

**DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**25 SEPTEMBER 2018 FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.00 PM**

**ATLAS ELEKTRONIK, DORSET INNOVATION PARK, WINFRITH NEWBURGH, DORCHESTER, DT2 8ZB**

**MINUTES**

**Board Attendees:**

Alison Moore (AM)  
Andrew Wickham (AW)  
Emma Hunt (EH)  
Ian Girling (IG)  
Cllr Janet Walton (JW)  
Jim Andrews (JA)  
Jim Stewart (JS) (Chair)  
Cllr John Beesley (JB)  
Luke Rake (LR)  
Nick Brook (NB)  
Nick Gaines (NG)  
Nigel Evans (NE)  
Paul Read (PR)  
Cllr Rebecca Knox (RK)  
Richard Smith (RS)  
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)

**Also Present:**

Catherine Bonnet (CB) (Dorset LEP)  
Alex Crook (AC) (BEIS)  
Andrew Flockhart (AF) (Borough of Poole)  
Bill Cotton (BC) (Bournemouth Borough Council)  
Dave Barnes (DB) (Christchurch and East Dorset Council)  
Katherine May (KM) (Dorset LEP)  
Lorna Carver (LC) (Dorset LEP)  
Matthew Piles (MP) (Dorset County Council)  
Richard Bates (RB) (Dorset County Council)  
Rob Dunford (RD) (Dorset LEP)

**Apologies:**

John Sutcliffe (JSu)  
Cllr Gary Suttle (GS)  
Sara Uzzell (SU)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Cllr Gary Suttle (Cllr Flower in attendance), John Sutcliffe, Sara Uzzell</p> <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>IG declared an interest in item 4.1 – Dorset Gateway            LR declared an interest in item 4.1 – Growing Places fund            AW declared an interest in item 4.1 – Lansdowne</p>	
2.	<p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. JS confirmed that all actions had been completed and one action will be detailed in agenda item 3.2</p> <p>Kim Slowe has resigned as a Board member for personal reasons. JS thanked him for his contribution to the Board.</p> <p><b>The Board confirmed they were happy to approve the appointment of Sara Uzzell as Deputy Chair to the Board.</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	
3.1	<p><b>Strategy Overview</b></p> <p>LC talked through the strategy overview paper and presented each Board member with printed versions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Intent for Dorset</li> <li>• Dorset's Economic Ambition</li> <li>• 2017/18 Annual Report</li> <li>• Horizon 2038 (draft)</li> </ul> <p>The first 3 documents will be made available on the Dorset LEP website, the Horizon 2038 document is still in its early stages and LC requested Board members to engage in the consultation process.</p> <p>LC also presented a 1 page overview of the Dorset LEP Strategy landscape.</p> <p>AF informed the Board that the local authorities are working on producing two reports, one detailing the planned infrastructure within local plans etc. that is currently unfunded, but will be required to deliver our intended growth. The other to look at infrastructure needed to deliver new local plans after Local Government Reorganisation. A paper will be presented to shadow cabinets in the next couple of months and will provide further evidence for Dorset LEP.</p> <p>Nick Gaines offered his support to help with the strategy process.</p> <p><b>The Board approved the recommendations in the paper:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board to be reminded on the strategy development work.</b></li> <li>• <b>Board to get involved in the consultation work on Horizon 2038</b></li> <li>• <b>The Board to agree the Local Industrial Strategy process as detailed in this paper.</b></li> </ul>	

3.2	<p><b>Strengthened LEPs Review</b></p> <p>JS talked to the Board paper on the Strengthened LEPs review, and focused discussion on geography of LEPs. The LEP review specifies that geography of LEPs should reflect functional economic market areas, remove overlaps and discuss mergers where appropriate. JS has been appointed to the LEP Network Chairs geography working group to work through this.</p> <p>Nigel Jump (BU) has completed a piece of work examining Dorset's economy and it has concluded that Dorset is a functional economic market area of significant size and scale. Dorset has no overlaps to remove.</p> <p>JS confirmed that a response to Government will be finalised and submitted by the 28 September deadline.</p>	
3.2	<p><b>National Parks</b></p> <p>Several Board members have been asked individually for their support of the proposed National Park and asked for a discussion at the Dorset LEP Board in order to make a collective decision on position. It is likely that the Secretary of State will make a decision on the National Park application in early 2019.</p> <p>CB talked through the paper and the recommendations that were presented and opened up for Board members to discuss.</p> <p>Board members raised a number of concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Reform is reducing local authorities and this would effectively add another one</li> <li>• Another planning authority would be confusing to businesses and local people</li> <li>• Impact of the National Park on increase to house prices, as this is already an issue for Dorset</li> <li>• Impact on ability to increase housing growth</li> <li>• Funding that the National Park would receive would be better suited to go to existing bodies such as AONB</li> <li>• There is already a distinct brand for Dorset (Jurassic Coast etc.) would National Park dilute this</li> </ul> <p><b>The Board approved the recommendations in the paper:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At this stage the Dorset LEP Board supports the position that it is not convinced of the business case for economic growth by the creation of a National Park for Dorset and East Devon.</b></li> <li>• <b>That the Board request that the Dorset Tourism Association take a view of the benefits or otherwise of a National Park to tourism in the area.</b></li> <li>• <b>That the Dorset LEP consults and liaises with Dorset Nature Partnership in its work to manage, enhance and protect the environment including identifying opportunities to maximise investment to support these activities in a way that is appropriate for Dorset.</b></li> </ul>	
3.3	<p><b>Partnership Working</b></p> <p>RD talked through the strategic partnership working paper which highlighted where Dorset LEP is working across various LEP and regional boundaries, notably on Great South West and Innovation South initiatives.</p>	

	<p>IG highlighted that the five chambers in the South West came together to form an official alliance and committed their full support to Great South West.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Delivery Update (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</b></p> <p>RD talked through the paper and gave an update on delivery through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Growth Fund</li> <li>• Growing Places Fund</li> <li>• Dorset Gateway</li> <li>• Dorset Innovation Park</li> <li>• Careers and Enterprise Company – Enterprise Advisor network</li> </ul> <p>RD highlighted to the Board that back in March 2015 the Board agreed that the programme team should report by exception. Therefore, the Board only receives information to make decisions, or exception reports if there has been a change in expected delivery and as a result good news is not formally shared. Dorset LEP will be creating an internal newsletter to share the numerous highlights of Dorset LEP's delivery in the months in between board meetings.</p> <p>RD highlighted that since writing the Board papers Hurn Roundabout will now complete on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, as per the original timeline and is no longer an amber risk for time.</p> <p>There was discussion about the amber reputational risk relating to the A338 Blackwater works and JB thanked DCC's Cllr Daryl Turner for his letter and response. Dorset LEP are continuing to work with DCC and BBC on a communications protocol and plan. JS mentioned that a letter has been received from Christopher Chope MP and JS has responded. The response will be circulated along with the FAQs to all Board members to have the detail.</p> <p>JA raised a question regarding bringing the governance for Wallisdown Road project under the BIG Programme structure due to their being wider stakeholders involved. RD to discuss with JA directly.</p> <p><b>The Board approved the recommendations in the paper:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation: that the Dorset LEP Board accepts the recommendations from the independent assessment and approves progressing Lansdowne Business district due diligence to Grant Agreement stage.</b></li> <li>• <b>Recommendation: that the Dorset LEP Board accepts the recommendations from the independent assessment and revised business case and approves progressing Gillingham due diligence to Grant Agreement stage.</b></li> <li>• <b>Recommendation: Dorset LEP Board accepts the recommendations from the GPF Steering Group and approves the project to receive a £250,000 loan from the Growing Places Fund.</b></li> </ul> <p>LR reiterated his conflict of interest for the Growing Places Fund and left the room whilst the project was considered and decision was made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation: Dorset LEP Board accepts the recommendations from the GPF Steering Group and approves the project to receive a £1,634,000 loan from the Growing Places Fund.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>KH</b></p> <p><b>RD/ JA</b></p>

	<p>RS asked to clarify whether Canford Renewable Energy are connected to Canford Environmental.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation: Dorset LEP work with the accountable body on the Ultrafast contract and DCC to seek alternative delivery options.</b></li> </ul>	<b>RD</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Governance</b>	
5.1	<p><b>Budget (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</b></p> <p>LC talked through the budget paper.</p> <p>LC to revise wording regarding staffing reserve following a suggestion from JA.</p> <p>LC highlighted that within the Strengthened LEPs Review there is the opportunity to bid for an additional £200k revenue funding, linked to LEP's implementing the Review's recommendations.</p>	<b>LC</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Papers for Information</b>	
6.1	<p><b>Sub Group Updates (Some papers are Commercial in Confidence - Board Members Only)</b></p> <p>The Board noted the papers.</p> <p>LC raised that Dorset LEP would trial a highlight report for sub-group updates to pull out the key highlights.</p>	
6.2	<p><b>Communications Update</b></p> <p>The Board noted the paper.</p>	
6.3	<p><b>Local Nature Partnership Update</b></p> <p>The Board noted the paper.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>Nothing raised.</p> <p>Note: Date of Next Meeting - 22 November 2018 at The Tank Museum, Bovington</p>	