2015	Natalie Wainwright	Last few declarations received.	Update for 2016/17
Send Natalie items for inclusion in the forward plan for Place meetings	07/05/2015	All	New suggestions added. More required for 2015/16	Continue
Place Leadership Group to identify priority projects for Growth Deal 3 by 14 September	08/07/2015	All / Natalie Wainwright	First sift to LEP Board 16 September	See PMO Update
Establish truth behind rumours that Climate South West has been wound up.	09/09/2015	Mark Robins/Stephen Bird	?	
Connect the Role of LEPs in the Planning Process work with Spatial Assessment.	09/09/2015	Paul Hickson	?	
Raise issue with Management Team to ensure purpose of agenda items is clear and encourage /allow meaningful contributions from members.	09/09/2015	Barbara Shaw/Paul Hickson	?	
Torrige and North Devon Councils to continue dialogue with Network Rail re: Barnstaple link.	04/11/2015	David Northey	?	tbc
Circulate Housing Presentation	04/11/2015	Natalie Wainwright	Complete	None – Close
Comments to Paul Taylor on Devolution/Growth Deal pape	04/11/2015	All	Ongoing	TBC
Report back comments from SIP to Group members via email.	04/11/2015	Paul Taylor	To follow	
To develop and approach relevant individuals to attend and contribute to Energy themed meeting in January.	04/11/2015	Natalie Wainwright/ Paul Hickson	Ongoing	TBC
Terms of Reference document to be	04/11/2015	Natalie	Complete	Comments

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

Heart of the South West LEP CIC, is a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales.
No. 8880546, Registered Office, PO Box 805, Exeter, Devon, EX1 9UU

updated and shared on the website.	15	Wainwright/ Helena Davison		sought
Identify new RSL/Housing representative following BR's departure.	04/11/20 15	Barbara Shaw	In progress	TBC