

ADEPT South West Sub National Board – 31 October 2019

The Chair updated the Board on ADEPT business following the Leadership Board on the 26th September. A draft ADEPT policy position paper on aviation will soon be available. The Board were encouraged to attend the National Conference being held in Bath on the 21 and 22 November which is an excellent opportunity to showcase the South West. Following many Councils declaring a Climate Change Emergency the SW Board also agreed to hold a regional workshop on Climate Change on the 30 January in Bath.

The Board then received an update on the progress of the Sub-National Transport Bodies (STBs); Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway. Two projects within the Peninsula STB have been selected to go forward to business case development – Marsh Mills MRN scheme and Manadon Junction LLM scheme (both in Plymouth). Furthermore, the A38 Bristol Airport access improvement scheme was also given the green light to proceed by the DfT; a scheme supported by both STBs and an excellent example of how the two STBs are working well together.

The Board then received three presentations from each of the LEPs; Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, West of England and Heart of the South West on progress developing their Local Industrial Strategies. Mark Duddridge the Chair of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP explained how they were part of the final cohort of LISs and had produced a draft consultation paper for discussion outlining some of the areas challenges, distinctive features and future opportunities.

George Margesson, Principal Economist and Jason Humm, Head of Transport updated the Board on the West of England Local Industrial Strategy (WoE LIS) which was published in July. The WoE LIS aims to build on an already successful economy making it more sustainable by minimising the effects of congestion and improving the environment. The West of England has developed an Action Plan to accompany the LIS, based on key themes and will be looking to lever in value through framing discussions with government, providing windows of investment for the private sector and supporting bid submissions to government.

Finally, the Board heard from David Ralph, Chief Executive of the Heart of the South West LEP (HotSW LEP). David outlined the priorities in the HotSW LIS and emphasised how it meets the Government's conditions regarding the five key foundations of productivity and grand challenges. The Board noted the synergies across the Local Industrial Strategies such as Clean Growth and Inclusive Growth. The three areas that HotSW has identified as potential opportunities include; clean energy, high tech engineering and digital futures. The draft LIS has been submitted to government and HotSW will be looking to continue the conversation with the new government following the election.

In summary, the Board's discussions showed how much progress the two STBs had made. Going forward it was highlighted that the STBs should ensure that they are joined up on other transport elements such as rail. The Board also noted the synergies across the LEPs' Local Industrial Strategies and the need to ensure join up across the top issues where appropriate.