

Infrastructure Delivery Planning – where are we?

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21st June 2013

Infrastructure planning and delivery:
Progress and prospects

overview

1. What is the current base line of coverage of IDPs in England?
2. What is the likely role of LEPs in infrastructure planning and delivery?
3. How can IDPs contribute to economic and strategic planning and delivery for LEPs

1. What is the base line of coverage of IDPs in England?

- Reviewed all local development plans and associated documents in LEP authorities
- Took the presence of a schedule of specific schemes as a minimum qualifier as an IDP
- Did not count partial infrastructure delivery work e.g. for green infrastructure
- Did not include projection or model based IDPs where no specific schemes were proposed

Progress in 2011

	IDPs	% local authorities in LEP with published IDP	Sound/Adopted Core Strategies	% LEP las
1	Black Country	100	Black Country	100
2	West of England	75	Thames Valley	83
3	New Anglia	73	New Anglia=	80
4	Gtr Manchester=	60	Tees Valley=	80
	Oxfordshire City =	60	Gtr Cambridgeshire and Gtr Peterborough =	67
			The Marches=	67

Progress in 2013

	IDPs	% local authorities in LEP with published IDP	Sound/Adopted Core Strategies	% LEP las
1	Black Country	100	Black Country	100%
	Thames Valley Bucks	100	London	91
	Oxfordshire	100	Thames Valley Berks	83
4	London	88	Tees Valley	80
	Dorset	88	New Anglia	79

LEP areas doing well if IDP commitments taken into account

- Liverpool (100%)
- Enterprise M3 (93%)
- Heart of the South West (93%)

Main findings in 2013

- **the location** of infrastructure, current provision and future needs remain at the heart of the local planning process
- IDPs have become a core means in the local plan to support this process
- IDPs express the current, committed and expected infrastructure provision in the near term and as such create a platform for further **investment**
- IDPs are regarded as **‘living’** documents by many local authorities

However...

- There is little evidence of **duty to cooperate** with neighbouring local authorities or LEPs in the preparation of IDPs – this may occur but might be more overtly expressed
- There is little or no mention of **national** infrastructure proposals in IDPs; as there is a requirement in the NPPF that these are a primary element in the local planning process, it would be good practice to include them in the schedules where they have been submitted or are committed;

And ...local authority websites...

- IDPs are **very difficult to find** on local authority web sites yet part of the commitment to the **local economy**
- All IDPs should be easily available on la websites
- Overall the quality of local authority web sites which set out the position on the current local planning process is **poor** and needs to be addressed.
- Many websites do not provide basic information in plain English and for many an attempt to find even a submitted or adopted plan remains very difficult. All planning websites should undergo plain English tests...

The role of the LEP in IDPs...

As yet few IDPs are demonstrating the commissioning and funding role of the LEPs but this will need to be included over time as the LEP/local authority **strategic plans** and programmes are developed during 2013 and beyond

2. What is the role of LEPs in infrastructure planning and delivery?

- Main game in town for infrastructure delivery?
- Will cover all of England
- Delivering UK's commitment to Europe 2020 convergence is central to Cohesion Fund strategies – here first priority infrastructure
- Capacity funds available for LEP infrastructure delivery approaches
- Enterprise Zones will be sponsored by LEPs and also have an infrastructure role and first funds allocated

LEPs – governance

- Combined authority (Local Economy etc Act 2009)
- Joint committee under (s101 of 1972 Local Gov Act)
- Supervisory board (Heseltine Report Birmingham and Solihull LEP (2013))

- HMT response to Heseltine review – (April 2013)
- **no governance, no plan , no money**

Planning, IDPs and LEPs

Local plans will need to work with LEP plans because:

- LEP plans are plans of the local authority (Cathy Francis, DCLG NPF meeting)
- LEP plans will be included within EU Regulation which will be adopted when the EU's Multi Annual Framework (i.e. Budget) is approved i.e. they will have a legal basis

The key EU Cohesion principles to remember...

- **Cohesion** – edge to edge not just priority areas
- **Territorial Cohesion** – open decision making about locational investment and spatial equity
- **Integration** – all funding shown on the same programme – like the IDP
- **Horizontal Alignment** – working with neighbours
- **Multi – level Government** – vertical alignment of policies, programmes and projects

LEPs, planning and IDPs

- The IDPs of the IAs in the LEP can provide a starting strategic delivery programme
- Although no LEP has done this, a combined IDP for its area demonstrating existing infrastructure investment commitment would support the strategic plan AND boost economic confidence AND create a climate for investment

But...

- LEP websites hold very little information and in some cases are very difficult to navigate
- The majority of LEPs have not identified infrastructure as a priority
- The majority of LEPs have no working arrangements within their structures on infrastructure delivery
- The majority of LEP web sites do not include all their local authority members, have no weblinks to their local planning websites or their IDPs

Risks?

- Politics of priorities...need for new repertoire of local decision making at LEP level
- All capital investment is anchored in place, space and territory so risks if:
 - LEP infrastructure programme and the local IDP do not include the same schemes - will demonstrate governance fractures and potential problems, delays

3. How can IDPs contribute to economic and strategic planning and delivery for LEPs

Commitments

- Review national infrastructure projects committed
- Add regional project where committed
- Add in local IDPs

Required:

- Vision, strategy and evidence based requirements
- To meet LEP GDP growth targets

What are the implications of this?

- Those LEPs that can grasp the agenda will have the best potential to have governance arrangements in place to support infrastructure planning and delivery
- Those LEPs where progress on local development plans has been delayed may be at a disadvantage
- Those where planning and LEP remain separate may also have problems in combining these agendas later in the day
- Will the outcome decisions favour the prepared or the needy?

Conclusions

- Early days but need to ensure understanding about the combined roles of LEPs and local development plans
- As more funding becomes available then role will be reinforced
- Where local IDPs not yet prepared – skill sharing to fill the gaps or omit from any bids until available?

Questions and discussion

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