

HotSW Joint Committee

Meeting date: 5 October 2018

HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST PRODUCTIVITY STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

Lead Officer: Tracey Lee, Senior Responsible Officer, Leaders for the Heart of the South West

Author: Eifion Jones, Programme Management Office

Contact Details: 07525 806334

1. Summary

1.1 To update the Joint Committee on progress in the Productivity Strategy's delivery plan and associated communications document.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- a) note the progress with the delivery plan – attachment 7.0a - and endorse its direction and content
- b) endorse the related communications document – attachment 7.0b - and the 'asks' set out in the Annex
- c) agree to delegate any final changes to the documents in the light of comments received to Tracey Lee, SRO (noting that David Ralph, Chief Executive of the LEP will sign off any changes on behalf of the LEP).

3. Background

3.1 Joint Committee members have previously considered the Productivity Strategy and requested a delivery plan to accompany the Strategy. Members have been keen to ensure this work progresses at pace. The first phase of the delivery plan is attached with this paper, along with a communications document.

3.2 The delivery plan is an internal document to enable the partnership to coordinate delivery across key priorities; the communications document is extracted from the delivery plan, is more succinct, and is targeted at MPs, Ministers and officials as part of continuing to raise the profile of Heart of the SW ahead of Budget 2018, the 2019 spending review and the anticipated launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund towards the end of 2019. Clearly the timescales are subject to uncertainty given the wider political climate and the HotSW approach will be reviewed in light of any developments.

3.3 Since the Joint Committee last met, Government has confirmed that Heart of the SW is one of 6 LEP areas in Wave 2 of developing Local Industrial Strategies (LIS). This is a significant indication that the area is meeting success in raising its profile and is due in a large part to the existing work on the Productivity Strategy and the close alignment between the Joint Committee and the LEP. First wave LIS have been concentrated on large urban areas and Government are keen to understand what a LIS looks like in a more mixed urban/rural/coastal economy; this was part of the offer from HotSW partners and Government recognition of this is pleasing.

3.4 Government has asked LEPs to lead on developing LIS and the solid foundation within the HotSW partnership means the LIS will build heavily on the work to date; the exact route from delivery plan to LIS will be developed in the coming weeks as the LEP works both with Government on the LIS, and with the Joint Committee on agreeing respective local responsibilities. With public consultation to form part of the LIS development in 2019, it is not therefore intended to take the delivery plan to widespread consultation before then. A fuller briefing on LIS work will be given at the Joint Committee.

4. Delivery Plan

4.1 The plan broadly divides into two sections – a ‘core offer’ concentrating on business support and skills which is available to all people and businesses everywhere; and a section focussing on the opportunities specific to the LEP area. Joint Committee members are asked to note that the delivery plan is continuing to be developed through the relevant task and finish groups and through various forums including the LEP’s Business, People and Place Leadership groups and the LEP Board on 18 September, plus of course feedback from Joint Committee members.

4.2 The delivery plan outlines existing work and that required in the future. At this stage the opportunities section contains half of the opportunities previously discussed by the Joint Committee: Digital (photonics); Advanced Engineering (marine; nuclear); High-value Tourism; Farming, Food & Fishing. Content around the core infrastructure and housing components is also being developed.

4.3 Work on the other opportunities is progressing with a view to updating the plan in early 2019 to incorporate Healthy Ageing, further Digital (creative & big data) and Advanced Engineering (aerospace) content, Construction and Defence. Place markers are included for inclusive growth and natural capital and again content will be developed around these for the early 2019 version.

4.4 In terms of the ‘core offer’ sections, the Business Leadership and Ideas, and the Employment, Skills and Learning sections have been populated and this information will continue to evolve. For Housing, Connectivity and Infrastructure, the information and outcomes from the Housing Summit will be used to populate the housing section; the connectivity section will be informed by road and rail priorities for HotSW and linked to the case for the Sub-National Transport Body, based on the Peninsula Rail Task Force agreed 20 Year Plan and the road priorities identified for the next Highways England funding cycle (RIS2). Delivery for digital connectivity will be informed by the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme. These sections will be populated over the next couple of months, along with delivery plans for the energy network and other aspects of connectivity and infrastructure.

4.5 Members are asked to note that this timescale and the next phase of the delivery plan will in part be dependent on the development of the Local Industrial Strategy.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Members are asked to endorse the progress and direction of the delivery plan.

6. Communications Document

6.1 The document is drawn from the delivery plan. An October event is being developed to share with MPs and the document will be accompanied by a covering letter jointly signed by the Chairs of the Joint Committee and the LEP. To ensure the document has longevity beyond the immediate next few weeks, the partnership’s key strategic asks of Government will be set

out in the joint letter – these are detailed in the Annex and the LEP Board has given its support to these.

6.2 The asks build on those discussed with Tony Bray earlier in 2018 and reflect the progress made by the partnership since then. As delivery plan work progresses and the HotSW offer strengthens, our asks of Government will evolve accordingly.

7. Recommendation

7.1 Members are asked to endorse the asks set out in the Annex to go into the covering letter

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no equalities implications associated with the recommendations. As individual project and proposals are progressed, and decisions required, the equalities implications will be addressed as part of the considerations.

9. Other Implications (Legal, Financial, HR, Risk, Health and Well-being, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Community Safety, Privacy)

9.1 There are no specific implications associated with the recommendations. As individual project and proposals are progressed, and decisions required, the implications under these headings will be addressed as part of the considerations.

10. Background papers

10.1 None

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.

Annex – Heart of the South West Partnership’s key strategic asks of Government

As part of the partnership’s increased lobbying with MPs and with reference to the Great South West Partnership several ‘policy asks’ of Government have been identified to coincide with party conferences and the Autumn Budget. These will be socialised over the next few months and are:

1. Recognition of the Great South West Partnership in the Autumn Budget Statement together with a commitment to co-design a Rural Deal - a ‘Rural Productivity Partnership’ with GSW following publication of Rural Productivity Commission Report earlier in the year
2. Strategic Connectivity
 - a. Confirmation of Sub National Transport Body/ (ies)
 - b. Peninsular Rail priorities – e.g. commitment for funding Dawlish
 - c. Funding commitment for A303 improvements
 - d. Superfast Broadband and 5G trials
 - e. A38/M5 Growth Corridor study by National Infrastructure Commission

3. Transforming Cities and Strength in Places bids agreed

4. EU Fisheries underspend proposal: an offer to work with Government to develop a proposal to utilise the projected underspend in the current EU Fisheries budget.
5. Nuclear Sector Deal (and others specifically Maritime and Defence) to have clear place-based elements/funding, recognising the HotSW opportunity in these
6. LIS specific: encourage joint working with WECA on Wave 2 Local Industrial Strategies particularly around connectivity and Smart specialisations e.g. Nuclear and Aerospace