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**Report to:** LEP Board  
**Date:** 29 November 2017  
**Subject:** Land and Assets Panel

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## **1 Purpose**

1.1 To update the LEP Board on the work of the Land and Assets Panel.

## **2 Information**

2.1 The last meeting of the Land and Assets Panel took place on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017, chaired by Councillor Tim Swift of Calderdale.

2.2 The panel continues to focus on housing funding, growth and acceleration, housing policy and the wider strategic use of land and assets including, an update from the Leeds City Region Enterprise Zones and One Public Estate programmes. A summary of discussion and actions the panel considered are as follows:

### Housing Infrastructure Fund – Forwards Funding Expression of Interest

2.3 Three bids were submitted to HCA with ranking determined by application of government criteria.

2.4 After assessment by DCLG and HCA, the preferred schemes will be invited to enter stage two with an element of co-development with HCA/DCLG. In stage two there will be access to experts and constructive challenge via DCLG to help authorities develop business cases and submit by spring 2018. These will again be assessed and funding awards announced from summer 2018.

### Accelerating Development – Strategic Resources Support

2.5 A first draft of a proposition from WYCA, on behalf of partners, to DCLG as part of a request for additional resources to deliver Leeds City Region housing sites will be ready to share with Directors of Development soon and then the Land and Assets Panel at the next meeting on 5 January 2018.

2.6 The proposition is linked with wider LCR Housing Deal work stream to ensure there is an agreed LCR pipeline and strategic sites located to assure the HCA and DCLG that a viable, deliverable pipeline is ready, pending resources. DCLG is encouraging working on a wider geography which includes a city region form.

- 2.7 Members discussed the Chancellor Philip Hammond's recent visit to Leeds and his meeting with Leeds City Council officials.

#### HCA Update

- 2.8 The Homes and Communities Agency will be relaunched as 'Homes England' by the end of 2017.
- 2.9 The Chancellor announced an extra £2bn for Affordable Housing to focus on bringing forward existing sites and working with districts to identify new sites and projects, especially those stalled by viability issues.
- 2.10 Construction has been accelerated on HCA land within the LCR, building 160 homes at Glasshoughton in Wakefield and 130 homes at Whealstun in Leeds.
- 2.11 Under the Accelerated Construction Initiative (schemes from 50 to 500 homes) on LA land, 1,500 Expressions of Interest have been reduced to 220 with 23 submissions in the LCR. Submissions are undergoing due diligence, expected to be completed in late 2017, and projects will then be taken forward pending viability and resource necessities. There may be a second call for sites in the New Year.

#### Leeds City Region Enterprise Zones Programme Update

- 2.12 The next steps for the LCR Enterprise Zones (EZ) programme are expected to be approved at the Investment Committee on 9 November 2017 and then WYCA on 7 December 2017.
- 2.13 The panel endorsed the proposed EZ programme phasing approach and the proposed WYCA/LEP acceptance of DCLG Commercial Support Grant and outline marketing and communications programme

#### One Public Estate Programme

- 2.14 A presentation on the One Public Estate (OPE) programme was given to the panel by Michael O'Doherty from the Local Government Association. The programme is currently in Phase 6 with a submissions deadline of 3 November 2017. Future phases are hoped to be announced in 2018.
- 2.15 OPE's role was described to members. LGA and Cabinet Office regional officers have offered to act as facilitators to help local authorities identify channels of communication with government departments to remove any perceived obstacles stalling potential projects being developed.
- 2.16 Members raised concerns about 'challenging' asset owning government departments and were encouraged to raise concerns in writing as a Panel through OPE channels, which would lend them more weight. OPE has established channels with which to

alleviate property and site based complications between central departments and local authorities.

- 2.17 Members agreed actions for officers to coordinate a list of examples of stalled projects and seek advice on how to progress them.

#### Information Items

- 2.18 Information Items which were noted:

- An information report on the delivery of the One Public Estate programme (OPE) phase 4 and phase 5 schemes and preparation of the Phase 6 bid by the deadline of the 3rd of November.
- An information report on the Housing and Regeneration priority activities over the next 12 months.

- 2.19 The date of the next Land and Assets Panel is the 5th January 2018, Committee Room A, Wellington House, Wellington Street, Leeds.

### **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The LEP Board is asked to note the contents of the panel update.