

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group

15 September 2017

Council Chamber, East Devon District Council, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL

Attendees

Andrew Ardley (AA)	-	Devon County Council
Alan Denby (AB)	-	Torbay development Agency
Barbara Shaw (BS)	-	Westward Housing
Chris Garcia (CG)	-	HotSW LEP
David Northey (DN)	-	Network Rail
Doug Bamsey (DB)	-	Somerset District Councils
Greg Page-Turner	-	Federation of Small Businesses
John Dixon (JD)	-	Plymouth City Council
Keith Thomas (KT)	-	Mendip District Council
Mark Williams (MW)	-	Devon District Councils
Mark Worsfold (MWO)	-	South West Water
Michele Cusack (MC)	-	Somerset County Council
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council/HotSW LEP
Sarah Jennings (SJ)	-	Devon, Plymouth and Somerset LNPs

Supporting Officers

Rob Hensley (RH)	-	HotSW LEP Place Secretariat/Somerset County Council
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Guests

Ellen Vernon (EV)	-	North Devon District Council
David Julian (DJ)	-	South Somerset District Council

Apologies

Darren Arulvasagam	-	South West Devon Council
David Scott	-	Federation of Small Businesses
Derek Phillips	-	South West Chambers of Commerce
Doug Bamsey	-	Somerset District Councils
Ian Harrison	-	HotSW LEP
Joe Keech	-	Devon County Council
Judith Gannon	-	LEP Business Forum
Mel Squires	-	NFU
Mike O'Dowd-Jones	-	Somerset County Council
Pat Steward	-	Torbay Council
Tim Jones	-	HotSW LEP Board
Victoria Hatfield	-	Exeter City Council

	Agenda item	Lead
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies BS welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies are noted above.</p>	BS
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest Declarations of Interest were presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Shaw • Ellen Vernon • Alan Denby • Mark Williams • Andrew Ardley 	BS
3.	<p>Housing Infrastructure Fund Forward Funding Expressions of Interest Two presentations were provided in support of the EOI summaries that had been provided prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinkley Housing Zone (MC) • SW Exeter (AA) <p>Both proposals were endorsed.</p>	
4.	<p>Housing Infrastructure Fund Marginal Viability Bid Assessments The Group discussed the summary proposals that had been provided prior to the meeting including consideration of points raised by those who were unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Following minor follow-up clarifications post-meeting, all Bids were endorsed.</p> <p>AD gave a brief overview of the proposals being developed by Torbay. Summaries of two marginal Viability Bids were subsequently received and endorsed out of committee.</p>	
5.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes of the last routine Place Leadership Group meeting (3rd May 2017) were approved as an accurate record.</p>	BS <i>RH – To forward minutes for publication</i>
6.	<p>Productivity Plan – Place Delivery Discussion An overview of the process to develop the productivity plan was provided. This has entailed the use of a drafting team and central editor. Key milestones are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft version to LEP Board - 19th September • Draft version to Shadow Joint Committee – 23rd September • Consultation period including six events starts in October • Joint Committee and HotSW LEP adopt plan – December 2017/January 2018 	PH

The framework of the Productivity Plan is presented in three “chevrons”:

- Connectivity and infrastructure
- Leadership and knowledge
- Working and learning

Place aligns with connectivity and infrastructure but there is a place perspective across the whole framework.

Key questions posed were:

- Appropriate level of ambition?
- Are key things covered appropriately?
- Does it correspond with the evidence?

The discussion highlighted the following:

- Natural Capital – where does it fit and read across? It also links to tourism and economy. Seen as a driver and warrants stronger wording, particularly connecting it with the local environment, where issues such as land management (including water management) are going to become important. Cross cutting themes were seen as important so that Natural Capital is not lost.
- Needs to reflect rural region and “personality” of the place – The plan needs to be about what we are and the consultation process will be very important. The Industrial Strategy is very city centric. The Rural Productivity Commission (across C&IoS, Dorset, HotSW and Wiltshire LEPs) was set up to investigate rural issues and to inform the Productivity Plan. This includes the need for affordable housing. It also needs to reflect unique opportunities that can give a flavour of the area.
- Work in progress – feedback is part of the interactive process to develop the plan.
- Clean energy should be included as part of connectivity and infrastructure (and not defined too narrowly).
- Deliverables – what are they and how do we engage with the private sector for delivery? Including how to realise the rurality USP?

Reflecting the above, the following key issues were identified:

- Some cross-cutting themes might be beneficial
- The importance of digital
- “Rural proofing” (how to make Government policies appropriate)
- Productivity – the measures needed to drive it
- Accentuate the positives
- Brexit – threats and opportunities.

7.	<p>Special Projects Fund – Economic Potential of MOD Estate Release</p> <p>A proposal to use the Special projects Fund to support a special project to consider options for the use of sites released by the MOD was presented.</p> <p>Discussion highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions are taking place to expand the scope to cover Plymouth • The value in completing the work by the end of this Financial Year • That early assessment of the sites would be useful • The economic impact – vision work will need evidence <p>The Place Leadership Group endorsed the proposal and the case for £40k from the LEP Finance and Resources Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Place Leadership group will act as sponsor.</p>	PH
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Growth Summit (CG) – Free event. Takes place on the morning of the 20th of October with focus on a common prospectus. Areas of interest include environment, digital, specific commercial opportunities e.g. marine, aerospace, nuclear, tourism, agri-tech & fisheries. Details available from: http://greatsouthwest.org.uk/ • Joint LEP Energy Project (RH)- Work on the development of an energy strategy for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Dorset and Heart of the South West LEP areas is scheduled to start in September and complete by the end of the financial year. In addition strategy development, the outputs include the identification of pilot demonstrator projects to take forward. 	<p>RH To circulate summary of project to PLG</p>
9.	<p>Next meeting: 30th October 2017. Westward Housing Offices, Exeter</p>	

Actions Log Summary	Meeting Date	Owner	Status Update	Next Steps
Network Rail future plans and how the LEP can sweat assets more effectively to be added to the agenda for the Place Leadership Meeting on 6 th September 2017	03/05/2017	Rob Hensley	Deferred to 30 th October	Item to be taken on 30 th October 2017
To forward previous Place Leadership Group meeting minutes for publication on HotSW LEP website.	15/09/2017	Rob Hensley	Completed 26/09/17	N/A
Summary of Joint LEP Energy Project to be circulated to PLG.	15/09/2017	Rob Hensley	Completed 12/10/17	