

Sustainable Growth Board
10 March 2021
Meeting notes

Agenda

1. Budget announcement - new levelling up and community investments
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-levelling-up-and-community-investments>. This brings together the UK Community Renewal Fund, the Levelling Up Fund and the Shared Prosperity Fund.
 2. Planning Working Group – priorities and work plan
 3. Refreshing the ADEPT Housing policy position (see [here](#))
 4. Introduction to RWM
 5. AoB
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1. New levelling up and community investments – comments / concerns
 - Purdah – how councils will get anything in and agreed during purdah, or after with new councillors. Getting bids completed by June will be exceptionally challenging for a number of authorities.
 - Impression that the ranking of places won't be used to assess the bids.
 - Disappointment from those county authorities with Priority Category 2 & 3 areas. Was it worth bidding.
 - Challenge around LUF being aimed at districts and how you map that around other administrative boundaries. How do you get MP buy-in with competing districts? Or multiple MPs in a single unitary area?
 - Lack of understanding around how this links in with the LEPs. Recent announcements around potential role of the LEPs have left a question mark as to how we engage with the LEPs.
 - Questions around Pinch Point funding, where LAs have been asked if they want to include pinch point funding bids in levelling up bids before they have seen criteria for bids. Indicates that some of the criteria isn't aligned with what we thought it would be – councils finding it difficult to work out what priorities are and what schemes they should be putting forward.
 2. Planning working Group
 - This group has now met and drafted some Terms of Reference. These will be circulated before the next SG Board meeting.
 - Paul Barnard, Plymouth City Council, will be the chair.
 - The group will meet monthly.
 - The group has drafted the ADEPT response to the MHCLG consultation: Right to Regenerate (see [here](#)). It is now working on the response to the MHCLG consultation the proposed national design code.
 - If anyone else would like to join the group – please get in touch with Paul (paul.barnard@plymouth.gov.uk).

3. Refresh of the ADEPT Housing policy position (June 2018)
 - David Dale (ADEPT policy officer) outlined the current document, highlighting where he felt it needed refreshing / updating – mainly referencing the net zero target; Covid-19 and the Planning White Paper.
 - If any councils would like to put their housing policy lead in touch with David – that would be much appreciated (daviddale2401@gmail.com).
 - The intention is to refresh the document in time for the ADEPT Spring Seminar on 27 May.

4. Presentation from RWM (Simon Napper & Sonia Davidson-Grant)
 - See the slides for further detail
 - Simon outlined what he described is the largest infrastructure programme in the UK, where they were planning for 100 years into the future.
 - It is a national programme to find up to 6 areas that would like to consider options for geological disposal facility.
 - Anyone can come forward – it does not have to be a LA. RWM was keen to stress that the process is being driven by community interest.
 - So far two areas have expressed an interest – Copeland and Allerdale in Cumbria.
 - For further information, please contact Simon Napper, Stakeholder Engagement Manager (simon.napper@nda.gov.uk).

Topics for Future meetings

- April 2021 meeting - Town Centre Regeneration – Speaker Ben Ward, Futurgov
- May 2021 meeting – RTPi RTPi research on Net Zero Transport
- Any other suggestions or requests welcome – please contact James Chadwick (james.chadwick@staffordshire.gov.uk)