

<b>Report title</b>	<b>Place delivery theme update agenda item 6c.</b>				
<b>Purpose</b>	This paper is for <b>noting</b> and <b>Decision</b>				
<b>Link to LIS<sup>b</sup></b>	Inclusive Growth			<b>Clean growth</b> ✓	
	<b>Energy</b> ✓		Engineering		<b>Digital</b> ✓
	Ideas	People	<b>Infrastructure</b> ✓	Bus. Environment	<b>Places</b> ✓
<b>Non-LIS purpose</b>	N/A				
<b>Timing</b>	Report covers infrastructure and place related activity in period to end June 2020				
<b>Financial impact</b>	None				
<b>Decisions requested</b>	None				
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## 1.0 Summary

1.1 This report is an update about delivery against the LEP's infrastructure and place theme. This report will form the basis of a regular update to the LEP Board on priorities and progress related to this delivery theme, as outlined in the recommendations of the recently undertaken Board effectiveness review. The report updates on the work that has been undertaken since the meeting in July 2020.

## 2.0 Place Leadership working arrangements

2.1 **Scope of the LEP's infrastructure and place related activity.** The Place Leadership Group priorities have been reviewed against the Route Map to Recovery. The group discussed these priorities at their recent meeting and the working groups will be reviewing current and potential work that could be commissioned to deliver fast and tangible benefits. A current set of OKRs (Objectives & Key Results) has been developed which will be reviewed for each quarter and amended as appropriate.

**2.2 Place Leadership Group terms of reference, membership and stakeholder groups.** We have reviewed the membership of the group and confirmed with people that they are willing to stay on. We have also reviewed potentially 'missing' sectors and representatives from these have been invited to join, with a focus on bolstering the private, business sectors. We are trying to secure an additional Board member to be involved in this group. With Mel Squires as Chair, a separate representative from the NFU has been invited onto the group

**2.3** We have already established an Energy working group, a rural working group and a Task & Finish group for Natural Capital, for which we are also seeking additional technical support/resource. The Rural Opportunities Lead is currently being appointed. In addition, a task group will be convened to support the commissioning of a policy "think piece" concerning the future economic prosperity of market towns in our area, especially in light of Covid-19 recovery.

### **3.0 Infrastructure and Place work programme**

**3.1** The three new projects approved earlier this year – Boosting Mobile Connectivity, 5G Smart Sound Plymouth and Further Education Digital Accelerator Programme – are contracted and are about to go 'live'.

In addition a number of schemes in the LEP's Getting Building Fund have outcomes relevant to the Place priorities, including the retrofit programme. The 'shovel ready' projects will have submitted their full Business Case by the end of August and we have assistance from the Energy Hub to carry out the appraisals of the Retrofit projects.

**3.2** Appendix A contains a detailed summary of priorities, progress and next steps for infrastructure and place activity in 2020/21. Looking forward priority tasks for the remainder of 2020/21 include, all with plans identified and confirmed by the end of 2020:

- **Growth Deal programme**- monitoring and oversight of projects from the Somerset Rivers Authority, the local programme of local transport schemes across the HotSW area and digital/mobile investments;
- **Energy** – establishing with support of energy working group our key priorities and actions to progress.
- **Natural Capital** – currently developing a call for pilot projects which will also help to inform the future project pipeline;
- **Rural task group** – reviewing recommendations of the Rural Commission report, and in light of C-19 identifying priorities and work streams

- **Enterprise Zones** – updating with partners the implementation plans for each Enterprise Zone in HotSW area. Intention is to have updated plans in place for November 2020; and
- **Transport** – support efforts to rebuild confidence in the use of public transport post Covid-19. Contribute to the development of a transport decarbonisation strategy for the South West, in response to the climate emergency. Contribute to the development of strategic transport networks, including A303/A358 road improvements, strategic planning of rail network routes and proposals to reverse Beeching rail closures.

### 3.3 Recovery and Moving Forward

As we move forward into the Covid Recovery Phase we need to be looking at the 'Big picture'. The Route Map will provide a frame for the work against the Comprehensive Spending Review and we will be considering what could be commissioned to align to the delivery of Recovery. We will need to consider the rigour and detail of proposals and ensure deliverability.

Main areas for consideration are:

- Energy
- Enterprise
- Natural Capital
- Rural Productivity

We plan to create effective and responsive solutions, that are collaborative, positively impact at scale link into fellow LEP workstreams and partners, maximising investment and effort, which will start delivering results within a reasonably short timescale.

The first meeting of the Natural Capital Task & Finish Group took place last week with a range of stakeholders, including the Local Nature Partnerships and the National Parks. The aim is to work with them to identify some short-term pilot projects/actions that can build the basis for future work around Natural Capital for LEP investment. The demonstration projects will explore the links between recovery, growth and Natural Capital outcomes. We have a meeting at the end of September to discuss further and at this point we are looking for Board endorsement of the principle of the LEP identifying capital funds for this purpose and will come back with more details.