

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

Date: 10 June 2020

Subject: **Place Panel**

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

Author(s): Judith Furlonger

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board with a progress report on areas of activity related to Place Panel.

2 Information

Place Panel meeting

- 2.1 Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the Panel's planned meeting on 7 April was held as a virtual, informal meeting to ensure Panel members were up to date on the activity underway relating to tackling the COVID-19 Emergency and devolution update. This report provides a summary of the discussion.

COVID-19 Emergency – Place Implications

- 2.2 Panel considered the LEP Board paper on COVID-19 1 April providing an update on the emergency.
- 2.3 Panel discussed the impact on people and places including support for Local Resilience Forums (LRF) moving from an immediate response to a recovery phase. From a place perspective Panel considered how the future for towns and cities might look in terms of a 'new normal' with regards longer term affects such as:-
- increased home working with increased digital connectivity,
 - less public transport travel and more provision for walking and cycling
 - further contraction of retail and commercial provision in cities and town centres and repurposing opportunities to support the economy of places
 - the role of the Combined Authority to support increased resilience across communities.
- 2.4 Further feedback was requested from panel members with updates on the implications for ongoing workstreams to be assessed and provided for the next panel meeting.

Devolution Update

- 2.5 A briefing note was provided on the Devolution Deal announced on 11 March and Panel considered the commitment of £3.2m for housing over two years. The funding is revenue based to support districts bringing forward investment proposals for key strategic sites. The funding will provide capacity and technical support to assess site constraints and options for tackling barriers to development.
- 2.6 Panel also discussed potential capital funding routes to fund unsuccessful Housing Infrastructure Fund Forward Funding bids in Leeds, Kirklees and Wakefield. The recently announced Brownfield Fund as part of a levelling up agenda announced in the Budget, is subject to further discussion with Homes England and MHCLG to identify further options to deliver these three key large scale strategic projects.
- 2.7 Support was also highlighted for Culture and Historic assets with an initial £25m commitment to establish the British Library North in Leeds.
- 2.8 Other aspects of the devolution deal relating to housing and planning, including the development of a deeper partnership with Homes England, will be considered by future meetings of the Panel.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Further resource may be required for delivery of the housing pipeline but additional analysis is required to quantify the type and extent of capacity the £3.2m revenue funding can provide.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Staffing Implications

- 6.1 There are no staffing implications at this point.

7. External Consultees

- 7.1 None

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Board notes the progress being made.

9. Background Documents

- 9.1 None

10. Appendices

10.1 None