

Draft Minutes of HotSW LEP CIC Board Meeting
17 May 2019
at
Exeter Racecourse Conference Centre

Board Attendees:

Anthony Payne – Director of Place, Plymouth City Council, alternate for Tudor Evans, Leader Plymouth City Council
Cllr David Hall - Cabinet Member for Resources & Economic Development, Somerset County Council
Diane Dimond – Principal, Petroc
Prof. Judith Petts CBE– Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive, University of Plymouth
Karl Tucker – Executive Chairman, Yeo Valley Farms Production Ltd
Martha Wilkinson – Chief Executive, Devon Community Foundation
Cllr Rufus Gilbert -Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills, Devon County Council
Steve Hindley CBE DL – Chair HotSW LEP Board, Chair the Midas Group Ltd
Prof. Sir Steve Smith – Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive, University of Exeter
Stuart Brocklehurst – Chief Executive, Applegate

Officers in attendance:

Alan Denby - Director of Economic Strategy & Performance, TDA
Amanda Ratsey - Head of Economy, Enterprise & Employment, Plymouth City Council, office accompanying Anthony Payne
David Ralph – HotSW LEP Chief Executive
Keri Denton – Head of Economy & Enterprise, Devon County Council, officer accompanying Cllr Rufus Gilbert
Mark Williams – Chief Executive, East Devon District Council
Paul Hickson – Strategic Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning, Somerset County Council, officer accompanying Cllr David Hall

Others in attendance:

Eifion Jones – HotSW LEP Chief Operating Officer (for mins)
James Heapey, MP – representing Somerset MPs
Ian Harrison – HotSW LEP Transport Consultant for presentation only

Apologies:

Anne Marie Morris MP – representing Devon MPs
Barbara Shaw -Chief Executive, Westward Housing Group
Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP – representing Devon MPs
David Bird, Regional Director, Santander Corporate & Commercial Banking
Cllr David Thomas – Leader, Torbay Council *
Dr Fiona McMillan OBE – Non-Exec Director EDF Energy
Cllr Harvey Siggs – Leader, Mendip District Council *
Helen Lacey – Managing Director, Redberry Recruitment Ltd **
Melanie Squires MBE – SW Regional Director, NFU
Cllr Paul Diviani – Strategic Development, East Devon District Council *

Richard Stevens – Managing Director, Plymouth City Bus Ltd
 Suzanne Bond - Area Lead – Heart of the South West, Cities and Local Growth Unit - South West
 Cllr Tudor Evans OBE – Leader, Plymouth City Council

*due to May local elections these members have not been re-elected and no longer have a mandate to represent their authorities

**was to be last board meeting, tendered resignation as Board Director

Table of decisions

Board agenda item	Decision	Decision agreed
6.1 NED Recruitment	The board to agree the Board Recruitment Policy recommended by F&R and next steps for Board recruitment in the summer 2019	YES

Agenda	Action
<p>1. Agenda & Apologies Apologies as above.</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of interest DD: Petroc, ESIF/ERDF funding, Building Better Opportunities, HPTA Capital Fund. JP: ESIF/ERDF funding plus Growth Deal 3 FM: EDF Energy & Nuclear. SS: Exeter University, ESIF & Strength in Places Fund (SIPF). SH: Midas has ongoing building interests with South Devon College high tech centre, Devon Community Foundation and Claylands, Torquay MW: Devon Community Foundation is involved in several partnership bids, future ESIF/ERDF funding and Building Better Opportunities. JH: Re any Energy discussions due position on Western Power Distribution's customer advisory group.</p> <p>3. Draft Minutes of 22 March 2019 Board meeting and actions arising</p> <p>c/f Action: The question of HotSW representation in Gov't was raised again, with agreement to pursue options for a Minister for the South West, to act as an advocate for the area, similar to the Northern Powerhouse.</p> <p>Annual Review - The LEP recognises the delivery challenges identified in the review and subsequent letter and SIP is now focusing on the issues of spend profile and outputs.</p> <p>c/f Action: To progress conversations at senior Gov't level to put pressure on WECA to</p>	

<p>engage with Peninsula LEPs on shared strategic opportunities.</p> <p>c/f Action: A draft pipeline of projects to be tabled now for the July Board meeting.</p> <p>c/f Action: A joint script to be developed between the LEP and HotSW MPs emphasising priorities for the region if given x amount of funding.</p> <p>Stronger Towns Fund - No prospectus issued yet.</p> <p>All other actions completed.</p>	
<p>4. Questions from the public None.</p>	
<p>Transport Presentation, Ian Harrison – HotSW LEP Transport Consultant (copy of presentation forwarded) Discussions continues as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Is A37 north from Weymouth included in the Major Roads Network? A: it didn't meet the Govt criteria for inclusion, HotSW LEP may want to press Govt to reconsider the criteria. • Clarified that the A30 Blackdown Hills falls under Highways England's remit so any proposals relating to that need to be taken forward with HE. • International access and therefore Exeter airport is critical to the medium- and longer-term on-going recruitment and retention of skilled overseas staff for HEIs and business. However, there is a distinction between the airport and the airline. Ryanair's use of Exeter has helped the former, though uncertainty over the longer-term arrangements for Flybe remains. <p>The Board agreed to also continue its support for the proposed expansion of Bristol Airport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A303: the newly re-established APPG is a key part of the LEP's efforts to continue to press Gov't to honour their commitment to the existing schemes and the longer term dualling of the whole route which demonstrated a £41bn economic benefit over 60 years. With that economic context, whilst it is expected that the current National Audit Office enquiry into the Stonehenge proposal (cost £1.6bn) will declare poor value for money, the overall economic benefit remains strategically significant. <p>Agreed that the Board must work with MPs to continue to state the case for the A303.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was highlighted that whilst the A303 is of strategic significance, the A38/M5 corridor is also a priority for the area. • The suggestion was made that increasing the use of small ports and coastal shipping could be a way to reduce carbon impact of transport around coastal areas, though this would be likely to need central Govt support to make it viable. • James Heapey is also pressing WECA to improve commuting links into Bristol from the south (outside the WECA area). JH recommended: - 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the LEP should therefore have a position on the A350 even though it's just over the border • that the LEP monitor WECA transport priorities and proposals, including M5 J21A • that the LEP should be developing its pipeline on transport priorities in the event of changed priorities in Gov't • Noted that population density in HotSW makes the business case more challenging for the sort of transport apps that are supporting integration of transport in cities, e.g. route planning apps that combine electric bikes with buses for a chosen journey. In which case, what is the LEP's position on how to make this sort of intervention commercially viable? • 1st July is a joint Sub National Transport Body meeting between Peninsula and Western Gateway to examine how best to work together on shared priorities. <p>Action: LEP to review its transport list considering the debate, including considering what local transport needs might be to move people to/from work.</p> <p>Action: LEP to consider transport messaging in the LIS: what's the messaging around rural transport in a digital world?</p> <p>Action: LEP to consider its position on commercial viability of better supporting integration between different modes of transport.</p>	<p>IH</p> <p>DR/IH</p> <p>DR/IH</p>
<p>5. Chief Executives Report</p> <p>John Laramy, the Principal of Exeter College has been nominated as the next FE representative, replacing Diane Dimond, Principal and CEO of Petroc who leaves Petroc this summer. John will attend the July Board meeting with Diane which will be her last Board meeting as she steps down as non- executive LEP Director.</p> <p>Helen Lacey, Managing Director of Redberry Recruitment Ltd has also stepped down as of the May Board meeting and resigns as non -executive LEP Director.</p> <p>Following recent Local District Elections, new District nominees need to be re-agreed to represent both Somerset and Devon Districts. The Leaders group from each set of Districts chooses their representative.</p> <p>New HotSW scale up service now launched.</p> <p>Re-launch of APPG on 23 April at Westminster was very well attended & DR meeting Gary Streeter MP to agree work plan which is likely to have transport and rural as priorities.</p> <p><u>5i. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Hearing</u></p> <p>Anne Marie-Morris MP sits on PAC. Key messages from the PAC are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong push for LEPs to resolve remaining overlaps • Emphasis that diversity is not just about gender • Increased expectation around private sector match for both projects and the operation of the LEP 	

5vi. Nuclear Sector Deal

Support for the Nuclear Sector Deal supply chain programme is proving challenging, need to secure the funds or they may be lost.

5x. Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

- All Board members will be invited to the next LIS workshop on 14th June led by the Policy Unit of the Cabinet Office.
- Clean Growth is emerging as the overarching proposition which brings all the elements together. This is supported by natural capital, HotSW's clean energy assets, with the potential to demonstrate the LEP's response to climate change challenge. Clean Growth will increasingly become an entry requirement for growth in the future.
- It is likely that West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP will also have a clean growth focus.
- The opportunity exists to set out what the LEP thinks this means for the HotSW area
- A working draft will be ready in the next week and this will be shared with a smaller group of engaged stakeholders in late May/early June.
- The planned 7th June date for the combined Joint Committee and LEP Board to discuss the emerging LIS is under review, due to changes resulting from the local elections; the 7th is a briefing session and to seek agreement to the working draft, 14th is about the challenges and how to unblock them. DR is working with local authority CEX on the best way forward on the 7th; would like to do a LEP Board briefing around the 7th if the planned JC/LEP Board briefing doesn't progress.

Discussions continued, focusing on: -

- There is general support for a Clean Growth approach.
- It was recommended that the LEP looks at some of the cross-regional challenges around this, e.g. view on the Atlantic Array. Also, to consider what the LEP is trying to do and the priority, e.g. draw in innovative things from elsewhere into HotSW i.e. hydrogen towns (longer term) or pull in a major wind turbine manufacturer to locate here (short term). Plus consider links with other areas, e.g. what role can HotSW play to the associated growth in this in Bristol and what's the proposition on renewable energy in the Bristol Channel. Could also use excess/curtailed renewable energy to create hydrogen in somewhere like Plymouth as a pilot city.
- HotSW should consider being a strategic member of MARI-UK to leverage the offshore renewables opportunity for our area - Southampton and Liverpool are already members. MARI-UK will be a key route for innovation and associated funding.
- Concern was voiced that the LEP needs to be clearer and more specific about what natural capital really means in an industrial strategy.
- Via the LEP Network – LEP Chairs and nominated guests were invited to attend the Lord Mayor's Mansion House event and dinner on 16 May and Greg Clarke indicated that LEP areas should include elements to support and grow key existing sectors as well as new ones and he specifically mentioned Food and Drink and Tourism within his speech along with Environmental and Culture.

<p><u>Business Leadership Group theme updates</u></p> <p>Business: is supporting LIS development, future arrangements for the Growth Hub, launch of scale up service, understanding existing and future wider business support provision across HotSW (still a complex picture).</p> <p>Place: the focus is on LIS development, flood action plan, Enterprise Zones, refresh of pipeline, clean energy and taking forward the strategy shared at March Board. Also working with Local Nature Partnerships on how to fully integrate natural capital into activity. Also, focusing more on the needs of the rural agenda for the future.</p> <p>People: areas of focus are Careers Hub; maximising use of remaining European Social Fund (ESF); influencing and working with Govt on emerging skills policies, e.g. post-16 review, T-levels; continuation of careers learning hub; working with partners on bedding in the IoT; delivering Growth Deal and reviewing pipeline; launch of Skills Advisory Panel whose first meeting is 29th July. Initial focus will be on better labour market intelligence.</p>	
<p>Defence Presentation by Amanda Ratsey, Head of Economy, Enterprise & Employment at Plymouth City Council and LEP Management Team Member (copy forwarded)</p> <p>The presentation outlined the current assets and key players in the sector within the HotSW area and that further research was planned to improve the LEP's understanding of this strategically important sector.</p> <p>It was recommended the LEP also consider assets outside the area, especially the Land Warfare School in Warminster and the Abbey Wood concentration outside Bristol, as a significant amount of defence spend goes into both these locations. The LEP is undertaking research to better understand and map the sector which will help towards this.</p> <p>Action: To ensure the research brief into defence encompasses the above suggestions made.</p>	AR
<p>6.1 Non -Executive Director (NED) Recruitment (see copy of papers)</p> <p>To ensure the recruitment process is mindful of the priority around diversity. West of England LEP have used a recruitment firm with a specialty in this the LEP may want to consider.</p> <p>The Board agreed to the recommendations.</p>	
<p>6.2 European Social Investment Funds (ESIF) (see copy of paper) CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>European Social Fund (ESF) - could look at using the apprenticeship levy as a potential source of match funding.</p> <p>Action: A meeting to be arranged with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Dept of Work & Pension (DWP) to look at delivery challenges.</p>	EJ/KD

<p>7. Papers for noting No comment.</p>	
<p>8. AOB DR: July Board meeting likely to do a review of the LIS. Also, Great South West (GSW) business case supported by the Minister and is now in development; may be reviewed at the next meeting. Feedback is that MPs in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire are supportive of these areas being in the GSW.</p>	

Next Board meeting – Tuesday, 23 July 2019 from 10.00am – 1.00pm at Taunton Rugby Football Club