

Land, Property and Infrastructure Panel Meeting Notes

At the last Land, Property and Infrastructure Panel Meeting on March 16th 2018, the main points discussed were:

a) LEP governance review

Ongoing review of LEP governance incorporating the following elements:

- more robust annual review process covering strategy, governance, delivery
- best practice guidance published Jan 2018 (register of interests, code of conduct, whistle blowing policy, confidential reporting of complaints and anonymous allegations, publication of meeting and agenda items). Worth noting that local authorities will be asked to declare their land and property interests, especially given local authorities becoming more commercial in their activities.
- new guidance expected on section 151 officer role
- assurance framework guidance has been updated

By the end of March - the conclusions of a ministerial review in relation to the role of LEPs.

Government stance appears to be preference for all LEPs to become companies limited by guarantee.

b) Strategy and Vision

Based on feedback from circa 2000 businesses, the consensus appears to be that we need a strategy which is:

- more ambitious
- more outward looking
- has an international dimension
- marine and maritime sector as a priority

Key themes suggested as a focus for the strategy are ideas (innovation), Business environment, infrastructure, place and people (skills).

c) Inward investment

This was a specific issue raised by Richard Soper (chairman), where this was sighted as an agenda which has not yet been satisfactorily resolved.

Response was that this agenda has been challenging for a number of reasons including:

- lack of clear vision or focus of our 'offer'
- too much internal competition within the region
- lack of resources and constraints of LEP revenue funding

d) Local Industrial Strategies

Summary slide of Government expectations of local industrial strategies touched on the following:

- focus on specialisms both in terms of sectors and international trade
- focus on clusters of expertise and centres of economic activity
- base on asset base / evidence base in terms of key strengths
- needs to have national and international context
- need to support wider regional growth

Interesting comment that local industrial strategies are not expected from every LEP.

Solent LEP seeking to work with other LEPs e.g. Dorset LEP around marine and maritime sector, visitor economy, coastal cities

e) Logistics Study

It was agreed that the summary findings could be made public.

f) Housing affordability

The Panel was minded to support this work financially (Enterprise M3 has offered £5k alongside Radian Housing who have offered £10k) but conditional on a discussion around how much Solent LEP could influence the brief and to ensure any findings were location specific.