**ADEPT South West Sub National Board meeting 16 October 2018**

The South West Sub National Board met on 16 October 2018 and discussed progress being made toward developing Productivity Plans and Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) across the LEP areas. The Board heard how the West of England and Heart of the South West were making great headway as areas invited to be part of the government’s wave 2 LIS. Dorset also updated the Board on the development of their innovation strategy and evidence base to ensure that they are well placed for future waves.

The Board then received an update on the emergence of the two Sub-National Transport Bodies (SNTBs). The constitution and the collaboration agreement have now been agreed for the South West Peninsula and the evidence base will be developed over the next 18 months. The next meeting of the shadow SNTB will be held on 8 November. The Western Gateway had their inaugural members’ meeting on 28 September, where the West of England Combined Authority was appointed as the lead authority. The production of their regional evidence base is going to be developed between now and March 2019.

This discussion highlighted a number of key points; the importance of strong relationships with LEPs and the need for cross-boundary working on large strategic projects. It was also stressed that ensuring alignment between the LEP evidence base and others such as transport evidence was key. It is clear that good progress has been made on the establishment of the two STBs in the South West and a request to the Western Gateway for a co-opted member for the Peninsula STB is being sought to ensure continued collaboration going forward.

David Glinos and Charles Small attended from the Department for Transport to provide their views on the progress of the SNTBs and were complementary about the rapid progress being made in the South West. The Board welcomed Charles Small who is now the DfT lead on English Devolution Policy, SNTBs and Transforming Cities. The DfT thanked the group for the response to the Major Road Network national consultation and highlighted that they anticipated that the government’s response would be published shortly. RIS2 remains on track and the document detailing the schemes is still due to be released at the end of 2019.

**Lucy Davis**

**Secretary**