

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group

11 May 2016

Westward Housing, Newton Abbot

Attendees

Barbara Shaw (BS)	-	Westward Housing
Joe Keech (JK)	-	Devon County Council
Stephen Bird (SB)	-	South West Water/ HotSW LEP Board
Tim Jones (TJ)	-	HotSW LEP Board
Pat Steward (PS)	-	Torbay Council
Judith Gannon (JG)	-	LEP Business Forum
David Northey (DN)	-	Network Rail
Derek Phillips (DP)	-	South West Chambers of Commerce
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council
Mark Robins (MR)	-	Devon, Plymouth and Somerset Local Nature Partnerships
Helena Davison (HD)	-	HotSW LEP
Ian Harrison (IH)	-	HotSW LEP Local Transport Board
John Dixon (JD)	-	Plymouth City Council

Supporting Officers

Natalie Wainwright (NW)	-	HotSW LEP Place Secretariat/Somerset County Council
Chris Garcia (CG)	-	HotSW LEP

Guests

Chris Balch (CB)	-	Plymouth University
Mary Elkington (ME)	-	Plymouth University
Mark Worsfold (MW)	-	South West Water

Apologies

Doug Bamsey (DB)	-	Somerset District Councils
Mark Beard (MB)	-	Knightstone Housing
Mike O'Dowd Jones (MODJ)	-	Somerset County Council
Paul Taylor (PT)	-	HotSW LEP
Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	HotSW LEP

	Agenda item	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies BS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted, as above.	
2	Declarations of interest No declarations of interest were made at the start of the meeting.	
3	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising Minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.	
4.	Environmental Resilience Task and Finish Group MR introduced the work of the Task and Finish Group. A supporting paper had been circulated prior to the meeting. Each action point was considered in turn. A number of amendments were proposed, focusing predominantly on:	

	<p>appropriateness of language; the timeliness of actions; clarity around the roles and responsibilities of the LEP and partners given evolving Devolution Deal discussions; and the need for resource/a budget to further progress this work.</p> <p>Next steps for the paper were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest revisions to paper completed by end of May; • Local Authority Member consultation/wider 'socialisation' of the report to be conducted in June; • Final revisions to paper completed by end of June; • Final paper to LEP Board in advance of 20 July meeting. 	<p>MR All LA Reps</p> <p>MR/NW/PH MR/NW/PH</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Spatial Planning in the HotSW</p> <p>Chris Balch and Mary Elkington returned to present the Place Group with the findings of their recent work with Gareth Jones of Hardisty Jones. Their research across six LEPs revealed some interesting challenges and opportunities for local partners. Some of these related to the need for improved strategic planning; the complexities of operating within a multi-tier Local Authority environment; the level of LEP engagement in the Planning Process; and the level of officer engagement in Devolution discussions. It was agreed that dialogue would continue on at least the first three points.</p>	<p>PH – To follow up with Chris and Mary</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Growth Deal and PMO Update</p> <p>A Growth Deal pot of £1.8billion has been confirmed nationally. The LEP has until late July to submit a final bid from the HotSW. A letter, received from Greg Clark, advised that bids should: include a specific figure; show how it will create or overcome barriers to growth; include job numbers; evidence of collaboration across public and private sectors; support for devolution; the greatest possible level of private sector match, including university match.</p> <p>We have also been advised of a challenge session to be held between EU referendum and a date in July. Following the challenge session, we anticipate the need for a single prioritised list of projects.</p> <p>To date, the LEP theme leads have worked to develop a prioritised package of projects, the total value of which is in the region of £140—£150m. When asked what proportion of this we might realistically expect to receive, CG, suggested 50% in phases. PH offered his thanks to those Place group members who had been able to input to the above process.</p> <p>The LEP Board meeting will receive a proposal outlining the broad themes of a bid.</p> <p>Specific challenges around the incorporation of flooding projects have been identified and a technical assessment is underway to explore and address these.</p> <p>JG asked whether we should expect a focus on housing projects, noting that our pipeline has a predominance of transport projects in it currently? Also, how is the LEP approaching market land value changes?</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Devolution Update</p> <p>Strand 1: Negotiating the deal – Government are seeking high level deals to</p>	

	<p>announce and appear to have some standardised models in mind, e.g. appointment of a Mayor. They will be looking to agree heads of terms and governance structure, then a funding pot over 30 years. Key questions for us relate to geography, i.e. who's in? We expect to receive news in the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>Strand 2: Governance – A formal governance review will consider all of the options. The HotSW area appears to be conducting more public consultation than in other parts of the country.</p> <p>Strand 3: Productivity Plan – This document is being viewed as an updated SEP but with a greater focus on our strategic objectives across a broader agenda, including health and social care. It will set out what we will be doing and where we will be investing. It is anticipated that this document will be developed over a six month period.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Update NW updated the group following the request from DEFRA/Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to revisit and update the EAFRD elements of the HotSW ESIF strategy. NW confirmed that this activity had now been completed with input from group members and we now await a meeting with RPA representatives, in June, to discuss our proposed amendments and requirements.</p> <p>The opportunity had been taken to raise concerns regarding delays to programme delivery and to push for earlier calls in 2016/17 for Rural Renewables; Business Support for Rural SMEs; and potentially Broadband activity, subject to some further clarification regarding scope.</p> <p>JG remarked that feedback on the application process in other areas had been poor and had deterred some applicants. SB confirmed that feedback nationally to the RPA had been that the process needs to reflect the level of funding available and improvements are promised.</p> <p>NW confirmed that the Place Group would be engaged in the drafting of call specifications, which we would proceed with, as far as possible, despite delays and missing guidance/policy steers from DEFRA/RPA. Local RPA resource will also be offered to support the call process.</p>	<p>NW – To Circulate letter and response</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>'Good to Know' Updates</p> <p>a. Enterprise Zones (Paul Hickson) – The recent visit from DCLG officials was positive. EZ projects have been categorised simply as 'nice to have but local in impact' and those that have 'strategic value'. Our EZs were in the latter category. We should now consider how Growth Deal might help overcome any infrastructure issues on these sites. Enterprise Hubs are seen as complementing the local offer.</p> <p>b. Transport – (Ian Harrison) – Of the Department for Transport's budget, £475m had been carved out for a separate fund to support large major schemes of £75m or more. Four have been named from the HotSW, including the North Devon Link Road. The first round of bidding will open in July, but projects can also</p>	

	<p>bid for development funding.</p> <p>Highways Growth and Housing Fund – LEPs were invited to submit bids to deliver projects that bring forward housing or employment sites. A small scheme has completed in Honiton and two further bids are being looked at in our area. A further seven bids have been submitted from the HotSW.</p> <p>Rail – Re. the South West Franchise for services to Waterloo, there has been a delay to the issuing of the Invitation to Tender (ITT). The Peninsular Rail Task Force (PRTF) has been charged by Government to produce a 20 year rail investment strategy to be presented to Government in early July. PRTF initiated a three week consultation on its draft strategy. The LEP has been tasked with commissioning work on the economic impact of strategy – a similar approach to that adopted for the A303 study.</p> <p>DN confirmed that technical work by Network Rail and First Group, to speed up trains between Paddington and SW, and a separate study (commissioned by Network Rail) to look at Resilience and diversion capability during extreme weather events was underway. DN added that within the next month the costing of the project and suggestions to increase capacity will be available.</p> <p>SB queried where air links were considered, since the SEP includes reference to air links. PH confirmed that it was on the radar and was included in one of the EZ bids to include improvements at Exeter airport, although admittedly a lower priority than road, rail and Broadband infrastructure. Our Devolution Deal also includes giving more local control over air passenger duty.</p> <p>c. Representatives on other LEP Groups (Including: Unlocking Growth Fund; ESIF; Construction Labour & Skills Steering Group) - SB advised that he was due to participate in a teleconference to discuss improving transparency around the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) and improve opportunities to engage.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>AOB –</p> <p>Housing - JG asked what had happened to the Housing Report following its presentation to the LEP Board. The report had provoked useful debate as to the roles and responsibilities of the LEP and Local Authorities in respect of housing and ultimately been included in the Housing Devolution group’s evidence base. It was felt that there was still an opportunity for the LEP to take forward some specific actions from the report, including better engagement of the private sector. It was agreed that the Devolution lead should be invited to attend a future meeting to update on progress and explain how the report is being used?</p> <p>Grid Constraints - SB suggested that someone needed to approach Western Power Distribution (WPD) regarding their negotiations with Ofgem and that a status report be brought to this meeting.</p>	<p>PS – To invite Devolution lead to next meeting</p> <p>NW - To include a Housing update on the forward plan</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Next meeting: 10:00-12:30, 13 July 2016 – Exeter venue to be confirmed.</p>	<p>NW</p>

Actions Log Summary	Meeting Date	Owner	Status Update	Next Steps
Present scope of Spatial Framework at meeting on 06/01/2015 and progress project.	03/11/2014	Paul Hickson	Phase 1 complete.	TBC – Update
To complete and return Declarations of Interest form	07/05/2015	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	Completed for 2015/16	Compile returns
Place Leadership Group to identify priority projects for Growth Deal 3 by 14 September	08/07/2015	All / Natalie Wainwright	Place project pipeline refreshed	TBC
<i>Connect the Role of LEPs in the Planning Process work with Spatial Assessment (SA).</i>	<i>09/09/2015</i>	<i>Paul Hickson</i>	<i>Report to meeting 11.05.2016</i>	<i>Close</i>
Report back comments from SIP to Group members via email.	04/11/2015	Paul Taylor	To follow	TBC
Clarify the Ofgem vs Govt roles and responsibilities	13/01/2016	Thomas Davidson (DECC)	Awaiting confirmation.	-
Draft a letter to DECC, sent via Tom, setting out the HotSW's action plan	13/01/2016	?	Input to LEP/Govt meeting	TBA
Forward information re: the Local Partnerships Pilot as it becomes available	13/01/2016	Thomas Davidson	Presentation circulated.	TBA
Include EAFRD opportunities as a future 'Spotlight on' topic	13/01/2016	Natalie Wainwright	Partial Update 11.05.2016	TBA
Feed any additional Housing issues into Devolution discussions	02/03/2016	Local Authorities	TBC	Ongoing
Share product of ongoing 'offline' discussions regarding Place Theme Indicators.	02/03/2016	Paul Hickson/Natalie Wainwright	TBC	TBA
Provide words for Green Infrastructure Indicator to Paul Hickson	02/03/2016	Mark Robins	TBC	TBA
See various Environmental Resilience Actions in minutes 11/05/2016	11/05/2016	Mark Robins	TBC	TBA
Follow up with Chris Balch and Mary Elkington	11/05/2016	Paul Hickson	TBC	TBA
Circulate HotSW letter to DEFRA/RPA and response	11/05/2016	Natalie Wainwright	TBC	TBA
Invite Housing Devolution lead to next meeting	11/05/2016	Pat Steward	TBC	TBC
<i>Include a Housing update on the forward plan</i>	<i>11/05/2016</i>	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	<i>Complete</i>	<i>Close</i>