

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group

13 July 2016

Bank of England, Exeter

Attendees

Barbara Shaw (BS)	-	Westward Housing
David Northey (DN)	-	Network Rail
Derek Phillips (DP)	-	South West Chambers of Commerce
Doug Bamsey (DB)	-	Somerset District Councils
Judith Gannon (JG)	-	LEP Business Forum
Kathryn Deeney (KD)	-	Plymouth City Council
Pat Steward (PS)	-	Torbay Council
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council/HotSW LEP
Tim Jones (TJ)	-	HotSW LEP Board

Supporting Officers

Eifion Jones (EJ)	-	HotSW LEP
Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	HotSW LEP
Natalie Wainwright (NW)	-	HotSW LEP Place Secretariat/Somerset County Council
Paul Taylor (PT)	-	HotSW LEP

Guests

Donna Kehoe (DK)	-	Bank of England South West
Helen Richards (HR)	-	South West Water
Sarah Ward (SW)	-	Exeter City Council, Devolution Housing Theme

Apologies

Chris Garcia (CG)	-	HotSW LEP
Helena Davison (HD)	-	HotSW LEP
Ian Harrison (IH)	-	HotSW LEP Local Transport Board
Joe Keech (JK)	-	Devon County Council
John Dixon (JD)	-	Plymouth City Council
Mark Beard (MB)	-	Knightstone Housing
Mark Robins (MR)	-	Devon, Plymouth and Somerset Local Nature Partnerships
Mark Williams (MW)	-	Devon District Councils
Mark Worsfold (MWO)	-	South West Water
Mel Sealey (MS)	-	HotSW LEP
Mike O'Dowd Jones (MODJ)	-	Somerset County Council
Stephen Bird (SB)	-	South West Water/ HotSW LEP Board
Sue Wilkinson (SW)	-	Federation of Small Businesses

	Agenda item	Lead
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Donna Kehoe introduced herself as the new Bank of England Agent and explained her role. She welcomed the Group to the offices. BS welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies are noted above.</p>	

2	<p>Declarations of interest BS and JG declared an interest in the Housing item. PH declared that Somerset County Council had an interest in the Growth Deal process.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising Minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.</p> <p>Item 4. - Environmental Resilience – Following its ‘socialisation’ after the last Leadership Group meeting, a revised paper had been prepared for the LEP Board.</p> <p>Item 5. - PH has met with Chris Balch and Mary Elkington. There is potential for further collaboration with them on the Spatial Assessment work. PH will follow up.</p> <p>Item 8. - Not all group members had received the EAFRD correspondence.</p> <p>Item 10. - PH has made contact with Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP and attended a local event. A joint conversation with WPD did not happen and will be rescheduled. HH has received two examples in the last two months of projects being affected by Grid Constraints.</p>	<p><i>NW - To recirculate EAFRD correspondence.</i></p>
4.	<p>Growth Deal and PMO Update PT advised that Chris Garcia, along with Board members Steve Hindley and Judith Petts, were in London for a challenge session with Government on the LEP’s GD3 bid. The LEP Board meeting of 17th June agreed headlines for a ‘snap-shot’ bid, which was submitted at the end of last month. This did not include a full project list. The LEP has an optimistic ask of £109m but with good levels of private sector match funding identified. The July Board meeting will agree an indicative list of projects and prioritisation of these. PT agreed to confirm with CG whether the outline bid could be shared confidentially with the Leadership Group, on the understanding that things are still subject to change.</p> <p>PH informed the group that alongside the GD process, Large Local Transport Major Schemes, i.e. schemes requiring investment of £75m, or above, which DFT perceive to be of too great a scale to be delivered via GD, were also being considered. Funding is available under two categories: direct investment in physical infrastructure; and development funding. Government has indicated that certain local schemes are candidates for this, i.e. development funding for North Devon Link Road. A Peninsular Rail Task Force bid is also anticipated.</p> <p>Given recent political and economic uncertainty, some concern was expressed that the private sector match and housing numbers would not be achievable. All LEPs are facing the same challenges however and there is ongoing dialogue between HotSW and Programme Managers in BIS. Funds can also be moved between projects if required.</p>	<p><i>PT - To discuss and agree with CG whether the outline GD3 bid can be shared</i></p>
5.	<p>Devolution Update Partners are taking forward necessary discussions/actions to move towards a Combined Authority Model, which has been agreed in principle by all 17 Local Authorities. The governance arrangements are still to be worked through. Greg Clark has indicated that a Mayor would not be a requirement of a Combined Authority.</p>	

	<p>A consultant has been appointed by Plymouth City Council to support the development of the Productivity Plan, i.e. review evidence base, review different scenarios for productivity in our area. EJ will provide the LEP link into this work. The LEP Board will discuss where the LEP sits, what its role is and how to play the Leadership Groups into a new Combined Authority model.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>ESIF – Brexit and the Rural Economy</p> <p>PH explained the Place Group’s role in respect of EAFRD. An update note had been circulated with the agenda outlining the current position. One tourism call has been issued under EAFRD, which is a live process. Applicants can continue to bring forward full business cases as before.</p> <p>Prior to the referendum, SCC colleagues met with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to discuss the future programme of calls. A meeting of LEPs nationally, on 26th July, will work through the detail of the national call programme. We have an opportunity to incorporate some local contextual information/requirements, which will be worked on in the coming weeks. At present, we hope calls will come forward in the autumn to deliver Business Grant, Tourism and Food and Drink activities. More question marks remain around other areas, e.g. will there be a call re: Broadband, community renewables, skills, etc?</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>HH had received an email from a group in the second stage of bidding to the tourism programme and were concerned at the lack of support/guidance available to applicants.</p> <p>TJ indicated that there were unlikely to be further structural funds from 2018 and no new grant funding agreements are to be signed at present. Future ERDF calls may also not go ahead. The launch of a Great British food campaign will go ahead however, along with a 10 point plan for rural productivity.</p> <p>PT informed the group that there had been a joint meeting of the Business and People Leadership Groups to focus on Brexit and the need to gain a better understanding of what the new regulatory market will be. There is an opportunity to be bold in our asks now and get some items ‘back on the table’.</p> <p>EJ confirmed that Treasury had asked DCLG for data to understand what risks Government is exposed to, i.e. if EU funding finishes early, what do areas need to continue to deliver their economic growth ambitions?</p> <p>Our area also benefits significantly from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which fits with the brief the Place Leadership Group. There is no CAP Task and Finish Group, although elements of this agenda may be picked up by the Rural Special Interest Group (SIG). It was agreed that joint lobbying by agricultural and environmental stakeholders would be important. TJ is to present the ‘rural dimension’ to the LEP Board next week.</p>	

<p>7.</p>	<p>Housing and Devolution</p> <p>Sarah Ward, Assistant Director for Public Realm, Exeter City Council, joined the meeting to give the Group an update on Housing and Devolution. Karime Hassan leads the Housing Devolution Group with Sarah providing technical support.</p> <p>The Housing theme did not feature heavily in the Devolution Prospectus. The offer to deliver 179,000 homes by 2030 reflects what was also stated in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The Housing Theme Group has worked on honing it's asks of Government recognising the challenges of working across 17 LA areas, different Strategic Housing areas and a changing political context. No additional funds for housing are anticipated, but there is a need to make better use of existing sources, e.g. Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), the benefits of which can be maximised through greater cooperation.</p> <p>Work has been completed on the barriers to growth; how local partners can deliver more; and how much money we would like from Government, e.g. for upfront infrastructure and land assembly, which currently stops sites coming forward; also how we can work strategically with the HCA. SW stated that "bringing forward stalled sites is already within our gift if we work better together".</p> <p>SW confirmed that there had been no private sector involvement to date but a considerable amount of the Housing paper, produced by the Housing Task and Finish Group, had been fed in. The challenge now is about the pace and practicalities of delivering changes.</p> <p>PT stressed again the opportunity to 'supercharge' our asks in the post-referendum environment. DB agreed we could be bolder.</p> <p>BS mentioned that Cambridge had negotiated total flexibility on tenure and we needed to push our devolution deal to address the issue of provision for those on a low income.</p> <p>It was felt that there was much to be learnt from the Greater Exeter experience last year, although predominantly this growth had been around delivery of Cranbrook, which took at least 20 years to come to fruition. 50,000 new homes is the equivalent of two or three Cranbrooks within the HotSW, but we need to reduce timescales for delivery?</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>PS – Do we need to reflect local housing companies and their ability to deliver? Support to local house builders could be worked into more detailed bid.</p> <p>TJ – The downturn in the market will affect delivery. What more can be done outside of Devolution? There are lots of tools already available, e.g. CIL, New Homes Bonus, but the issue is improving the pace of delivery. SW – To date there has been no political mandate to join together to address this issue. Devolution has facilitated this but the focus is currently on agreeing the scope of Combined Authority.</p>	<p>BS – To send NHF Briefing on the East Anglia Devolution Deal to SW.</p>
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	<p>KD – Can the LEP change peoples’ perceptions of new housing? It was in the report, but a role within devolution. Prepare people for delivery and sell benefits. PS agreed that there was definitely a role for this group in selling the benefits of new homes/communities. SW - Specific s106/CIL requirements for funding to community groups/investment is one benefit.</p> <p>PT questioned what the Housing Devolution Group and Place Group relationship should be going forward. PS and PH are members of the Housing Devolution Group, therefore already a link, as well as to Infrastructure theme group. It was proposed that there is an informal joint session between Housing and Infrastructure themes with the Place Group.</p>	<p>PH/SW – <i>Confirm how joint session will be taken forward, prior to 14 September</i></p>
8.	<p>‘Good to Know’ - Updates</p> <p>a. Enterprise Zones (Paul Hickson) PH – DCLG have now requested implementation plans. EZs could be a source of revenue income for LAs. DN – Network Rail have been approached for cost of re-connection to the main line and a price has been provided to design a scheme. Now need to understand what capacity is available to run trains.</p> <p>b. Transport – DN – The new stations programme is currently on hold but should hear soon. DN is working with IH on Transport Majors. TJ suggested including an agenda item on delivery of schemes. DN – Proposal to have separate discussion on development of rail projects, legal agreements. Combined approach to draw upon expertise across HotSW.</p> <p>PH, on behalf of IH, advised that the Invitation to Tender for the South Western franchise (covering the services from Waterloo, including Waterloo to Exeter) has just been published by DfT. Two bidders have been shortlisted - Stagecoach and First Group. The tenders have to be returned by 7 September and the new franchise will start from June 2017. As a key stakeholder, the LEP will be holding discussions with the bid teams.</p> <p>e. Representatives on other LEP Groups (Including: Unlocking Growth Fund; ESIF; Construction Labour & Skills Steering Group)</p>	<p>NW/PH – <i>Include rail delivery as an agenda item for joint Place/LTB session – include update from PRTF</i></p> <p>NW/PT – <i>Provide update on LEP Construction Labour and Skills project</i></p>
10.	<p>AOB – Agreed to focus on preparing a forward plan for remaining meetings in 2016-17.</p> <p>TJ offered thanks to PT, who was leaving his post to embark on a round-the-world trip, and NW who goes on maternity leave at the end of this month.</p>	<p>NW - <i>Include forward plan on next agenda</i></p>
11.	<p>Next meeting: 10:00-12:30, 14 September 2016, Westward Housing, Newton Abbott, TQ12 4PH.</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
To complete and return Declarations of Interest form	07/05/2015	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	Reminder sent 08/06/2016	Compile returns
Place Leadership Group to identify priority projects for Growth Deal 3 by 14 September	08/07/2015	All / Natalie Wainwright	Outline bid submitted to Govt.	TBC
<i>Report back comments from SIP to Group members via email.</i>	<i>04/11/2015</i>	<i>Paul Taylor</i>	<i>No further action</i>	<i>Close</i>
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	?	LEP/Govt meeting	TBA
Forward information re: the Local Partnerships Pilot as it becomes available	13/01/2016	Thomas Davidson	Presentation circulated.	Awaiting more info
<i>Include EAFRD opportunities as a future 'Spotlight on' topic</i>	<i>13/01/2016</i>	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	<i>Included on agenda</i>	<i>Close</i>
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	Consultation complete	Presentation to LEP Board
Follow up with Chris Balch and Mary Elkington	11/05/2016	Paul Hickson	Meeting held 25.05.2016	TBA
<i>Recirculate EAFRD correspondence</i>	<i>13/07/2016</i>	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	<i>Recirculated with minutes</i>	<i>Close</i>
Discuss and agree with CG whether outline GD3 bid can be shared	13/07/2016	Paul Taylor	TBC	
Share NHF Briefing on the East Anglia Devolution Deal with Sarah Ward	13/07/2016	Barbara Shaw	TBC	
Confirm how joint session with Devolution Housing Theme will be taken forward	13/07/2016	Paul Hickson/Sarah Ward	TBC	
Include rail delivery as an agenda item for joint Place/LTB session – including PRTF	13/07/2016	Natalie Wainwright	Included on draft agenda	Meeting date tba
Provide update on LEP Construction Labour and Skills project	13/07/2016	Natalie Wainwright	Request update	Circulate
<i>Include meetings forward plan on next agenda</i>	<i>13/07/2016</i>	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	<i>Included on draft agenda</i>	<i>Close</i>