

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group 5 December 2019

WESTWARD HOUSING, NEWTON ABBOT

Attendees

Barbara Shaw - Westward Housing (Chair)
Andrew England (AE) - Torbay Council
David Northey (DN)- Network Rail
Derek Phillips (DP) - Exeter Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Doug Bamsey – Somerset District Councils
Eifion Jones (EJ) - HotSW LEP
Helena Davidson - HotSW LEP
Helen Dobby – Environmental Agency
Ian Harrison (IH) - HotSW LEP Transport Board
John Dixon (JD) - Plymouth City Council
Mike O’Dowd Jones (MODJ) - Somerset County Council
Mike Deaton (MD) - Devon County Council
Paul Hickson (PH) - Somerset County Council/HotSW LEP
Ruth Lambert (RL) - Federation of Small Businesses
Steve Mewes - Somerset Wildlife Trust/LNP
Tim Jones (TS) - Devon and Cornwall Business Council (Part)

Workspace Presentation – Carl Wyard and Stuart Hardisty

Supporting Officers

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

Apologies

Andrew Ardley - South Western Railway
Barry Smith (BS) - Environment Agency
Dan Newman (DNe) - Torbay Development Agency
David Lewis (DL) - SW Energy Hub Project Manager
David Ralph (DR) - HotSW LEP
Heidi Coombe - HotSW LEP
John Dixon -
Mark Worsfold - South West Water
Mel Sealey - HotSW LEP
Mel Squires (MS)- NFU
Richard Gibson - Cross Country
Sarah Jennings (SJ)- Devon Local Nature Partnership

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedgemoor wish to put in charging points but are experiencing challenges on the supply of power, whilst Western Power state availability the Council has not been able to secure. • District responses for Secretary of State to unpick what the barriers are. • Public transport in a good place to look at this at the moment. • Rail studies – one of the issues which should be considered – what is right technology (future traction), electrification, hydro and battery power - Electrification seems to be the answer. Good that the Bristol to Birmingham route is to be reviewed. • EA looking at holistic approach • Stations reopening – Cullompton and Wellington looking promising • Langport not looking as promising. • The point was raised that as a LEP, we need to look at getting more communities getting connected back to public transport | <i>circulate slides</i> |
| 5. | <p>Local Industrial Strategy</p> <p>Sign off of the LIS has been held up because of the election. The document is currently with Government and looks very promising. It is considered a strong piece of work but currently it cannot be used with branding as it has not been signed off. It cannot be published without sign off therefore the key is to have Government endorsement. Draft to be circulated but it cannot be published. Key to have the Government endorsement. LIS future is unknown. Policy not known post election. Officials recognise a strong piece of work. Whatever the branding for the future we have a strong starting point. Document to be shared informally.</p> | EJ AMS to circulate draft document post purdah |
| 6. | <p>Natural Capital</p> <p>AMS outlined the concerns that had been raised by the Somerset Districts and the work that it is being done to address this. Additional Somerset examples have been added and new photos will reflect Somerset. As work on this has been going on for some time the decision was to approve, subject to more Somerset content. Document and recommendations will go to the board on 24th January 2020. What are we going to do with it? Short covering report highlighting next steps for the Board – projects and targets. Place group to take forward Appendix 1 – needs some examples not just what can be done. Action Plan to follow – this needs to look at the following: - How do economy and natural capital move forward together - What does it really mean? How is it captured in economic development - Target for each section? - Look at investment pipeline – content relating to NC – no funding streams available at the moment to resource any work. Help to frame future work</p> | Revised document to be circulated. |
| 7. | <p>Innovation Zones</p> <p>This links to the LIS. It will be a piece of work to commission what the concept of an innovation zone looks like. Priorities for innovation zones – policy work to help the Board to develop thoughts.</p> | |

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| | <p>Preliminary discussions have taken place with Universities to input. Work will be commissioned. Desktop work already done around approaches. The Place and the Business Groups will be used as consultancy points. Funds for the work are already in place.</p> <p>Nominees from the Place Group are sought to sit on the working group. Email Anne-Marie if you want to be part of that group.</p> <p>FUTURE TOWNS Study An evidence based study is to be commissioned to demonstrate how the towns and cities will link to the Local Industrial Strategy and how they will help to deliver the core objectives of the Strategy. Funding has been secured.</p> <p>The issue of the uniqueness of each town in the region was raised. The study will look at general issues experienced.</p> <p>Issues identified in the Welsh Towns report to be noted.</p> <p>Study to come back to Place Group.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Employment Land Study</p> <p>The study was commissioned as there is an identified need for employment land – enough land should be available for relocation etc but it is not coming forward.</p> <p>Plans for economic expansion is not possible if land is not coming forward and companies are having to move to different locations.</p> <p>Five Objectives were identified for the study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The current level of demand for employment space (land and premises) 2.The allocation of employment land in Local Plans 3.Which areas of the LEP are facing the greatest challenge(s); 4.The reasons for sites not coming forward to the market; and 5.Tools (including planning, fiscal, infrastructure) and interventions for unlocking employment sites. <p>Questionnaires were sent to local authorities throughout the Heart of the South West LEP area to Economic Development officers and planning team. The responses were variable in quantitative terms – some had no data.</p> <p>There is an identified strong industrial market and future demand is expected to become stronger.</p> <p>Identified land strongest in Sedgemoor and East Devon. Availability of supply only 9% is listed as unconstrained. There is a need for a common understanding on truly available land. One local authority was not aware of a failure to supply. Large sites facing major constraints. Smaller number of small sites with problems.</p> | Carl Wyard and Stuart Hardisty AMS to circulate presentation |

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| | <p>The recommendations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen market intelligence To strengthen planning policy To strengthen LEP policy and lobbying To strengthen delivery tools <p>The lack of information is a challenge. Local plans need to reflect the LEP's ambition. Look at how to respond to local plans and how to resource.</p> <p>Possible solution akin to housing land to ensure a ready supply of truly deliverable sites at all times.</p> <p>Further tools such as Article 4 directions should be used.</p> <p>LEP Needs to recognise the nature of this problem – focus from Government is on housing. Look at how the LEP can intervene and how these recommendations would land with local authorities.</p> <p>The LEP could potentially establish a flexible fund that can be accessed to deliver employment sites and relevant infrastructure.</p> <p>The point was raised that this work requires tenacity, intervention and confidence. The returns are longer term.</p> <p>State Aid Rules – would it be possible to rewrite to provide similar approach to the one used by Cornwall to enable public intervention.</p> <p>Action – to take report to the Board then back to Place Group in the New Year to take forward recommendations.</p> | |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Future Work</p> <p>Discussions to take place on future workstreams. Early 2020 a workplan will be formulated to inform high level discussion. Included will be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation zones Employment Land Towns Energy <p>This will then disseminate down to work.</p> <p>Point was raised around Clean growth – important to keep inclusivity, eg working poor. This should be cross-cutting across everything we do, including 'left behind' places. Set off from the beginning to be inclusive.</p> <p>Action: Workplan to be brought to the next meeting</p> | |

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| Next meeting: Scheduled for 14 th January 2020 – to be rescheduled to February PLEASE NOTE THIS A CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED DATE | |
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| Actions Log Summary | Meeting Date | Owner | Status Update | Next Steps |
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| To forward previous Place Leadership Group meeting minutes for publication on HotSW LEP website. | 05/12/2019 | Anne-Marie Spalding | | N/A |
| All presentations to be circulated Draft LIS to be circulated post purdah | 05/12/2019 | Anne-Marie Spalding | | |
| 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 and next Steps | Next meeting | Anne-Marie Spalding | Document to be finalised – Next Steps to be developed | |
| Workplan for future work | Next meeting | Paul Hickson | | |

ANNEX – Strategic intervention Ideas for Infrastructure and Place

| Foundation – Infrastructure | |
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| 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 | |
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| 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 |