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

**Date:** 25 September 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 third meeting of the Place Panel took place on 30 July 2019. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Tim Swift.

### Governance Arrangements

2.2 Place Panel considered revised Terms of Reference which included references to clean growth, reflecting the new corporate priority. All other elements of the Terms of Reference remained unchanged.

### Place Panel Workshop Feedback

2.3 The Panel considered a report following the Place Panel workshop session with members and officers on 11 April 2019. The workshop considered policy areas where the Combined Authority, through Place Panel, adds value and which strategically joins and dovetails with district policy areas.

2.4 In summary, the Panel endorsed the following next steps:

- Develop and acknowledge the unique role of culture, sport and major events in the delivering inclusive growth
- Develop a unified spatial narrative for the City Region. This will build on districts' existing plans and seek to present the story of the City Region as a whole and describe the Combined Authority's role in place
- Develop an infrastructure investment framework. This would be a non-statutory framework to infrastructure investment focus and priority across a range of infrastructure types – transport, housing infrastructure, flood defences.

- 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.

### Housing and Planning Update

2.5 The Place Panel considered a report which provided an update on key elements of the Combined Authority's Housing and Planning Work Programme. The report covered:

- Strategic discussions with investment partners at Government and National level are ongoing with regard capacity building to support delivery of programmes. In line with National Infrastructure Commission recommendations for agencies to develop integrated approaches to investment to link and connect strategic thinking, the Combined Authority is exploring ways in which relationships can be strengthened with other strategic funding bodies.
- Building on the above, discussions are ongoing to explore a formal closer collaboration between the Combined Authority and Homes England as funding bodies for housing and transport investment. The aim will be to develop a joint strategic pipeline of investable sites both short and longer term.
- The Enabling Housing Growth: Brokerage Support project, funded through the Business Rates Fund, will support districts drive to unlock stalled sites with a particular focus on sites with planning permissions in place but not moving forward for a variety of reasons. Initial work has been undertaken to identify the type of support required to help district partners broker solutions to deliver permissioned sites and identify further specific support required to deliver larger strategic sites.
- The housing evidence base has been reviewed to support ongoing work on the Local Industrial Strategy. Further work has been commissioned which will map affordability across the Leeds City Region and explore the impact of lack of affordability and access to good quality housing options on residents and communities in the region. Procurement of consultants to deliver the study is on-going.
- The planning delivery fund allocation of £180,000 to support delivery of design quality in the Leeds City Region has funded a two year post to support and provide additional resource to district partners to improve design quality and deliver a consistent approach across the city region.
- Leeds City Region Housing Association Partnership in a second regional meeting, agreed a thematic approach to specific issues, work streams to be identified and actions to be reported back to the next meeting.
- The One Public Estate Phase 7 successful bid will fund two projects, firstly a project to facilitate NHS partners to bring forward a collection of small sites for potential housing use and a second project to explore potential to use Leeds City Region public sector assets for temporary use of vacant buildings and space whilst longer term projects are brought forward.
- Historic Buildings Strategy Group met to discuss a potential funding opportunity through Historic England's £40 million programme as part of

the Government's Future High Streets initiative. The group also agreed to continue work to bring together owners of historic assets, developers, investors and public sector funders to discuss delivery and promote the value of bringing historic assets back into economic use.

#### Towards a Zero Carbon Leeds City Region

- 2.6 A verbal update was provided in relation to energy and climate change in the Leeds City Region including the declaration of climate emergency and feedback from recent sector specific low carbon workshops.

#### Local Industrial Strategy

- 2.7 The Panel was updated on, and gave input to, the development of Leeds City Region Local Industrial Strategy which is currently being co-developed with government. The Leeds City Region Local Industrial Strategy will focus on bold steps aimed at boosting productivity and driving inclusive and clean growth for a post-2030 economy.

#### Culture and Citizen Experience

- 2.8 The Panel considered the ongoing activity of City Region partners to unlock the full potential of culture, sport and major events as part of a place making agenda.

#### York Local Plan - Proposed Modifications Consultation

- 2.9 The Panel received a report setting out the York Local Plan Proposed Modifications Consultation as part of City of York Council's commitment and duty to co-operate with strategic partners.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 None

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 None

### **5. Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 None

### **6. External Consultees**

- 6.1 None

### **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 The LEP Board is asked to note the contents of the report.

**8. Background Documents**

8.1 None

**9. Appendices**

9.1 None