
Report to: Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

Date: 26 March 2019

Subject: **Place Panel**

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1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To provide the LEP Board with an update on the work of the Place Panel.

2. Information

2.1 The second meeting of the Place Panel took place on the 31 January 2019. This was chaired by Councillor Peter McBride (Kirklees). The Chair reiterated that Panel aims to shape future policy direction with discussions at an early stage of policy development, directly influencing the work of the LEP and Combined Authority.

Placemaking

2.2 The Panel received a presentation on the potential for placemaking to form an overarching approach to the Place Panel policy objectives. The presentation set out some key ambitions for placemaking in the Leeds City Region, providing an opportunity to join together policy objectives focussed on setting out a Leeds City Region approach to place.

Housing and Planning Update

2.3 The Panel considered a report which provided an update on emerging national housing and planning policy issues and potential implications for the City Region. In particular consideration was given to a Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government policy statement.

2.4 The policy statement indicates that a geographically targeted approach to five funding programmes is being adopted. The methodology used to prioritise funding is to be based on the premise that areas where housing affordability is most acute (calculated on income multiples compared to house prices) are the areas most in need of investment. On this basis, most of the North of England would be classified as affordable and, for the five funding programmes identified, will result in the North of England being at a

funding disadvantage. The methodology does not account for the quality of existing housing options or the complex affordability issues that exist in the North of England which result in limited options for residents on low incomes to access a good housing offer.

- 2.5 Since the Place Panel meeting on 31 January, a meeting has been held with Tom Walker, Deputy Chief Executive of Homes England, to discuss opportunities for Homes England and the LEP / Combined Authority to work together in pursuit of shared objectives. In order to challenge the idea that the Leeds City Region does not face affordability issues further evidence is being commissioned to map affordability across our communities. This forms part of the Inclusive Growth Corridor work being undertaken by the Combined Authority. This work is due to be completed by late autumn 2019.
- 2.6 The Panel received a presentation on the Homes England Strategic Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23. Homes England acknowledged the difficulties around central government funding targets, but suggested that they could work with the Combined Authority to try to maximise potential based on the existing funding programmes available. The Place Panel supported further work to explore closer collaboration between the Combined Authority, districts and Homes England.
- 2.7 Updates on planning reform, One Public Estate, and Historic Buildings Strategy were provided to the Place Panel.

Local Plan Update

- 2.8 The Panel considered a report which provided an update on the progress and status of Leeds City Region development plans.

West Yorkshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2018

- 2.9 The Panel considered a report which provided an update on the emerging West Yorkshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2018. The Panel noted that West Yorkshire continued to have a high dependency upon neighbouring authorities for its aggregate needs. The Panel also discussed issues around the transportation of aggregates, particularly the use of rail.

Next steps

- 2.10 Further workshops will be held to develop the Leeds City Region approach to placemaking and the Panel's role in place shaping, taking into account the LEP and Combined Authority's work with district partners on connectivity, housing and employment sites, and identifying those issues which would benefit from an approach at scale across the City Region.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

5. Staffing Implications

5.1 There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

6. External Consultees

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the LEP Board note the work of the Place Panel.

8. Background Documents

8.1 None

9. Appendices

9.1 None