

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group 8 May 2019

EXETER SCIENCE PARK, 6 BABBAGE WAY, CLYST HONITON, EXETER, EX5 2FN

Attendees

Barbara Shaw (BS)	-	Westward Housing
Andrew England (AE)	-	Torbay Council
Chris Haynes ?	-	
David Lewis (DL)	-	SW Energy Hub Project Manager
Derek Phillips (DP)	-	South West Chambers of Commerce
Eifion Jones (EJ)	-	HotSW LEP
Ian Harrison (IH)	-	HotSW LEP Transport Board
John Dixon (JD)	-	Plymouth City Council
Mel Squires (MS)	-	NFU
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council/HotSW LEP
Ruth Lambert (RL)	-	Federation of Small Businesses
Sarah Jennings (SJ)	-	Local Nature Partnerships
Tim Jones (TS)	-	Devon and Cornwall Business Council
Tracy Aarons (TA)	-	Somerset District Councils

Supporting Officers

Anne-Marie Spalding	-	HotSW LEP Place Secretariat/Somerset County Council
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Apologies

Andrew Ardley	-	South Western Railway
Chloe Thomas	-	Environment Agency
Barry Smith (BS)	-	Environment Agency
Dan Newman (DNe)	-	Torbay Development Agency
David Northey (DN)	-	Network Rail
David Ralph	-	HotSW LEP
Doug Bamsey (DB)	-	Somerset District Councils
Heidi Coombe	-	HotSW LEP
Helena Davidson	-	HotSW LEP
Mark Worsfold	-	South West Water
Mel Sealey	-	HotSW LEP
Mel Squires	-	NFU
Mike Deaton (MD)	-	Devon County Council
Mike O'Dowd Jones (MODJ)	-	Somerset County Council
Richard Gibson	-	Cross Country

	Agenda item	Lead
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies BS welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies are noted above.	BS
2.	Declarations of Interest Declaration from Tracy Aarons, Mendip District Council, regarding MRN	BS

3.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes of the last Place Leadership Group meeting (8 May 2019) were approved as an accurate record.</p>	BS AMS – To forward minutes to publish.
4.	<p>Major Road Networks – Update IH explained that the Major Road Network (MRN) comprises of those roads “one level” below the Highways England Trunk Network. The MRN is therefore a sub-set of the A Road network. The MRN bids are different stages of development.</p> <p>Funding for work will come from Vehicle Excise Duty.</p> <p>A regional evidence base has been prepared by consultants and first bids are being prepared for the end of July 2019. There have been 6 schemes identified and put into priority order. This is for schemes of between £20m and £50m, there must be a 15% local contribution.</p> <p>The discussion brought out the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local contribution comes is a local decision would expect a probable contribution of local government funds and Section 106 funds. There is no enabling budget for MRNs the local authorities have to carry the cost however the schemes can be capitalised. • This is a single national pot that is being bid into – it is not geographically based. The bid for the share of the pot will be judged on ‘best’ schemes and could relate to population. There are currently two in the South West – Western Gateway and Peninsula Transport Board, the Minister would prefer there to be only 1. • Access to Bristol Airport has been prioritised as a Western Gateway project. • There was no limit to the number of schemes which could be put forward however they would be prioritised on the timescale for delivery. Some are still at a very early state, eg Glastonbury. • Environmental issues are part of the testing of the strategic case. Schemes have to demonstrate how they will mitigate and this is part of the overall scoring process. <p>IH advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A303 at Stonehenge – Inquiry ongoing NAO and PAC have been asked to comment and they support the need to look at the wider impact. Cost remains an issue • A303 Sparkford decision expected in September • A358 preferred route announced. Dualling west of Henlade, still discussions around Ashill. Will meet the J25 improvement in line with the Growth Deal funding and provides access to employment land. 	IH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail resilience – consultation on Dawlish ends this week. Current position of the lie is threatened by cliff fall. First proposal was to move into the sea. Preferred proposal, between cliffs and sea, has raised local concerns over the loss of the beach. A seawall will be built with footpath/cycleway. Part of the work has been funded however some is yet to be secured. <p>Presentation to be circulated</p>	
<p>5. Enterprise Zones</p>	<p>Items 5 and 6 were exchanged from order of the agenda.</p> <p>The area has 3 sites offering Enterprise Zone status and a Food Enterprise Zone. Enterprise Zones offer simplified planning, business incentives and support. The Enterprise Zones were set up in April 2017. Loan funding was provided to provide capacity for feasibility studies.</p> <p>Businesses must be on zone and trading by the cut off dates which are: Business rates - 2022 Capital Allowances – 2020 Benefits remain in place for 25 years. Discussions are now taking place on possible extensions as the cut off dates are very close. Local Planning Authorities need to be aware of the time limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion raised that a new Government could potentially reinvigorate the policy interest. 	<p>EJ</p>
<p>6. Local Industrial Strategy</p>	<p>Where we are - The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) is being codesigned with Government and a recent liaison meeting took place to assess the evidence base again, although this had already been signed off.</p> <p>The Government’s Analyst Department were satisfied and pleased that there was a good link from evidence to the strategy. Cuts to the strategy were requested as it was on actions rather than a higher level strategy. This is currently being reviewed. There should be no reference within the document to Government funding and should be focused on collaboration and partnership working. Overall they were pleased where we are with the LIS.</p> <p>There will be a Joint Committee meeting on Friday to discuss and then the LIS will go before the LEP board on the 23 July. The LIS will then be submitted to Government in August. Pressure on to get work approved before new ministers come to post.</p> <p>Strategy Detail HoSW is keen to demonstrate that the area is economically significant - £35 billion economy – as big as Birmingham or Liverpool. There is a communications challenge around this.</p> <p>The strategy is not a ‘bidding’ document but will sit well with the aims of the Shared Prosperity Fund. It will also be used to inform bids in to funds such as the Tourism Action Zone fund.</p>	<p>EJ</p>

HoSW employment almost 80% and growth is increasingly difficult to achieve by raising employment rates.

Our challenges:

Productivity – Local variations

Ageing population

Innovation

Enterprise

Connectivity

Skills are lower than where we need to be.

The ambition of the Productivity Strategy - to double the economy by 2038 – is not sitting comfortably with Government, this is being looked at.

Emerging Narrative:

Lower productivity through business mix and weaker performance across productivity drivers

Opportunities in new markets built around HotSW distinctive assets

Addressing productivity through

- exploit new and growing high productivity opportunities
- raise productivity in large employment sectors
- prosperity: benefits of productivity growth to flow from places

The Command Paper identified three opportunity areas from the evidence base:

- Clean energy
- High Tech Engineering
- Digital futures

There are five foundations in the Government Industrial Strategy

- Ideas
- People
- Infrastructure
- Business
- Place

HotSW could be a Clean Growth trailblazer taking the lead in a new model of environment-driven productivity growth.

- Clean Businesses – to seize the Clean Growth Opportunities – 100% self sufficiency
- Clean Communities – To develop Clean Growth Solutions – linking rural and urban areas
- Clean Technologies – To deliver environmental improvements through technological solutions – Low Carbon clusters
- Clean Ideas – to become a Clean Growth thought leader – a step change in leadership
- Clean and Green – to enhance the natural capital - 25 year environment plan

Inclusive growth = good growth

Contribute to and Benefit from – possibly look at in a future meeting.

Discussions took place around the Agri-EPI Centre in Somerset who were funded by Innovate

	<p>https://www.agri-epicentre.com/posts/launch-of-south-west-dairy-development-centre/</p> <p>Once the Strategy has been signed off by Government it can be used as a live document for investors.</p> <p>There was a query around risks of it not being signed off – the People section had too many commitments in the draft. This has been rewritten to one commitment then aligned to actions/outcomes.</p> <p>Query was raised about the inclusion of Tourism - Tourism is mentioned in the Place Section and is very much a focus. Tourism Action Zone Fund will be informed from strategy.</p> <p>The document will be posted on the LEP website after the 23 July 2019 if it is agreed. There is no opportunity for further input.</p> <p>EJ's presentation is attached.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Energy Strategy A piece of work has been completed with Cornwall & IOS LEP and Dorset LEP.</p> <p>Future work will be linked to the Great South West brand. Outcome is that we are all keen to work together and see a benefit to collaborative working.</p> <p>There will be the creation of a regional Energy Hub – to help with knowledge and support. BEIS have invested in this and they are currently working through the set up stage and have 'patch based workers'.</p> <p>David Lewis – South West Energy Hub Project Manager for HotSW and Dorset DL introduced himself and outlined the work he has been doing with has been around engagement with the Local Authorities, County Councils and local communities.</p> <p>Framework has now been signed off by the Hub Board. EOIs are being invited, which will be signed off by the Board. Rural Community Energy Fund launched – 25 projects received in one week.</p> <p>DL has found it difficult to engage at District Level as there are no specific officers for energy. Contact details:</p> <p>David Lewis SW Energy Hub Project Manager M: 07967 466273 E: David.Lewis@WestOfEngland-CA.gov.uk W: westofengland-ca.gov.uk</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>DL</p>
<p>8/9</p>	<p>Natural Capital and Environmental Situation SJ has prepared a draft advocacy document which was circulated. She raised concerns around the capacity to take this forward. PH said that PH/AMS will help with the capacity issue.</p> <p>Some of the Natural Capital identified:</p>	<p>SJ/ All</p>

	<p>Soil Green infrastructure Pollinators Timber Carbon Capture (Exmoor & Dartmoor) Fish</p> <p>Natural assets are a USP of the HotSW and underpin the long term productivity and quality of life. Yet the value has been largely ignored by decision makers which has resulted in some being destroyed or degraded.</p> <p>The value of natural capital must be embedded in decision making, investment into natural solutions and restoration of our assets. MS highlighted that there has been decades of investment by Government and lessons need to be learnt and developed from this to inform any replacement for CAP Investment.</p> <p>Heathrow has invested in Peatland restoration in the North : https://www.greenaironline.com/news.php?viewStory=2527 Why not HotSW</p> <p>The value and benefits of natural capital needs to be understood and promoted by the LEP. The LEP needs to help business to embed value and benefits, provide simple advice.</p> <p>The models as to how we value natural capital are different and difficult.</p> <p>Potential for pilot, eg North Devon biosphere</p> <p>LEP's role is crosscutting and has a role in convening. Lessons to be learnt from EnTrade - https://entrade.co.uk/Why_use_Entrade/</p> <p>Other resources referenced: Future Funding Team – Environment Agency ELMS – Environmental Land Management Scheme</p> <p>Questions – Could the South West be used to offset carbon produced in the North of England? Could Natural Capital be included on the LEP Balance sheet? Needs to be more visible and recognised. What does it look like? Could this be referenced in the Annual Report?</p> <p>Action – how do we answer the questions and how do we take things further? Capture paper to be brought to next meeting – look at pulling data together.</p> <p>Climate Emergency Response Group - Devon Action paper to be circulated.</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future High Streets paper to next meeting ? • Future High Streets Announcement – two towns successful in HotSW • Heritage Action Zone update for next meeting 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSB report on Towns in Wales to be circulated • Action – Delivery Plans – who is doing what? 	
<p>Next meeting: 11 September 2019 - Details to be confirmed</p>	

Actions Log Summary	Meeting Date	Owner	Status Update	Next Steps
To forward previous Place Leadership Group meeting minutes for publication on HotSW LEP website.	10/07/2019	Anne-Marie Spalding	Completed 11/07/2019	N/A
All presentations to be circulated	10/07/2019	Anne-Marie Spalding	Completed 18/07/2019	
Artificial Intelligence and Data to be noted as an agenda item for a future meeting	08/05/19	Anne-Marie Spalding		
Information on funding opportunities to be shared with the LEP	08/05/19	All	Ongoing	Ongoing
A presentation on rail freight development to be brought to a future meeting	08/05/19	David Northey		
A presentation on the link between transport and social mobility to be included for the September meeting	10/07/2019	Ian Harrison		

ANNEX – Strategic intervention Ideas for Infrastructure and Place

Foundation – Infrastructure	
Clean Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabled distributed generation capacity/capability • Grid distribution capacity • EV infrastructure (roads) • Electrification of rail
Advanced Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution network and connectivity e.g. resilience of A303 • Access to ports and airports e.g. for international connectivity/exports • Supply chain efficiencies... (export region)
Artificial Intelligence and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital connectivity and resilience • (Big) data management e.g. to facilitate/optimize smart transport and grid networks • Data management/ownership etc • Added value from data
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility services e.g. to support zero carbon cities • Green infrastructure e.g. cycle routes, pedestrian walkways • Urban green spaces?

Foundation – Place	
Clean Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of regional renewable energy resources e.g. solar, wind, biomass and tidal • Innovative local energy solutions e.g. heat networks, ground source heating, efficient build etc • Grid distribution capacity
Advanced Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regionally developed renewable energy technologies/solutions? • Land management/agri-technologies to promote clean productivity gains e.g. monitoring and autonomous systems • Food processing opportunities
Artificial Intelligence and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems and analyses to support land management to facilitate resource use and agri-tech productivity gains • Smart energy management • Food supply chain management • Data analysis opportunities/services – competitive advantages • Better equip businesses about data ownership, management, exploitation, marketing e.g. through cooperation/collaboration
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon capture/sequestration opportunities • Land management opportunities e.g. natural flood protection and payment for ecosystem services and for the “public good” • Digital connectivity • Feedback loop with infrastructure piece and natural capital • Carbon balance sheet • Circular economy • Health and well-being benefits