

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group 2 July 2020

VIA TEAMS

Attendees

Mel Squires (MS)- NFU (Chair and Board Member)

David Lewis (DL) - SW Energy Hub Project Manager

Derek Phillips (DP) - Exeter Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Doug Bamsey (DB) – Somerset District Councils

Eifion Jones (EJ)– HotSW LEP

Helen Dobby (HD)– Environmental Agency

Ian Harrison – HotSW Transport Board

John Dixon (JD) - Plymouth City Council

John Lovett – Network Rail (Replacing David Northey)

Judith Gannon – Abbey Manor Developments

Mark Worsfold - South West Water

Mike Deaton (MD) - Devon County Council

Paul Hickson (PH) - Somerset County Council/HotSW LEP

Richard Grant – Plymouth City Council

Ruth Lambert – Federation of Small Businesses

Steve Mewes (SM) - Somerset Wildlife Trust/Somerset LNP

Tim Jones (TS) - Devon and Cornwall Business Council (Part)

Supporting Officers

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

Apologies

Andrew Ardley - South Western Railway

Andrew England (AE) - Torbay Council

Christopher Garnsworthy – Western Power

Dan Newman (DNe) - Torbay Development Agency

David Ralph (DR) - HotSW LEP

David Northey (DN)- Network Rail

Heidi Coombe - HotSW LEP

Helena Davidson - HotSW LEP

Mel Sealey - HotSW LEP

Mike O’Dowd Jones (MODJ) - Somerset County Council

Richard Gibson - Cross Country

Sarah Jennings (SJ)- Devon Local Nature Partnership

	Agenda item	Lead
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies MS welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through protocols. Apologies are noted above.</p>	MS
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest None</p>	MS
3.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes of the last Place Leadership Group meeting (5 December 2019) were approved as an accurate record. No actions</p>	MS AMS – To forward minutes to publish
4.	<p>LEP Update Governance There has been a LEP Board Effectiveness review – paper’s proposals have been accepted and agreed. Recommendations on second to last page, which was circulated to the Place Leadership group. Therefore, as a consequence, for all leadership groups of the LEP we will seek to conduct reset and review exercise to make sure we are a group fit for purpose. This will work alongside LIS and Covid Recovery Plan and Green Credentials. There will be a review of roles and membership of each leadership group. There are discussions taking place with Chairs and Officers of the groups around sharing information. Additions to this group Rural and Coastal and Tourism is going to Business. There are Cross cutting themes – especially Natural Capital and Covid recovery. There are many other elements that need to be picked up so that nothing falls between. This also enables us to reset our workplan, and set out for the next twelve months, with more formalised reportage at the full LEP board, holding Place group and all involved accountable for that output and delivery. The Rural SIG – LEP legacy taken on by MS, the number of meetings had been reduced and latterly it had become a non-formal grouping attached to the LEP Board. However, SME bedrock sector are still a major part of our economy so we will be Revisiting rural SIG and will draw in people who are not represented already and can bring knowledge to the Place Group. This will incorporate good private sector representation. Rural needs to transcend through the other groups as well and that is where ‘sharing’ comes in. PH commented that the review and reset is also partly about placing more responsibility/giving more authority over LEP work and LIS delivery. Place portfolio is very diverse – Business and People Groups have quite a cohesive portfolio to cover. Place has a wider remit and so there will be task groups, maybe some sub-groups with specialists being drawn together. As we refresh this is what we will have in mind in this area. EJ – Paul’s point important- Place is ‘owned’ by local authority – LEP would not lead but support on this. Ultimately better and more outcomes. We can spend a lot of time looking at the processes. Draft workplan focuses the mind – eg Energy, Employment land – as a group drawing on specialities of each group member. We need to focus on specific outcomes as we move forward. Mel to report back to the board.</p>	MS

	<p>J G – Local Authorities are planning authorities but they don’t deliver – Place Group is link back to private sector. We need to keep the ‘delivery’ arm. EJ highlighted that Growth Deal has been used to unlock some development and agreed with JGs comment.</p> <p>MS - As we review we will keep checking back – next meeting September – we will share information in between so that we can expediate, not least in updating, and signing off the workplan, membership of the group and Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Any further reflections please email.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Covid 19 Recovery</p> <p>EJ referred to the Minutes of the previous meeting – the Growth Deal expenditure by end March 2021 remains in place. Review taken on all live projects. The Government have given two thirds of the money due for the year, the last third is subject to this review. All broadly ok just working on one project with governance. Update at next meeting.</p> <p>Route Map to Recovery – there are multiple recovery plans being developed across the area which creates a challenge as to how this all fits together. A lot more detail at Upper Tier and district level. LEP is not trying to do everything. This is a High-Level document to set out what can be done. Important to keep up with the evidence. Scenarios being modelled for South West Councils which take in the whole of the South West but will be cut to upper tier authority. This will shape what LEP and others do. Upside – suggests that sectors like manufacturing might recover a bit quicker. Downside is that Full recovery may not take place until 2025/26. Bank of England suggests that recovery to pre-Covid levels will be around 2022/3 both in terms of economy and employment. Spatial differences - areas which were behind have been hit harder, eg Torbay, Torridge. DCC leading on the work – draft has gone to authorities for comment. Final version due in the next couple of weeks – will be shared with group.</p> <p>Second point – is that LEP has been developing and submitting an investment pipeline – this we will come back to</p> <p>Third – responding to challenges as they arise. There has been a weekly Board meeting looking at this.</p> <p>Fourth – we have a Productivity Strategy, a Local Industrial Strategy and now a Covid recovery plan. Some work has to be done, probably by Autumn, to bring all this together into one coherent approach.</p> <p>Those are the four areas of work that the Route Map sets out.</p> <p>Investment Pipeline</p> <p>As part of LIS and working with partners locally we do have a long list of projects – Productivity Delivery plan. Work done to update during early part of the year. Letter received from Jenrick around shovel ready projects. Long list of projects was put together with Local Authority colleagues.</p>	<p>EJ</p>

These were graded on deliverability (Jan 2022), Government was clear that if there was activity past this date then they should not be included. Also set out criteria around Green recovery, jobs, etc ranked to that criteria and ranking was agreed by LEP Board. There was only a week to do this so was not done on a full assessment of business cases so this is a draft list and was submitted to Government.

Total amount allocated £900m across the country – we asked for £121m and received £34.5m. Sixth highest allocation across LEPs. Second letter from Govt confirming allocation. Work over the next two weeks (to 17 July) to finalise what projects will be funded. Unsure how this will be done at the moment as we need some flexibilities.

Need to be able to look at business cases – need to look at value for money. Deliverability will be stringent and this will need to be looked at carefully. Need to work with Govt to see how this will work. If something is found not to be deliverable then there needs to be flexibility to replace with an alternative project. Unfortunately, not able to provide update at the moment but will be ready mid-July.

Q (SM) – Nature Recovery work bid put together but assumed there was no news on that. Question raised around the 8 point bullet list as to whether this is set in stone or would it be possible to add Natural Capital?

A (EJ) – this had been shared with the Joint Committee and it had been agreed (the Natural Capital strategic prospectus). It does state that the LIS contains Natural Capital, though not as headlines.

MS – Natural Capital cutting across all that we do – Green recovery is coming out strongly. Currently need to focus on business outputs as well, this will be where our task and finish groups will be critical.

Q(DB) – how do bids work with the LEP to get to the final list?

A(EJ) – more detail will come out of the conversation next week with Government. Starting point would be that there is a proper business case behind it – full business cases will be asked for after 17th July 2020.

HD – echoed how we need to weave in the green recovery into the economic recovery. Discussions need to take place around shovel ready projects for the future. Regional stakeholder meeting to take place next week to drill down on the Devon and Cornwall list. HD will join up with Wessex area to ensure full HotSW representation.

JG – is there any chance that some projects can be told they can stand down so that their expectations are not raised? EJ asking for patience until process has been worked out over the next 3 weeks.

MW – Water industry – green recovery work – possibly bring forward work from 2025. Useful to understand where there are opportunities to bring things forward. MS maximising investment is important. Task & finish groups will need to meet to discuss points like this.

No other C19 points were raised.

<p>6.</p>	<p>Workstream</p> <p>This links Link back to the review mentioned at the start of the meeting. A standing item will be a report around where various strands of work are. Work programme shared with colleagues to be drawn in. Grateful for feedback.</p> <p>Covering individual work strands – priorities for 2020/21, next steps. RAG Clearer on this as we work through the year.</p> <p>Natural Capital – key strands for Place Group – working with different arms of the LEP discuss how we implement the programme. Working with all key stakeholders – to develop and action plan/prospectus to ‘challenge’ Board on future funding. Set up Task & Finish group – report Q3. Then onwards to the LEP Board. Keen to have stakeholder input and also need to look at how we resource.</p> <p>Energy Infrastructure – here we have recently established a task group. To focus down on the two or three items which are the focus for the future. TOR and membership will look to bring in knowledge and expertise in from the energy sector. This is a particular next step we need to work with colleagues not yet at the table.</p> <p>SW Energy Hub – (DL) – Liaised with the working group. Quality of bids have been complimented by BEIS and the Board. Some challenging projects. Core projects going forward – retrofit for able to pay market across HotSW, paper to enable communities to deliver on behalf of other organisations. Working group will bring further perspective on potential projects.</p> <p>Rural agenda – Place to provide LEP’s delivery focus. Focus on Priorities post Covid. LEP developing priorities and building on the Rural Productivity Strategy. Continuing to work on having a Rural Productivity deal for the South west. Working on Rural Productivity – about to start recruitment for Rural post – to work with re-established Rural T&F group – private sector focus to bring in expertise from across the patch. Work to progress into a Statement of priorities going forward.</p> <p>Enterprise Zones etc – expectation that the implementation plans for the 3 enterprise zones are updated through 2020/21, working with local partners to update and to support delivery. Come back to Place once work completed.</p> <p>Freeports agenda – live Government consultation closes shortly. Possible benefits for out area arising from Government’s new policy on Freeports.</p> <p>LEP commissioned an independent study on employment land and its deliverability – want to bring back action plan for LEP and partners to take plan forward. Also to reflect the diversity working with National Parks authorities</p> <p>Digital Agenda – top priority in the LIS. Infrastructure elements of digital agenda sit with Place Group. In early 2020 the LEP commissioned a call for Digital bids for mobile and digital infrastructure – 3 bids are being moved forward to funding agreement. Ongoing monitoring role for this group. Similarly with the allocation in CDS programme – oversight of what comes forward through that.</p>	<p>PH</p>
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	<p>Place Shaping activity – market towns and links to Town Deals/Future High Streets fund. LEP supporting role endorsing what comes forward from partners in local authorities and towns. In addition two areas of work – commissioning work on future of market towns to provide policy advice to the LEP for investment priorities and approach. Looking particularly at Market Towns under the LIS and recovery plans.</p> <p>Work started, led by TDA, developing propositions for LEP to champion around Coastal Economy and regeneration.</p> <p>IH – Transport - worth reflecting that transport has seen a significant impact from Covid which will affect the workplan moving forward. In the early months of the year we were putting a lot of effort around understanding the effects of climate change and the move to decarbonisation of transport. Also announcements on infrastructure.</p> <p>Main issue on past couple of months has been the social distancing on public transport and also the Govt’s discouragement of the use of public transport. Not sure what the new normal/baseline will be going forward. Elements could be more space for cycling and walking. May also be a trend to less peak hour travel as people have got used to working online. Speed of recovery in air travel (if there is one to the volumes experienced previously) very long term – access to airports etc have perhaps less importance.</p> <p>Long term goals remain unchanged by Covid – electrification etc .Transport does not reflect boundaries. Strategic connectivity will be helped outside our boundaries. Interest in in reopening former railway lines and services. Energy from Govt. One of the first 10 to be given funding to develop business case. Cases may come up locally but LEP has a role to support those that may have an important role.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>DB – themes supported – market towns especially. Energy – question of strategic intervention in energy, eg tidal – can we, should we be involved in discussions on this? What is happening on Innovation zones? How do we respond on rail – in particular getting freight onto rail.</p> <p>PH – Energy – valid challenge – strategic for us. Identify what as HotSW</p> <p>Innovation Zones – there will be an Innovation Board. They will probably tell us what is needed – Place to look at spatial element.</p> <p>Freight – electrification of rail network has now started to achieve some positive reaction – if freight can get onto trains – medium term distinct possibility. Studies are now including electrification. Potential to get into the South West.</p> <p>EJ – Work to do around what outcomes we need to get to – LIS is guiding document. EG Rural Productivity – Reducing emissions in agriculture – describe what we need to do to – to be clear on what we are striving towards.</p> <p>TJ – looking at the work of the biosphere – carbon capture and planting of sea grasses in N Devon. Task and Finish to map what is happening.</p> <p>Tidal – remind we have the 3rd largest movement in the world. Lynmouth – wave activated – endorse putting on the agenda.</p> <p>Final workplan will be circulated. – feedback on this document welcomed</p>	All

<p>SMewes – first Somerset LNP held this morning</p> <p>AMS – Helena requested that people should sign up to the Newsletter if they had not already done so and that they should also follow on Twitter to pick up latest news. The bulletin issued by Heidi will no longer be circulated.</p>				
<p>Next meeting: 10 September 2020 – 2pm – via Teams</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.	02/07/2020	Anne-Marie Spalding		N/A
Artificial Intelligence and Data to be noted as an agenda item for a future meeting	08/05/19	Anne-Marie Spalding	Future meeting	
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	Future Meeting	
Natural Capital Advocacy Document next Steps	Next meeting	Anne-Marie Spalding	Next Steps to be developed	
Workplan for next 12 month period work	Next meeting to sign off, draft to be circulated beforehand shortly	Paul Hickson	Updated draft to be recirculated, feedback to be requested. Next meeting	
Explore additional resource for Natural Capital task group	Next meeting identified & in place	Paul Hickson		
Rural post advertised	Next meeting - appointed	Paul Hickson		
Place Group Terms of Reference – review and update, as per recommendations of LEP board, and	Next meeting	Paul Hickson	Will be circulated ASAP, with two week	

formal template			window to respond, and assumed signed off	
Review of membership of group, inviting relevant people from Rural SIG, plus others identified	For next meeting, including those identified invited	Anne-Marie	Updated draft to be recirculated, feedback to be requested. Next meeting	

DRAFT

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