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

**Date:** 17 November 2020

**Subject:** **Place Panel**

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

1.1 To provide the LEP Board with a report on the work of the Place Panel.

## **2. Information**

### **Chair's Update**

2.1 Place Panel is invited to comment on and input into the development of policy across a number of items. The aim is for panel members to shape future agendas and to discuss at an early stage of policy development and to directly influence the work of the Combined Authority.

### **Place Narrative**

2.2 Following a presentation to the Place Panel on the 28 July 2020, a full draft of the Place Narrative was shared with Panel members. Consultation with local authority partners has commenced and Panel members were asked to provide feedback on whether the draft meets the brief and expectations of the Panel and to further input to refine the content.

### **Resolved:**

That the contents of the report be noted and that a consultation phase has commenced with partners.

(i) That any comments on the draft are received before 20 November of travel be endorsed for presentation of a final draft document.

### **Urban Design Support**

2.3 Helen Forman, Urban Design Manager, provided an update on progress of the urban design support programme.

- 2.4 This included the urban design capacity report sent to Place Panel members in February, bespoke support to a several planning authorities, facilitating a knowledge-sharing network, providing training, and advising colleagues on programmes such as Mass Transit.
- 2.5 Proposals for the development of the design support programme to reflect the changes brought by devolution and to take on board feedback from colleagues were outlined.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report and the progress be noted.

**2.5 Towns Fund Update**

Panel considered a report to update on the Towns Fund programme and a presentation on progress from colleagues from the Cities and Local Growth Unit. On 6 September 2019, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a £3.6 billion Towns Fund as part of the Government's 'levelling up' agenda. A prospectus was released in November detailing requirements for towns to consider in preparing for a Town Deal, with further guidance issued in June. Each selected town can bid for up to £25million.

- 2.6 Eight West Yorkshire towns have been selected to develop proposals:

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report and the progress at the contents of the report be noted and members thanked Lorraine Coates for coming to talk to Panel.

**Spatial Priority Areas Update**

- 2.7 Panel was asked to consider an update on the refresh of Spatial Priority Areas (SPAs). SPAs are the largest and most strategic growth opportunities within the city region and required updating to reflect both local and sub-regional policy / priorities. The refresh has been a bottom-up process with Local Authorities providing the locations and helping to revise the criteria to support a broader set of spatial priorities than was included in the SEP.
- 2.8 The Panel was asked to note the contents of the report and provide any feedback on this revised approach to identifying and categorising SPA's to be included in the emerging Place Narrative and Strategic Economic Framework (SEF).

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.  
(ii) That feedback on the revised approach was noted

## **Housing Affordability and Need Study**

- 2.9 The Leeds City Region Housing Affordability & Needs Study was commissioned in February 2020 to provide an in depth understanding on issues relating to the affordability of housing and its impact on access to good quality housing in the region. Nationally, using house price to income/earnings ratios (as used by ONS) many places across the City Region (particularly West Yorkshire) are classed as affordable. The study recognises that these measures do not fully take into account wider factors that impact affordability such as transport and wider costs of living, including the quality of housing.
- 2.10 The Panel discussed the implications of the findings for the region and provided views regarding the findings of the study and noted that further engagement with district officers is underway regarding use of the study in shaping policy at a regional level.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the views and feedback of the Panel regarding the findings of the study and further engagement regarding use of the study in shaping policy at regional level be noted

## **Housing Update - Brownfield Housing Fund and Revenue Fund**

- 2.11 Panel considered a report on an allocation for the Brownfield Housing Fund programme and to outline the assurance process for the programme (subject to Combined Authority approval).
- 2.12 The report highlighted the relationship between the Brownfield Housing Fund and revenue funding secured through the devolution deal and the Getting Building Fund.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report and progress made be noted.

## **Flood Risk Pipeline Refresh**

- 2.13 Panel considered a report to provide an update on the Combined Authority's pipeline of priority Flood Risk Management (FRM) schemes which form the basis of the Combined Authority's engagement with Government. The report sought endorsement of the updated priority schemes and asked for comments from the Panel to consider when the programme should to be submitted to government and the role of any potential external communications.
- 2.14 The Panel discussed the progress made and endorsed the updated Combined Authority's programme of priority flood risk management schemes for investment. The Panel considered what level of external communications

would be appropriate alongside the Combined Authority's engagement with government.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Panel considers how the programme can be submitted to government and that the updated priority schemes be endorsed.

**One Public Estate Phase 8 Bid**

- 2.15 Panel considered a report to inform that the Leeds City Region OPE Partnership had been invited to apply for One Public Estate (OPE) Phase 8 revenue and capital funding opportunity released on the 9 September 2020 with a deadline for submissions of **12 November 2020**.
- 2.16 Given the submission deadline Panel was asked to agree that the Place Panel Chair in liaison with Chief Executive Lead for Place Panel and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Managing Director approve a bid application by the OPE partnership (comprising all the Leeds City Region districts except York and Barnsley) by the submission deadline.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Place Panel Chair in liaison with the Chief Executive Lead for Place Panel and West Yorkshire Combined Authority Managing Director approve a bid application by the OPE Partnership be endorsed.

**Planning Consultations**

- 2.17 The Panel considered a report to provide information relating to the government consultations regarding changes to the Planning System. There are two consultations running in parallel, changes to the current planning system and planning for the future
- 2.18 The Panel discussed and provided comments on the contents of the report and agreed to endorse the direction of travel on the Planning White Paper consultation.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Planning White Paper consultation response be endorsed.

**3. Clean Growth Implications**

- 3.1 The work outlined in this report is vital to ensuring that the city region can create clean growth and decarbonise key sectors by 2038

**4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report

**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 directly arising from this report.

**7. External Consultees**

7.1 None

**8. Recommendations**

8.1 That the report of the work of the Place Panel be noted

**9. Background Documents**

9.1 None

**10. Appendices**

10.1 None