

Summary Notes and Actions

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Christine Gaskell, as meeting chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. (This meeting is open to all LEP Chairs and wider participation is always welcomed and encouraged.)

2. LEP Review

- 2.1. Before officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) joined the meeting, LEP Chairs discussed areas they would like to discuss with officials, including an understanding of the timescale for the LEP Review to report.

3. LEP Review - views from MHCLG

Simon Ridley, Joe Manning and Jonny Wright from MHCLG joined the meeting.

- 3.1. Officials provided an update on the LEP Review in the context of the Industrial Strategy and the design of future local growth funding.
- 3.2. Government is reviewing the roles and responsibilities of LEPs - the Review will set out a more clearly defined set of activities and objectives.
- 3.3. The LEP Review is considering:
 - 3.3.1. leadership and accountability;
 - 3.3.2. institutional form;
 - 3.3.3. performance and transparency;
 - 3.3.4. geography, including reviewing overlapping geographies;
 - 3.3.5. the LEP role in Mayoral Combined Authority areas.
- 3.4. Officials noted the LEP workshop planned for 17th July as a good opportunity for engagement.
- 3.5. There was a discussion about the role of the LEP Network, and LEPs as a sector.
- 3.6. Government is committed to LEPs, the partnership of private and public sectors, as well as leadership in economic strategy, as well as sub-national approaches of Northern Powerhouse, Midlands Engine, Ox-MK-Cambs Corridor etc.
- 3.7. Simon supported an open dialogue between the CLoG team and LEP Chairs to help shape the LEP Network model, including responding to expectations in the LEP Review.
- 3.8. There was a short discussion on the Council of LEP Chairs. This is a positive opportunity for LEP Chairs as local business leaders providing macro messages on the economy to inform and positive conversation with the PM. CLoG officials will work with the LEP Network to support preparations.
- 3.9. On Whitehall Senior Sponsors, this is an opportunity to deepen a connection with Whitehall and local places. Simon is convening a Senior Sponsors group meeting.

ACTION: Warren Ralls will pick up the above with CLoG officials.

Simon Ridley, Joe Manning and Jonny Wright from MHCLG left the meeting.

4. LEP Chair Reflections

- 4.1. LEP Chairs welcomed the update from Simon Ridley.
- 4.2. It was agreed that the LEP Network proceed with plans for Tuesday 17th July.
- 4.3. Ministers leading the LEP Review should be invited (Jake Berry MP, Lord Henley, Robert Jenrick MP) and the Secretaries of State - Rt Hon Greg Clark MP and Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP.
- 4.4. Warren also suggested inviting Jeremy Heywood, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service.
- 4.5. The meeting can also discuss the role of the LEP Network.

ACTIONS: Warren Ralls to progress.

5. Council of LEP Chairs

- 5.1. LEP Chairs agreed that a co-ordinated communication will help to land key messages, and maximize the use of time available.
- 5.2. LEP Chairs agreed there should be a managed process where nominated LEP Chairs spoke first delivering the key messages, and then other Chairs come in. There would need to be a pre-briefing for those Chairs speaking first.
- 5.3. LEP Chairs suggested that Warren issued a template to LEP Chairs to gather their input on key messages. The information received can then be compiled into a briefing note for No.10. If there wasn't sufficient time for every point to be aired in the meeting, the briefing note would help to convey all the points.
- 5.4. Following the meeting, Warren Ralls spoke with CLoG officials. More information is expected to be sent to LEP Chairs shortly.
- 5.5. Warren is awaiting further guidance on how the discussion will run, and the themes that will be discussed, and how LEP Chairs will be asked to contribute their views.
- 5.6. Warren will gather more info, to guide the template to be issued to LEP Chairs.

ACTIONS: Warren Ralls to progress.

6. Role of the LEP Network

- 6.1. LEP Chairs agreed the proposed 'Ways of Working' where a 'Strategy Group' of LEP Chairs (covering a representative cross section of LEPs) will meet regularly on areas of policy and strategy; and that the three LEP Chairs who are Company Directors will be responsible for the LEP Network Limited 'company business'.
- 6.2. Assuming some time on the 17th July will be spent on the role of the LEP Network, Warren will seek volunteers from LEP Chairs to meet as a 'working group' to discuss further. It was agreed to use some time after the Council of LEP Chairs in mid-June.

ACTION: Warren Ralls

7. LEP Network Operations

- 7.1. LEP Chairs noted the operations report, and agreed the proposed LEP Network budget for 2018/19.
- 7.2. Warren will pick up the signing off of the 2017/18 Audited Accounts with the three LEP Chair Company Directors.
- 7.3. Ann Limb raised the proposed meeting with Rt Hon Anne Milton MP (DfE, Skills Minister). Warren is liaising with her office on dates, and suggested Monday 16th July the evening before the LEP Review workshop.
- 7.4. Christine Gaskell raised that the LEP Network is working on an event with women business leaders to help LEP attract more women to LEP Boards. This is welcomed by MHCLG. Ann Limb suggested she may have an interested sponsor for the event. LEP Chairs agreed that after this event, there could be more discussions on other diversity areas, e.g. ethnicity.

ACTION: Warren Ralls

8. AOB

- 8.1. No points of other business were raised.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

- a. 11am-3pm Tuesday 17th July 2018. (LEP Chair & CEO workshop on LEP Review.)
- b. 10:30am Tuesday 11th September 2018. (LEP Network Ltd. Company Directors.)
11am-2pm Tuesday 11th September 2018. (LEP Chair Strategy Group.)
- c. 11am-5pm Tuesday 27th November 2018. (Autumn LEP Chair & CEO workshop.)
6:30pm-9:30pm Tuesday 27th November 2018 - LEP Chairs Autumn dinner.
- d. 10:30am Tuesday 22nd January 2019. (LEP Network Ltd. Company Directors.)
11am-2pm Tuesday 22nd January 2019. (LEP Chair Strategy Group.)
- e. 11am-5pm Tuesday 26th March 2019. (Spring LEP Chair & CEO workshop.)
6:30pm-9:30pm Tuesday 26th March 2019 - LEP Chairs Spring dinner.

Meeting Attendees:

Local Enterprise Partnerships (alphabetical, by LEP):

- Christine Gaskell MBE DL (Chair, Cheshire & Warrington LEP) - *meeting Chair*.
- Mark Duddridge (Chair, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP).
- Mark Bretton (Chair, Hertfordshire LEP).
- Doug Field (Chair, New Anglia LEP).
- Dr Ann Limb CBE DL (Chair, South East Midlands LEP).
- Peter Read (Chair, Thames Valley Berkshire LEP).
- Dr Graham Wynn OBE (Chair, The Marches).
- Prof Steven West CBE DL (Chair, West of England LEP).
- David Kerfoot MBE (Chair, York, North Yorkshire & East Riding)

Government officials:

- Simon Ridley, Director General, MHCLG.
- Joe Manning, Deputy Director, CLoG (Cities & Local Growth Unit).
- Jonny Wright, Head of Local Growth, CLoG (Cities & Local Growth Unit).

LEP Network Executive:

- Warren Ralls, Director.
- Mike Dennehy, Communications Manager.

Apologies:

- Peter Richardson OBE (Chair, D2N2).
- Steve Hindley CBE DL (Chair, Heart of the South West LEP).
- Roger Marsh OBE (Chair, Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership).
- Angus Knowles-Cutler (Deputy Chair, London Economic Action Partnership).
- Paul Booth (Chair, North East LEP).