



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

Date: 27 March 2018

Subject: **Land and Assets Panel update**

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with an update on progress of the Panel's (LAP) major projects and programmes.

2 Information

Homes and Communities Agency

- 2.1 The Panel was given a verbal update by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on its funding and role as the transition to 'Homes England' reaches the final stage. Assessment for Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bids is expected to be completed and announced in February for Marginal Viability bids submitted directly by districts and March 2018 for Forward Funding bids submitted by the Combined Authority. Priority is being given to the earliest deliverable bids. Projects are categorised three ways: those which (1) can be delivered soonest, (2) need more due diligence and (3) are not ready at this time. The Agency's main focus is to reach the government's target of 300,000 homes a year from the current figure of 217,000 and to ensure that public land is used well.

One Public Estate (OPE) Group Update – Phase 6

- 2.2 The Panel was presented with a report updating on a Phase 6 bid of the One Public Estate (OPE) Group. West Yorkshire Combined Authority has been allocated £160,000 for two projects in Calderdale and Harrogate, and for continuing programme management by the CA of the overall OPE programme. Bids to the Land Release Fund were still being evaluated but it has been subsequently confirmed on 16 February that a Local Authority package of stalled small sites project (first phase) has been allocated £662,125 across four authorities to deliver 103 new homes.

Leeds City Region Redundant Mills – Feasibility and Investment Framework

- 2.3 The Panel was presented with a report on the commission to undertake a feasibility and investment framework for underused and redundant mills in West Yorkshire. The Panel asked that officers bring a draft prioritisation criteria to the next Panel meeting along with the final report.

Business Planning & Budget 2018/19

- 2.4 The Panel was presented with a report advising them of the work underway on business planning and budgeting for 2018/19 and the key elements for the draft three year financial strategy. The Panel noted that there was only one mention of housing throughout the document and this lack of prominence does not take into account how housing has recently risen as a political and national priority. The Panel's comments were noted and the Panel assured comments would be fed back as part of the work underway on the medium term financial strategy, business planning and budget for 2018/19.

Uniform spatial planning system

- 2.5 It was reported that the private sector is keen to see a more consistent, uniform approach to spatial planning and systems across districts. Members were informed that although there are joint projects around geographical data, sharing good practice and mutual consultation on local plans, there are no plans for a formal uniform system at a regional level at this time.

Offsite Manufacturing

- 2.6 Members asked about offsite manufacturing and whether the Panel can expect to discuss expansion of the sector in the future. It was reported that offsite manufacturing is currently largely coming from Manchester and members suggested this sector could be a part of the local economy, instead of importing. Members were informed that officers are to consider the issue on a Leeds City Region based offsite manufacturing pipeline of delivery in the future working with Homes England colleagues.

Malaysian and Chinese Investors

- 2.7 It was reported that there has been an increase in interest from Chinese and Malaysian investors in the regional economy and there is opportunity to engage processes to attract more investment from Asia.

Planning Delivery Fund submission

- 2.8 The Planning Delivery Fund was announced on 4 December 2017. The Combined Authority submitted a bid for £500,000 to the Planning Delivery Fund, focusing on joint working, design quality, and innovation. It has been announced that the Combined Authority has been allocated £180,000 for the Design Quality element of the bid to support districts bringing forward key

strategic sites and to explore a design approach providing housing options adjacent to transport hubs in the city region.

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 External Consultees

5.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The LEP Board note the progress reported to the Panel.

7 Background Documents

None.

8 Appendices

None.