

Leading Places Update

Purpose

For discussion.

Summary

This report provides members with an update on the current phase of Leading Places project, advises that initial work in support of a second phase of the project has begun and describes additional proposals for joint work with the higher education sector.

Recommendations:

That the People and Places Board:

1. **Note** project progress to date.
2. **Comment** on the design principles that might underpin an LGA-funded second phase of the project.
3. **Consider** the proposal from HEFCE to further develop two additional projects aimed at strengthening joint working between local government and the higher education sector.

Action:

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

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Leading Places Update

Overview

1. This report provides members with an update on the current phase of Leading Places project, highlights that initial work in support of a second phase is currently being undertaken by officers and describes additional proposals from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for joint work between local government and the higher education sector.

Leading Places

2. Leading Places is a joint project aimed at fostering place-based collaborative leadership developed in partnership between the LGA, HEFCE and Universities UK (UUK). The first phase of the project has been funded by HEFCE, who are the lead partner.
3. The project launched in May 2016 and is now underway in six areas, with academic and local government partners engaged in a wide range of project activity:

Pilot Area	Local Partners	Project Theme
Gloucestershire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloucestershire County Council • University of Gloucestershire • Royal Agricultural University 	Development of a 2050 and beyond vision and agreement on a range of strategic, economic initiatives to transform Gloucestershire.
Manchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Manchester CA • Greater Manchester LEP • Cheshire and Warrington LEP • New Economy Manchester • University of Manchester • University of Salford • Manchester Metropolitan University • Bolton University 	Focused around health innovation by building upon the work of the recent Science and Innovation Audit as well as the devolution opportunities from around the health and social care budget.
Newcastle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateshead Council • Newcastle City Council • University of Newcastle • Northumbria University 	Building Community Research and Innovation Infrastructure: Healthy Eating and Food Takeaways.
Bristol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol City Council • University of the West of England • University of Bristol 	Engaging with communities in Bristol, leveraging support from the newly elected Mayor and his City Office.
Coventry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry City Council • University of Warwick • Coventry University 	Reducing health and wellbeing inequalities through sport and raising awareness of health issues.
Brighton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brighton and Hove City Council • University of Brighton • University of Sussex 	Developing strategies to increase self-managed care amongst older people to reduce, delay or prevent escalation in the cost of care.

4. On 21 November representatives from each of these areas attended a national peer challenge event facilitated by the project consultants the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE). The event was well-attended and well-received and there was clear evidence of tangible progress in each of the pilot areas. **A report summarising the key discussions and outcomes of the event prepared by LFHE is attached at Appendix A. A copy of the presentation given by Professor Markku Sotarauta from the University of Tampere is available [online](#).**
5. Over the next three months each area will undertake further work to develop and refine their project in anticipation of a national conference on 28 March. The positive progress across the six partnerships has also reignited interest in a second phase of the project, starting in April 2017 and potentially covering a greater number of areas. In light of this LGA officers are continuing to support the current pilot and exploring next steps related to the design and commissioning of a second phase. **Board members are asked to note project progress to date. They may also wish to comment on the design principles underpinning a second phase of the Leading Places Project.**

Additional Projects

6. Encouraged by the progress of the Leading Places project and within the context of a renewed drive at a national level for stronger more inclusive growth in all places that draws on the joint contribution of institutions from the public, health and higher education sectors HEFCE have approached the LGA with proposals to participate in the oversight of two additional projects:
 - 6.1 'Local Growth Academy': This project aims to build the operational capacity and capability of local anchor institutions in order to grow their individual and collective contribution to local and inclusive growth by focusing on the professional, technical and managerial skills needed for delivery of practical actions. Subject to organisational clearance it is due to be formally launched at the end of January and invitations along with supporting information will be sent to all council chief executives in England.
 - 6.2 'Know Your Place': HEFCE will fund the Leadership Foundation to deliver a pilot of a new high level programme for senior leaders in both universities and local councils in the form of a two-day programme that will focus on understanding the context of devolution, why it matters for local anchor institutions, the strategic challenges facing leaders and what solutions can be found to work more effectively across sectors. This project is still at the early stages of design and is scheduled to launch in May.
7. As these projects develop the LGA will continue working with HEFCE, Universities UK and other stakeholders to align their shape and direction with the related activities and priorities of member councils. **Members are asked to consider the two proposals from HEFCE and comment as appropriate. Officers will report back on progress at a future board meeting.**