

HOTSW SCRUTINY Committee – June 2021

LEP Chief Executive's - Update

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to:

- Up to date the Committee on LEP issues including:
 - o The conclusion of the Annual Performance Review
 - o What's going well (and what isn't)
 - o The LEP review – announced in the March Budget
 - o

2. LEP Summary Update

Successes

- HotSW Retraining Programme – Train4Tomorrow – one of only 3 areas nationally concluding– 850 participants, £1.7m – Round 1 programme now concluding
- Round 2 bid submitted across a wider geography – 22 Technical bootcamps confirmed (not yet announced) – still waiting to hear on Digital bootcamps.
- Business cases for £51m of High Street Funding confirmed – Plymouth, Barnstaple, Yeovil, Taunton and Paignton
- All 24 Getting Building Fund projects now contracted
- New business bulletin published - [HotSW LEP publishes Spring Business Bulletin 2021 - Heart of the south west LEP \(heartofswlep.co.uk\)](https://www.heartofswlep.co.uk/news/2021/03/hotsw-lep-publishes-spring-business-bulletin-2021-heart-of-the-south-west-lep/)
- High Potential Opportunities programme - Photonics delivering significant added value - [Heart of South West LEP awards almost £190k to local businesses as second round of grant scheme is announced - Heart of the south west LEP \(heartofswlep.co.uk\)](https://www.heartofswlep.co.uk/news/2021/03/heart-of-south-west-lep-awards-almost-190k-to-local-businesses-as-second-round-of-grant-scheme-is-announced-heart-of-the-south-west-lep/)
- Exeter- Okehampton line confirmed and on-site. Significant infrastructure investment at Exeter St David's.
- Eon Energy confirmed to deliver SW Energy Hub – Eco Homes Grant across HOTSWS
- March Budget confirmed Levelling-Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund to be delivered by Local Authorities – deadlines for submissions June 18th 2021

3. Covid-19 - Route Map to Recovery and Plan for Growth

It is important to recognise that whilst the incidence of the pandemic has been comparatively low across our region the economic impact has been stark particularly in coastal and rural areas. The LEP, local partners and the Growth Hub continue to work closely to support recovery and opening up of south-west businesses and individuals who have been hardest hit.

However, in the medium term the LEP remains committed to delivering prosperity through clean and inclusive growth.

4. Annual Performance Review (APR)

In May, we received confirmation from MHCLG/BEIS of our APR which concluded as follows – meeting note attached:

I would like to thank you for participating in the Heart of the South West LEP Annual Performance Review. I am writing to communicate formally the conclusion of the 2020-21 Annual Performance Review. The agreed note of the Annual Performance Review is attached.

As set out in the 2020-21 Annual Performance Review Guidance (December 2020), following the Annual Performance Review meeting, officials in the Cities and Local Growth Unit undertook a review to look at the performance of each LEP across the three themes: governance, delivery and strategic impact.

I can confirm the outcome for the three themes are:

Governance: Met

Strategic Impact: Met

Delivery: Met

To ensure job outcomes and financial targets are achieved within the agreed timescales, progressing Getting Building Fund capital projects remains a government priority for LEPs and MCAs.

This enabled offer letters from Government for Getting Building Fund could be released and notification of core funding for 21/22.

We have also now received confirmation of Growth Hub funding for 21/22.

Consequently our 21/22 Workplan was agreed by the LEP Board at its April meeting concentrating on Recovery, delivering our commitments on Getting Building Fund and the key transformational projects within Build Back Better and can be viewed at - [Heart-of-the-SW-LEP-Work-Plan-21-22.pdf \(heartofswlep.co.uk\)](#)

We continue to support Local Authorities on their local recovery plans and submissions for Community Renewal Fund and Levelling-Up Fund.

5. LEP Review

The March Budget also announced that there would be a LEP Review (to be completed before summer recess). Fundamentally there were 2 drivers to this review – with the conclusions of Local Growth Funding and EU Structural Funds, LEPs are no longer responsible for the distribution of significant amounts of funding taking away one of their primary responsibilities.

Secondly, in the light of delivering the Governments Plan for Growth, what was the role of LEPs? Terms of Reference for the review were agreed back in April with 4 key lines of Enquiry proposed as follows

Function

Geography

Relationship with LAs

Funding and Implementation

Broadly these discussions are developing sequentially. The functions group have reported back that Leps should have:

1. A strategic role, providing place-based economic expertise and insight to central and local government and helping secure long-term inclusive growth at the local level as part of the Plan for Growth.
2. To identify key local sectors and industries, and to design and deliver interventions to make them more competitive, making the most of local opportunities. The place-based growth this could unlock should be centred around the pillars and themes of the Plan for Growth, especially the UK's Net Zero requirements.
3. To deliver a programme of joined-up, expert and tailored business advice and support for local businesses, ensuring they can play their full part in the Plan for Growth. A consistent, quality offer should be available throughout the country.

Any further update can be given at the meeting.