
Report to: Place Panel

Date: 30 January 2020

Subject: **Feedback from the October Place Panel Workshop session**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide feedback from the October workshop session and consider next steps.

2. Workshop Purpose

The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for members to consider areas core to the work of the Panel at an early stage in development. Members considered an update on the development of the Local Industrial Strategy, and presentations on the following areas of work: raising design quality, securing sustainable travel improvements, securing essential infrastructure such as digital connectivity and flood resilience and developing and supporting the regions cultural offer. Panel were then asked to discuss the impact, ambition, challenges and opportunities of the cross-cutting nature of Place Panel work to ensure all aspects of place making are well planned, connected and environmentally sustainable.

Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

- 2.1 The discussion explored opportunities for the LIS to deliver activity in the following areas
- Space for businesses and academics to develop links and understand how to work together, including understanding suitable intermediaries between business and higher education.
 - Promoting the City Region as an attractive place to live, focussing on diversity and tourism, and articulating the distinctive geographic, cultural and economic assets of the region
 - Digital skills being key to expanding the economy and connecting places
 - Developing infrastructure in the right places to support economic growth

- Clarity on what we need to achieve to improve quality of life for residents

Raising Quality Design

- 2.2 Panel members were clear that raising the quality of design in places is key to:
- Improving health, including through active travel and air quality
 - Maximising the value of transport hubs and ensuring the region is well connected through rail, bus, cycle and walking infrastructure
 - Ensuring quality of the buildings and space for people to move through and spend time in, including neighbourhood parks, green space and safe space for children to play in, and where the rich heritage of our places is celebrated.

Securing Essential Infrastructure

- 2.3 There were a number of issues considered, including the cross-cutting nature of strategic discussions regarding infrastructure including the following:
- Viability being a challenge in urban centres, in particular with the high cost of development of brownfield sites restricting contributions available for infrastructure, protecting and ensuring flood resilient development.
 - Digital connectivity being regarded as essential infrastructure and for public sector control of the delivery to encourage access to networks and build programmes to roll out technology.

Cultural Offer

- 2.4 Culture, as a new area to Place Panel's remit, is an essential element of the regional quality of life offer which is again cross cutting with other areas such as quality of design and connectivity. Areas discussed included:
- Clarity on the role of culture in places and development of a strategic cultural framework to help deliver potential programmes to support cultural activity
 - Links with culture and community cohesion, strengthening communities and making communities resilient
 - How, through the planning framework, the role of culture could be embedded further at Local Plan development and as planning applications move forward
 - Capacity to support and develop a stronger cultural identity which draws in national attention

Next Steps

Members appreciated the complexity and wide range of issues and policies that need to be considered in the round. Panel expressed the need for members to be engaged in developing strategy and policy frameworks which support local interventions, and to define the Combined Authority's role in developing good quality attractive places to live, work and spend time in.

Place Panel will be central to developing and considering a number of key emerging pieces of work over the coming months linking to other Combined Authority policy areas such as transport and inclusive growth. Panel input into the work areas will be incorporated and reflected in the following key pieces of work:

- Cultural Framework
- Urban Design Support
- Developing a place narrative for Leeds City Region

Place Panel will continue to work closely with other panels, such as Inclusive Growth and Green Economy in particular, where policy areas impact on place-making and shaping. The Panel will also explore how to support new investment opportunities such as Future High Streets, Towns Fund, High Street Heritage Action Zones and Cultural Development Fund. It will also develop closer collaborative arrangements with key funders such as Homes England, Historic England, Environment Agency and other government departments.

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 To note the contents of the report.

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

None.