

---

**Report to:** Place Panel

**Date:** 30 July 2019

**Subject:** **Place Panel Workshop Feedback**

---

**Director(s):** Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications

**Author(s):** Judith Furlonger, Head of Housing

---

## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To agree proposed next steps following Place Panel workshop session with members and officers on 11 April 2019.

## **2. Information**

### **Purpose of the Workshop**

- 2.1 The purpose of the workshop was to define the role of the Combined Authority through Place Panel, so that it can add value at a City Region level to the work being delivered at local level. It was asked to consider the role of the Combined Authority and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in working with partners to create good places to live, as a key part of developing sustainable and resilient communities within a stronger City Region economy.
- 2.2 The intention was that the workshop provided a more focused steer on the policy areas where the Combined Authority can add value and dovetail with policy areas that are also covered by District partners. Areas this could include were:
- The Combined Authority's role through Place Panel to add value to local plan making across the City Region.
  - The Combined Authority's role through Place Panel to coordinate the development of a compelling spatial narrative, so that the City Region can speak with one voice, to support commissioning and bids for investment, given central Government's move to wanting to deal on a regional basis.
  - For Place Panel to enable the development of a stronger City Region identity, based on place functions, the role of different places and

understanding connections to and between each other – creating a shared endeavour to understand and grow the role of places across the City Region;

- For Place Panel to facilitate strategic understanding of the development of Local Plans and other regional and sub-regional place policy development, including strategic housing and employment sites, flooding infrastructure, and transport development, and to understand the resulting aggregate regional picture;
- For Place Panel to oversee development of a place-based understanding of barriers to development and provide a City Region evidence-base that can be used to underpin business case development for funding bids;
- How the work of the panel supports the creation of good places to live.

2.3 Place Panel has a remit to review and support work to unlock the full potential of the City Region and accelerate growth through place-making, including culture, sport and major events. At the workshop, attendees discussed how the Panel and Combined Authority could work with partners to create places where people want to live, work and visit. We have a rich, natural and historic heritage, a diverse range of towns with differing offers and part of panel's remit is to support the Combined Authority's ability to articulate and promote Leeds City Region strengths.

2.4 The discussion ranged from establishing the main components required to sustain and create successful places, through to actions we can take as a City Region to support district partners' work to deliver repurposed town centres and high streets to creating new housing markets and new places to live which are connected digitally, served by good quality public transport. In addition members discussed an immediate need for a Leeds City Region spatial narrative to describe different types of place, how places relate to each other and connect together to produce a stronger, resilient Leeds City Region.

2.5 The proposed next steps discussed were to:

- Develop and acknowledge that culture, sport and major events play a unique role in helping to inform and deliver the inclusive growth agenda and to assess how culture can be integrated and factored in to delivery mechanisms. A 12 month, part-time role has been created to provide dedicated capacity will develop the City Region's approach to culture, sport and major events and ability to contribute place making.
- Develop a unified spatial narrative for the City Region, building from districts' existing plans, in order to present the story of the region as a whole with a high level narrative describing the Combined Authority's role in Place, to provide a conduit for closer working with district partners to add value and support collaboration where a collaborative approach is beneficial to the City Region as a whole: "the regional glue". **The Combined Authority to coordinate and facilitate.**

- Develop an infrastructure investment framework – the first step is to develop the case and articulate the advantages of having an infrastructure investment framework. This would be a non-statutory framework which would clarify infrastructure investment focus and priority across a range of infrastructure types – transport, housing infrastructure, flood defences. **The Combined Authority to coordinate.**
- Explore potential to link and connect workplans across Panels, to ensure that the Place Panel work programme supports wider agendas e.g. skills, and vice versa. **The Combined Authority to coordinate.**
- Establish a link between Leeds City Region Directors of Development and Place Panel with a representative Director attending Place Panel meetings to support and shape Combined Authority work to develop a place-based approach. **Leeds City Region Directors of Development to lead on this.**

### **3. Financial Implications**

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

### **4. Legal Implications**

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

### **5. Staffing Implications**

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

### **6 External Consultees**

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### **7. Recommendations**

7.1 Endorse the identified next steps listed in point 2.5 above.

7.2 Agree the regular attendance of a Director of Development to contribute to and support the work of Place Panel.

### **8. Background Documents**

None

### **9. Appendices**

None