

Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group 10 September 2020

VIA TEAMS

Attendees

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

Andrew Ardley - South Western Railway

Chloe Thomas – Environment Agency

David Lewis (DL) - SW Energy Hub Project Manager

David Ralph – HotSW LEP

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

Hazel Williams – Regen SW

Ian Harrison – HotSW Transport Board

John Dixon (JD) - Plymouth City Council

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)

Tracy Aarons – Somerset District Councils

Supporting Officers

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

Apologies

Andrew England (AE) - Torbay Council

Caroline Ayre - Confor

Christopher Garnsworthy – Western Power

Dan Newman (DNe) - Torbay Development Agency

David Ralph (DR) - HotSW LEP

David Northey (DN)- Network Rail

Doug Bamsey – Somerset Councils

Heidi Coombe - HotSW LEP

Helen Dobby (HD)– Environmental Agency

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.	Welcome, introductions and apologies MS welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through protocols. Apologies are noted above.	MS
2.	Declarations of Interest None	MS
3.	Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes of the last Place Leadership Group meeting (5 December 2019) were approved as an accurate record. No actions	MS AMS – To forward minutes to publish
4.	Terms of Reference and Group Membership The future work of the Place Group will be focused on activity and as a result the Terms of Reference and membership have been revised. Terms of Reference have been circulated. Any comments should be received by 25 September 2020.	MS
5.	Task & Finish/Working Groups An Energy working group has been formed which is working on a baseline for energy projects across the Heart of the South West area. These will help to inform potential future actions for when future funds become available. Further meeting set for the end of September. There is also a newly formed Natural Capital Task & Finish Group who met recently. The aim is to get a proposed pipeline of projects to inform the Board of the type of projects that could be taken forward and to get support from them to move forward the Natural Capital agenda. It is key that all group keep moving projects forward for when funding becomes available. The Government are very keen to see 'shovel-ready' projects.	MS

6.	<p>Route Map to Recovery</p> <p>This was published at the beginning of June. Over the summer we have seen emerging recovery plans.</p> <p>Committed to: Producing sector plans for hardest hit sectors - About to publish Tourism, Nuclear and Aerospace. Work going on around culture, high streets, manufacturing. These are One page summaries with a plan around the sectors impacted and then to review going forward using the Oxford Economics study – which is available if anyone would like to see it.</p> <p>Second part is to produce a Building Back Better report. The Local Industrial Strategy will be published as the Government is no longer signing them off. Key 10 priorities will be published alongside as a summary document, to indicate where things can be built back better, eg Natural Capital, Digital etc</p> <p>Third – bring together the Productivity Plan, Local Industrial Strategy and Recovery plan into a single investment plan. The leadership groups will need to deliver on this. Details around the areas of work and recovery needs to be set out. This will help to inform whatever comes through from CSR and moving forward.</p> <p>Recovery Funds</p> <p>As part of the Recovery Plan LEPs have received money to help the economy, the first being Kickstart programme (£750,000) which was administrated by the Growth Hub. That opportunity has now closed as it was massively oversubscribed – ability to make 250 grants, before opening there had been over 1,000 enquiries.</p> <p>The bigger programme is Getting Building Fund – for the Heart of the South West this was £35.4m of capital investment to be delivered by 2022. Agreed with Government three programmes – Enabling smarter carbon activities, work hubs (approx. £10m for 11 hubs), third area is individual projects.</p> <p>It is a challenge to get those signed off. All those invited to submit a Business Case came through.</p> <p>Pipeline of around £150m of projects and lobbying has been done around funding. The words ‘shovel ready’ will become normal and all projects should be developing so that they are ready when funding becomes available. The ability to deliver quickly is going to be a strong message from Government.</p> <p>Question was raised around what activity is being co-ordinated to get projects to the shovel ready stage. It was highlighted that there is a role for the Place Group to identify some of the programmes and activities we wish to deliver, for example, do we need a locally led Towns Fund. Probably something sensible given the changes to our High Streets. A programme</p>	DR

around this could be developed and perhaps encourage towns, that are not receiving Future Towns money, to apply for funds. Barnstaple springs to mind given the lack of social mobility and has been hit hard. Similarly we are trying to develop a programme of Natural Capital projects. CDS are working up a digital programme which will be shared with this group. If there is a capacity issue in bringing those activities forward then there needs to be a discussion around this. There is a lot going on and support for businesses means that things are constrained in terms of the development of a pipeline. We did talk about a Rural Enterprise Zone in this area but it did not move forward. If it is decided that this is something we want to progress then we need to look at the constraints and opportunities. If this requires some money for someone to look into this further then this is a conversation that we should be having. We have an enabling fund to help bring projects forward for the pipeline. Plus our MPs are keen to know what we want to bring forward and then they will help to lobby for them.

Point was raised that the Community Building at Cranbrook had not been successful as it had not been shovel ready. Money available from builder and planning permission has been applied for so it will become ready. Would this be something that the Place Group would support?

DR raised the point around a Community fund, is this something that is wanted? Need to understand the economic benefits of such a project. Community Fund should be discussed as it does not feel to be core business for the LEP at the moment. MS supports Community funds and raised the point that we will need to look at the value in terms of the economy and the ongoing affects of Covid. Young people and families have been badly affected and moving forward we need to consider the benefits of community projects in the widest sense. It will be a matter of how this is presented.

DR highlighted that it would therefore be necessary for the Place Group to highlight to the Board the benefits of such a fund. Set out what the 3 or 4 key areas in a post Covid and post Brexit environment that we need to be spending money on over the next couple of years. Also before people dive into 'projects' we need to be thinking about 'programme'.

Things flagged up for the Getting Building Fund were firstly, Green Economy, how do we make a step change to delivering Clean Growth and Inclusiveness. That is why we looked at the Green Retrofit programme. Second is future ways of working – exacerbated by Covid – it might be setting up workspace in local places, it could be high streets or it could be local broadband delivery. Third thing is that there are bespoke projects, there are no transport projects as the Government wants delivery in 18 months and it was considered that these would not deliver within the timeframe. We currently do not know how the Government is going to replace EU Structural Funds or Local Growth Fund as they are both coming to an end. However we believe that there will be a focus on Green Economy, response to Covid and future work patterns.

TJ raised points around Kickstart, how do we embed training, apprenticeships, supply chains as they are all a good opportunity to expand the £1 spent locally times 2 or 3 as opposed to exporting it to somewhere else. Secondly the community engagement might need to be aligned to the requirements on the new Planning White Paper – particularly how the infrastructure levy is going to be given out and how this needs to be considered locally, replacing the Section 106 payments.

	<p>DR – Kickstart programme is about sustaining business survival, so not much around added value, just keeping businesses alive. Difficult to know at the moment how much of the White Paper will come into law.</p> <p>DR raised the question that is something similar to the LEADER structures something that people would want to see continued in new funding regimes. Good programme as it delivered money into local businesses, perhaps a little expensive on delivery, but is this something that we should be promoting. Something for the Place Group to consider – how would areas be designated. MS highlighted that this type of structure of delivery is missing at the moment and is something that should be supported.</p> <p>PH – we are a big group and the delivery is where the working groups come in. We would not do the detailed work in a large group. We have an Energy Group, Natural Capital group, Connecting Devon and Somerset to advise on digital, we are setting up a study around market towns which will inform a Local Town deal, plus we have Ian and his stakeholders to advise around transport matters. It is these mechanisms that we need to work through to bring the programmes of work to this group. MS also highlighted the Rural Group as well.</p> <p>Comprehensive Spending Review Chancellor announced that there would be a CSR later in the year. Consultation was opened on it with responses by 24 September. Suggested response from the LEP going to the Board, this may also go to Joint Committee.</p> <p>Unable to share until it has gone to the Board but the headlines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on role and purpose of LEPs – Government requested Local Industrial Strategies to secure UKSPF however if they are no longer signing off LISs what will they be using to sign off future local growth funding. • Can Government clarify how they will be replacing EU Structural Funds and Local Growth Fund. Local Growth Fund for HotSW over the past 5 years has been in the region of £500m – this has been both EU and Government funds into the area. Unsure what the mechanism will now be. • Requested extension to the Enterprise Zones and additional funding for the Growth Hubs. Conversation going on between BEIS and Government around Growth Hubs which is looking positive. • Also asked for Government to commit to Skills Advisory Panels for the duration of Parliament. 	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Objectives and Key Results As part of the LEP’s review of Governance and Delivery, we are setting a framework of Objectives and Key Results to guide the work of each of the Leadership groups and also to judge performance.</p> <p>The paper shared with the agenda is a work in progress to develop information for the Place Group are of activity. As it stands, we have 5 areas where we have objectives to achieve during the year. We need to do more work to reflect digital infrastructure and energy. Hopefully this will provide a good mechanism for the Board to reflect on the progress of the Place Group. This can also be used as a way to be clear on performance and issues as they arise.</p>	<p>PH</p>

	<p>These will be kept live – milestones will change. We will keep this updated and share as part of future agendas. Any feedback would be gratefully received.</p> <p>MS – this is also why we have reviewed the group to ensure that the right people are contributing to the work. We also need to keep it under review in light of Covid and Brexit to identify what the changing issues might be.</p> <p>TJ – query around where employment sites and requirements sit? Could this be a task and finish group as it is a changing picture, logistics being an example. Need to align to this and be nimble in terms of providing the right infrastructure. Balancing this at the present time, using a T&F group with experts would be useful. PH – consistent with the employment land study. We will draw together experts periodically to provide feedback to the LEP around the commercial property market. We also ensure that we have a forum for the 3 Enterprise Zones to share and work together.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Transport Roads Investment Strategy Published by Government earlier this year for 2020-2025. Significantly increased resources. Includes the A303 schemes – expects to be substantially delivered during this period. Development of next stages for the next period.</p> <p>Three schemes are making slower progress than hoped for. Stonehenge Tunnel – Inquiry closed October 2019. Further delays around archaeological landscape. General technical view is to have confirmation in November.</p> <p>Sparkford – SoS minded to refuse DCO on information to date. Highways England have submitted further information which they hope will address issues. If DCO is approved scheme could be open by 2024.</p> <p>A358 Dualling – Highways England have now commissioned a designer. Decisions in November are key.</p> <p>Rail Services All franchises were suspended due to Covid 19 – all operators are on Emergency Measures Agreements. Significant challenge to rebuild passenger confidence – especially rail. Great Western – building back to full timetable. Extending emergency measures to 2021. Cross County – Franchise due to end on 31 October – unclear what is happening. Significantly reduced schedule. South Western - reduced service pattern. Additional local services not currently operating.</p> <p>Rail Enhancement Planning Waterloo to Exeter study completed. Exeter to Bristol route and Dorset route studies are underway Beeching Reversal – Exeter to Okehampton re-opening; Cullompton and Wellington Business Cases being developed. DoT very positive.</p> <p>Sub National Transport Body £425k agree to support strategy development</p>	<p>IH</p>

	Economic Connectivity Study published. Key studies to be progressed 2020/21 Western Gateway also funded on a similar basis.	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Open invitation to task and finish groups.</p> <p>TJ – Planning White Paper to be pushed through at high speed. Reforming planning is in the Government’s sight and how do we respond. Chris Balch to be invited to speak at next Place Group Meeting to provide an independent perspective.</p> <p>CDS to be invited to give update following agreement for continued funding. Contract currently being re-procured. This needs to be completed by the end of the Calendar year. There will be a number of announcements about what is coming through.</p>	
	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>10 November 2020 – 10am 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		Completed
Place Group Terms of Reference – review and update, as per recommendations of LEP board, and formal template	Next meeting	Paul Hickson	Will be circulated ASAP, with two week window to respond, and assumed signed off	To be ratified at next meeting
Review of membership of group, inviting relevant people form 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	Completed
CDS to be invited to provide update on Delivery Contracts	Next Meeting	CDS		

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