

## SUMMARY NOTES AND ACTIONS

### 1. Welcome and Introductions.

- 1.1. Mark Reeve welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Operational Decisions.

#### 2.1. Wider LEP Chair Engagement:

- 2.1.1. LEP Chairs noted to let Warren Ralls know of opportunities to visit LEPs, and where possible to engage with groups of LEPs.
- 2.1.2. The Board agreed to hold some management board meetings outside London. The September 2017 meeting will take place in Manchester and the February 2018 meeting will be held in Birmingham.

#### 2.2. Sports Business Council:

- 2.2.1. The Board agreed to a volunteer being sought from the wider 38 LEP Chairs on the basis that they sit on the Council as a collective LEP representative, and co-chair the sub-group.
- 2.2.2. It was noted the need to monitor any 'scope creep' if additional Councils are formed, which will bring extra work for the LEP Network Executive to support the Chairs on these Councils.

#### 2.3. Transparency:

- 2.3.1. The Board agreed that the LEP Network carry relevant information on our website, so we are also transparent in our activity.
- 2.3.2. The team will progress, including a link to each LEP's page of relevant information on transparency and governance.

#### 2.4. Finance:

- 2.4.1. The Board delegated authority to the Director to sign the MoU with CLoG for their grant for 2017/18.
- 2.4.2. The Board agreed the circulated audited 2016/17 accounts.
- 2.4.3. Barry Dodd proposed and Christine Gaskell seconded, that Mark Reeve sign on behalf of the Management Board.
- 2.4.4. Warren Ralls will return the signed copy to our accountants, who will file at Companies House.

#### 2.5. Future Funding:

- 2.5.1. The Board agreed to the proposed scoping paper, and agreed to the LEP Network Executive proceeding with commissioning the external support.
- 2.5.2. This piece of work would pick up some of the points discussed with the Minister on the future role of LEPs.

#### 2.6. 18th October Dinner:

- 2.6.1. The Board agreed that the dinner should be sponsored. It is important that no public funds are used to cover these costs. The LEP Network model should also show private sector support.
- 2.6.2. The Board agreed that Warren Ralls contact the existing cohort of sponsors first to see if they are interested in sponsoring the Chairs Dinner.
- 2.6.3. The Board decided that the dinner should be for Chairs only. If the Chair was not available to attend, their place should not be delegated to an alternate.
- 2.6.4. There will be a lunch session on the day for LEP CEOs / Directors to network with senior Whitehall officials. This will also be sponsored to cover costs.

#### 2.7. Parliamentary Reception:

- 2.7.1. The Board agreed to let Warren Ralls know of supportive local MPs who would be willing to host a LEP reception, for the LEP Network executive to follow up with their office.
- 2.7.2. Chairs suggested a similar reception in the Lords. Warren will discuss with Lord Haskins.
- 2.7.3. The Executive will propose a shape to the event, taking into account the best time of day.

Jake Berry MP and colleagues from HMG Departments joined the meeting.

### **3. LEPs post General Election - Jake Berry MP.**

- 3.1. Jake Berry MP started by saying “thank you” to LEP Chairs for their work, recognising he has seen first-hand in Lancashire the huge difference that LEPs are making.
- 3.2. His priorities include the Northern Powerhouse, and as Minister for Local Growth it is equally important to him that every part of the country is economically successful.
- 3.3. Chairs made the following points:
  - 3.3.1. In addition to the Northern Powerhouse LEPs are working well in other ‘groupings’ (e.g. Midlands Engine), and also on a non-geographical basis in areas of common interest.
  - 3.3.2. The difference LEPs have made has been in their convening power, and prioritising decisions based on business cases.
  - 3.3.3. LEPs are sharing best practice, such as through the peer review buddying.
  - 3.3.4. LEPs can bring a positive contribution to the Brexit debate, and should be involved.
  - 3.3.5. For areas where a ‘Mayor arrangement’ is not being sought, local areas are keen they don’t miss out.
  - 3.3.6. The future of Enterprise Zones was raised.
  - 3.3.7. Constrained infrastructure was noted.
  - 3.3.8. The appetite to which government is willing to take risk and if they are looking to invest in jobs or productivity.
- 3.4. The Minister asked for views from LEP Chairs on what the future LEP model would look like:
  - 3.4.1. LEPs stated that one size does not fit all. LEP Chairs were keen to come back to the Minister on what would work from a LEP perspective. The research we are about to commission will help this.
  - 3.4.2. Chairs pointed out that LEPs are successful because of business leadership, which needs to be continued and strengthened. Chairs understand the need to be accountable for the oversight of public money.
- 3.5. In summing up:
  - 3.5.1. LEPs welcome the government’s ambition for longer term funding and certainty for LEPs;
  - 3.5.2. It is understood that if more investment flows through LEPs, government needs a framework;
  - 3.5.3. It is vital to retain the business role in local decision making;
  - 3.5.4. Government should recognise that one size does not fit all;
  - 3.5.5. In the devolution agenda, an arrangement in one place may not work elsewhere;
  - 3.5.6. Government should involve LEPs in Brexit - LEPs can help realise opportunities.

Jake Berry MP left the meeting.

### **4. Industrial Strategy - Alex Jones & Tom Walker.**

- 4.1. Alex Jones gave a brief introduction, recently appointed to a new role that has been created.
- 4.2. The national Industrial Strategy will look to achieve a genuine sharing of productivity and prosperity across the country.
- 4.3. After the launch of the Green Paper earlier in the year, and a period of consultation (1,900 responses were received), a White Paper will be published in the autumn (likely late autumn).
- 4.4. Alex raised four main areas:
  - 4.4.1. How the Industrial Strategy helps the UK prosper outside the EU in the long term is important, with short term deliverables in productivity and jobs. ‘Places’ run through this.
  - 4.4.2. Reflect on if 10 pillars are too many, with a possible focussing on a smaller number of strategic themes.

- 4.4.3. There are also big challenges to recognise, for example in environmental issues, artificial intelligence, an aging society etc. - linking to businesses and places.
- 4.4.4. 'Place' is very important, both as a theme and also cross cutting. Industrial Strategies will build on SEPs, be forward thinking to 2030. There is a strong link to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 4.5. Chairs responded that many have or are about to refresh their SEPs, and LEPs are ready to go on local Industrial Strategies. LEPs operate in different geographies and collectively over a wider area. Alex said they will look at this from a sector perspective and a geographical perspective. Sector Deals must make the most of places. Alex said that LEPs are a key component at a local level. Tom Walker said LEPs are by and large the building blocks, with some things being aggregated up to a wider geography like the Northern Powerhouse. Cities and non-city areas are both important.
- 4.6. Chairs said procurement is important, recognising it is one of the 10 pillars. Procurement will help bring value and jobs here in the UK. LEPs have a contribution to help in understanding the supply chain, e.g. steel and commodities.
- 4.7. LEPs said there are also other areas the Industrial Strategy should consider, like the speed of growth, that jobs and productivity do not always work together, also premium brands where the value of the brand rather than productivity often results in more profit for the business. LEPs re-stated they are here to help and can bring forward solutions. Alex welcomed this, and said they are also working through the role of government.
- 4.8. Tom encouraged Chairs to be bold in coming forward with Industrial Strategies in this deal based culture - "make government an offer they can't refuse".
- 4.9. Alex Jones ended by saying the White Paper will be a milestone, it won't cover everything, and she welcomes ongoing conversations with LEPs.

Christine Gaskell left the meeting.

Alex Jones, Tom Walker and HMG colleagues left the meeting.

## 5. Transport - Graham Pendlebury.

- 5.1. Graham started by referencing the recent announcement of the Transport Investment Strategy released on 5<sup>th</sup> July, which he described as a "sister strategy" to the Industrial Strategy.
- 5.2. The principles underpinning decisions will be:
  - 5.2.1. the purpose of transport investment is to deliver growth, unlock opportunities (reduction in congestion), and bring forward housing;
  - 5.2.2. smaller and medium schemes often deliver the greatest impact .
- 5.3. DfT have a rebalancing toolkit against which investment decisions and allocations will be made that properly take into account the relevant data.
- 5.4. They are looking at how to help local authorities in particular to structure and put in quality bids, so small areas can effectively compete with better resourced authorities.
- 5.5. On Major Roads Network, the vehicle excise duty to 2020 that was originally ring fenced for highways investment, will now also include major works on the major roads network. Graham referenced the Rees Jeffreys work.
- 5.6. Graham reminded the Chairs that Jesse Norman MP, previously a BEIS Minister, is the lead Minister on day-to-day relationships with LEPs.
- 5.7. Picking up on the procurement points earlier, the Chairs commented that major investments can bring benefit to other parts of the country. Where the investment may not physically be taking place, services could be procured from other areas, HS2 as an example.
- 5.8. The Chairs questioned if future local transport investment would be part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Graham said nothing has been decided yet.
- 5.9. Chairs said LEPs have had a vital role in the selection and prioritisation of local transport schemes, where the decision has been driven by the business case. Where there are significant schemes on the

major roads network that are beyond the capacity of the LEP, LEPs are still keen to play a part in those decisions.

## 6. Previous Meeting Actions (31<sup>st</sup> May).

### 6.1. Transparency and Accountability:

6.1.1. Warren Ralls confirmed the team had done a review of LEP websites. Findings were being fed back to LEPs.

6.1.2. The LEP Peer Review / buddying will complete by the end of July. Feedback received from LEPs is that this has been a very useful exercise.

### 6.2. BEIS roundtables with BROs:

6.2.1. Warren Ralls to pick up with officials, how LEPs can have a similar level of dialogue, perhaps joining the regular roundtables currently held with the BROs.

### 6.3. New Chair Induction:

6.3.1. The Executive will propose how to support the induction of new Chairs; and retaining the learning from outgoing Chairs in some form of 'alumni'.

The meeting closed at 1:10pm.

## Future meeting dates

- 11am-1pm Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September (Manchester).
- 11am-1pm Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 (London).
- 11am-1pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (London).
- 11am-1pm Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (Birmingham).

## Attendees (alphabetical order first name):

- Barry Dodd CBE (Chair, York, North Yorkshire with East Riding) *representing Humber & North East LEPs.*
- Graham Wynn OBE (Chair, The Marches) *representing LEPs in the West Midlands.*
- Christine Gaskell MBE DL (Chair, Cheshire & Warrington) *representing LEPs in the North West.*
- Steve Hindley CBE DL (Chair, Heart of the South West) *representing LEPs in the South West.*
- Mark Reeve (Chair, Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough) *representing New Anglia, South East & South East Midlands LEPs.*
- Paul Booth OBE (Chair, Tees Valley LEP).
- Peter Read (Chair, Thames Valley Berkshire LEP) *representing LEPs in the Greater Thames Valley.*
- Tim Wates (Chair, Coast to Capital LEP).
- *DCLG:* Jake Berry MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State), Tom Walker (Director, Cities & Local Growth); Joe Manning (Deputy Director, Cities & Local Growth); Callum Whittaker (Cities & Local Growth) - for part of the meeting.
- *DfT:* Graham Pendlebury (Director of Local Transport); Bob Collins (Large Majors and Local Growth, Local Infrastructure) - for part of the meeting.
- *BEIS:* Alex Jones (Director, Industrial Strategy) - for part of the meeting.
- *LEP Network Executive:* Warren Ralls, Jennifer Gunn, Mike Dennehy & Jayne Atkinson.

## Apologies (alphabetical order first name):

- Angus Knowles-Cutler (Deputy Chair, London Economic Action Partnership).
- Peter Richardson (Chair, D2N2).
- Roger Marsh OBE (Chair, Leeds City Region).