

Joint meeting of the Business and Place Leadership Groups – Minutes

Wednesday 8 July 2015

Present

Nick Ames (NA) (Chair)	-	Supacat
Ben Rhodes (BR)	-	Business Forum
Chris Evans (CE)	-	Exeter University
Carl Wyard (CW)	-	Torbay Development Agency
Steve Turner (ST)	-	Devon County Council
Adrian Dawson (AD)	-	Plymouth University
Noel Stevens (NS)	-	Alder King
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council
Simon Barker (SB)	-	Agusta Westland
Barbara Richardson (BR)	-	Yarlington Housing Association
Judith Gannon (JG)	-	LEP Business Forum
Doug Bamsey (DB)	-	Somerset District Councils
Brandon Noble (BN)	-	University of St Mark and St John
Mark Robins (MR)	-	Devon, Plymouth and Somerset Local Nature Partnerships
Jonathon Bell (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council
Derek Phillips (DP)	-	South West Chambers of Commerce
Stephen Bird (SB)	-	South West Water/ HotSW LEP Board
Pat Steward (PS)	-	Torbay Council
Tim Jones (TJ)	-	HotSW LEP Board
Joe Keech (JK)	-	Devon County Council

Supporting Officers

Paul Taylor (PT)	-	HotSW LEP
Julia Stuckey (JS)	-	HotSW LEP
Adam Hickman (AH)	-	Plymouth City Council
Helena Davison (HD)	-	HotSW LEP
Tim Milson (TM)	-	Better Business for All

Presenters

Jodie Davis (JD)	-	Climate South West
George Gibson (GG)	-	Climate South West

Apologies

Barbara Shaw	-	Westward Housing
Amanda Ratsey	-	Plymouth City Council
Peter Hartland	-	Chamber of Commerce
Pete Ashton/Terry Schofield	-	Federation of Small Business
Heidi Hallam	-	HotSW LEP
Heather Ancient	-	PwC
Karl Tucker	-	Yeo Valley Organics

	Agenda item	Lead
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>NA introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>Agenda item 4 (Growth Hub) – Tim Milson, Carl Wyard, Steve Turner, Adrian Dawson.</p> <p>Agenda item 8 f) – Noel Stevens involved in a number of Unlocking Growth Fund projects.</p> <p>Agenda item 3 – South West Water is the corporate sponsor of Climate South West.</p>	
3	<p>Resilient Growth – Climate South West – Jodie Davis</p> <p><i>Highlights from the presentation:</i></p> <p>The South West is becoming more vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate and extreme weather events. <u>Climate SouthWest</u> supports organisations become more resilient to these impacts.</p> <p>Support to help business cope with extreme weather includes the ‘<u>Business Resilience Healthcheck</u>’ and ‘<u>Weathering the Storm</u>’. LEPs can also support businesses by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed business level risk and resilient assessment into business support offer. • Sector-based approaches by working with sector support organisations. • Work with large businesses and clusters to maximise supply chain opportunities. • Support leadership and capitalise on future opportunities and minimise risk. <p>LEPs can also assist with the potential impacts of climate change on infrastructure by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge developers and investors to promote building-level resilience. • Work with climate specialists and local planners to assess the resilience of key sites early. • Integrate green and blue infrastructure into public realm. • Transport infrastructure networks are critical to local resilience – ensure specifications factor in climate. • Understand how the resilience of utilities and services impact on investments. <p>There also opportunities associated with climate change. According to the OECD every £1 spent now to increase resilience saves £4 in investment down the line. The global market in adaptation goods is worth £70bn and predicted to grow at 7% pa, providing an opportunity to create jobs and increase growth.</p> <p>An exercise was undertaken on work the HotSW LEP was undertaking in relation to climate resilience, and a summary of responses will be circulated with these minutes.</p> <p><i>Discussion/Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate issues cut across every sector, it’s not just the responsibility of one specialist group. • Need a better understanding of coastal defences. These can be poorly maintained and a robust strategy is required. Further analysis on coastal defences is required due to its importance to the SW economy. • A South West LEP Resilient Network is being established – first meeting 13 July. <p>Action: JD/AH/NW to circulate details of the Resilient Network event to Business/Place Group members.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">JD/AH/NW</p>

4	<p>Growth Hub – Paul Taylor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brief update was provided, including the intention to procure an interim service. <p><u>Questions/Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural Growth Network have undertaken some business mapping, which can be shared with Anna Peachey. Action: ST to share this information with Anna Peachey. The Growth Hub language and branding can be confusing for some businesses. Plain English version needed with case studies. However, it was also pointed out that there is already a simple description on what a Growth Hub is on the websites and that outward marketing would continue to be customer facing and simple. ‘Success’ of the Growth Hub can be how many businesses sought advice/guidance, but following this the success of the Growth Hub is often down to the partners that the Growth Hub has signposted to. AD emphasised that clarity on the way forward is needed for businesses, as enquiries are still coming into the GAIN Growth Hub. 	ST
5	<p>LEP Business Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing paper circulated with meeting papers. Conference date is 21 September at the Exeter Golf and Country Club. <p><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask businesses at the conference where their supply chains are – current and future. Profile climate resilience (Climate South West). Needs to be targeted and very specific on what we want to achieve. Key business issues – productivity, exporting, skills, smaller businesses (i.e. mirror Government priorities in the format of the conference). 	
6	<p>Enterprise Zones – Paul Hickson</p> <p>An EZ is a geographically defined area in which new job creation is stimulated using initiatives such as: Business rate discount; Local Development Orders; Support for superfast broadband.</p> <p>The indications are looking positive for the Plymouth Enterprise Zone. Torbay is exploring an Enterprise Zone for South Devon College.</p> <p><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the drawbacks of EZ were discussed, such as possible overcrowding. There needs to be underlying economic value and evidence base for an EZ to work. Is there the opportunity for an EZ based on environmental opportunities unique to the HotSW, e.g. low carbon investments, or a food EZ. In summary, the meeting concluded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to know if there is a Central Government push for more EZ. Need convincing about the additionality of EZ. Build a HotSW EZ proposition using the our unique area/geography, e.g. environmental and natural resources. 	

7	<p>Programme Management – Paul Taylor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Deal 3 summary paper circulated with meeting papers. • Leadership Groups to identify and prioritise which projects for Growth Deal 3 they want to put forward by 14 Sept. • The LEP will undertake a series of engagement workshops – further information asap. <p><i>Discussion/Questions on Growth Deal 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to focus on a smaller number of significant, large-scale and transformational projects. • Focus on projects that allow an increase in productivity, a key Government agenda. The HotSW is traditionally poor in this area. • A cross LEP approach would strengthen any bid. • Link Growth Deal ask to devolution. <p>Action: Leadership Group to identify priority projects for Growth Deal 3 by 14 September.</p>	L'ship Groups
8	<p>Project/Task & Finish Group papers – All</p> <p>Papers on the topics below were circulated with meeting papers, for any questions.</p> <p>a. <i>Environmental Resilience:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Resilience Task and Finish Group is looking for six to ten businesses to interview and invite to a project review session in September. The findings of which will be presented to the Place Leadership Group in November 2015 to inform recommendations to the LEP Board. <p>b. <i>Housing</i> - No questions.</p> <p>c. <i>Inward Investment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited enquiries from agri-tech businesses when compared to other sectors. <p>d. <i>Spatial Framework for HotSW:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to accelerate this piece of work. • Partly needed to demonstrate links between the LEP's strategic plans and Local Plans. <p>Action: Paul Hickson to report progress at the next Leadership Group meetings.</p> <p>e. <i>Transport Infrastructure</i> - No questions.</p> <p>f. <i>Unlocking Growth Fund</i> - No questions.</p>	PH
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Tim Milson (BBfA) highlighted the concept of 'Knit and Stitch' - the combining of LA's business offerings in a holistic mode to form a united business support mechanism.</p> <p>b. Action: Business Group to include an on-going agenda on current and future ESIF calls.</p> <p>c. Ben Rhodes – Devon & Cornwall Business Council and the Business Forum recently hosted a delegation from the South African High Commission, including the High Commissioner and the Deputy Minister for Transport. The delegation visited Bridgewater College (aquaculture and aquaponics), Met Office (Newton Fund collaboration), University of Plymouth (Business School, Marine Innovation Centre) and PCC (Leader, CE etc). A number of opportunities are being followed-up, focusing on marine and maritimes, the 'Blue Economy' and twinning agreements between the SW and areas within South Africa.</p>	AH
	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Business Group: 10 September; 9.30-11.30; Exeter (venue tbc).</p> <p>Place Group: 9 September; 10.00-12.30; Exchange House, Taunton, TA1 4EB</p>	

Local Enterprise Partnership

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

Actions Log Summary	Meeting Date	Owner	Status Update	Next Steps
<i>Send notes of most recent meetings to T&F Group members and cc PH.</i>	03/11/2014	Barbara Richardson/ Mark Robins	Complete	Continue
Present scope of Spatial Framework at meeting on 06/01/2015.	03/11/2014	Paul Hickson	Project Plan presented 07/05/2015	PH to report progress at September meeting - 09/09/2015.
<i>Circulate forward plan of dates for all LEP Leadership Meetings in 2015/16.</i>	03/11/2014	Natalie Wainwright	LEP Board and Place Group meeting dates circulated with agenda.	Update as required
To complete and return Declarations of Interest form	07/05/2015	Natalie Wainwright	Five completed forms received	All members to complete and return forms.
Recirculate Housing paper with 'killer questions'	07/05/2015	Paul Taylor/Natalie Wainwright	No responses received?	TBC
Recirculate Housing Task and Finish Group paper	07/05/2015	Natalie Wainwright/ Barbara Richardson.	Complete	Consultant engaged to prepare final report.
Send Natalie items for inclusion in the forward plan for Place meetings	07/05/2015	All	Limited suggestions received	Continue
Circulate details of the Resilient Network event to Business/Place Group members.	08/07/2015	Jodie Davis/Natalie Wainwright	Complete	Close
Place Leadership Group to identify priority projects for Growth Deal 3 by 14 September	08/07/2015	All / Natalie Wainwright	In progress	Issue call for projects, collate, review and prioritise project submissions.