

**DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING**
**25 MAY FROM 13.30 TO 16.00**
**ZOOM MEETING**
**AGENDA**

Time	Page No	Item	Subject/Title	Presenter	Recommendation
1330		1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Buffon	
1335	3	2.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising, Forward Plan, Board papers Exec Summary and Investment Prospectus	Cecilia Buffon	
1350	13	3.	Director's Update	Lorna Carver	None - for information only
1400		4.	Strategy Update	Lorna Carver	None - for information only - presentation given
		<b>5.</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
1420	16	5.1	Communications Update	Corrina Osborne	None - for information only
1425	18	5.2	Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee	Corrina Osborne	To note the update on the LEP Review and the Committee's view that there is currently no financial risk associated with this and that activity should continue and the project pipeline be developed.
1435	20	5.3	Performance and Investment Committee	Daniela Doncakova	None - for information only
1450	211	5.4	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Corrina Osborne	None - for information only
		<b>6.</b>	<b>Strategy</b>		
1455	22	6.1	Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee	Finn Morgan	None - for information only

1500	29	6.2	Skills Advisory Panel and Board	Rebecca Davies	None - for information only
1510	33	6.3	Strategic Infrastructure Committee: Energy Update	Corrina Osborne	None - for information only
1520	35	6.4	Enterprise Zone Committee	Corrina Osborne	None - for information only
		<b>7.</b>	<b>Advisory Groups</b>		
1530	37	7.1	Advisory Group Updates		None - for information only
		<b>8.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>		
1540					

**Note: Date of Next Meeting - 22 July 2021**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**25 MARCH 2021 AT 10.00 AM**

### **ZOOM MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Board Attendees:**

Andrew Wickham (AW)  
Diane Grannell (DG)  
Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)  
Cecilia Bufton (CB) (Chair)  
Emma Hunt (EH)  
Jim Andrews (JA)  
Jim Stewart (JS)  
John Sutcliffe (JSu)  
Luke Rake (LR)  
Nick Gaines (NG)  
Sara Uzzell (SU)  
Sophia Story (SS)  
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)  
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)

#### **Also Present:**

Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)  
Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)  
Daniela Doncakova (DD) (Dorset LEP)  
David Walsh (Dorset Council)  
Elizabeth Spence (ES) (BEIS)  
Finn Morgan (FM) (Dorset LEP)  
Graham Farrant (GF) (BCP Council)  
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)  
Lorna Carver (LC) (Dorset LEP)  
Cllr Philip Broadhead (BCP Council)  
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)

#### **Apologies:**

Arabella Lewis-Smith (AL)  
Ian Girling (IG)  
Cllr John Beesley (JB)  
Nicola Newman (NN)  
Paul Read (PR)

#### **Presenting:**

Thomas Webb - Deputy Director UK Regions, Department for International Trade  
Rob Emony - Partnership Manager, Department for International Trade  
Samantha Richardson - Great South West Tourism Partnership  
Richard Smith - Dorset Tourism Association  
Jason Clark, DCA Public Relations

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Bella Lewis-Smith, Ian Girling, Cllr John Beesley, Nicola Newman and Paul Read.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest:                      JS in relation to the Getting Building Fund item 5.3                      DG for all items relating to B&amp;P College                      LR for all items relating to Kingston Maurward College                      EH for all items relating to the Arts University Bournemouth                      JA for all items relating to Bournemouth University</p> <p>CB mentioned that if any Board member had any items to add to the agenda or questions on the papers to get in touch with LC.</p>	
2.	<p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3	<p><b>Director's Update</b></p> <p>LC gave explained that there is a correction to be made to the paper regarding the funding for Boscombe, this is actually £21.7m and not £27.1m.</p> <p>LC updated the Board that Dorset LEP has been doing a huge amount of work around business support and the business support function has continued to expand.</p> <p>LC informed the Board that the Annual Performance Review with BEIS went well and there are no anticipated changes to the indicative positive outcome when the formal notification is provided.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Guest Presentations</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Presentation from the Great South West Tourism Partnership</b></p> <p>Samantha Richardson (SR), from the Great South West Tourism partnership gave a presentation to the Board. Richard Smith also joined for this item.</p> <p>She explained that The Great South West Tourism Partnership, including Dorset LEP, have commissioned the National Coastal Tourism Academy to prepare a GSWTP Recovery plan and tourism zone pilot proposal to support the recovery of the sector post Covid-19 and ensure that recovery is aligned to the long-term ambitions of the partnership.</p> <p>SR provided an update on the work undertaken to date, the developing themes of the recovery plan and tourism zone proposal and the ask of government for support for the Great South West Tourism Partnership. She informed that 48% of tourism spend occurs in July and August. SR mentioned a proposed 'Evergreen Loan fund' where businesses apply for a loan through the fund and only pay back the loan when they meet certain performance measures. This has worked really well in Ireland.</p> <p>This question was asked why only £5m is being asked of government given Dorset's contribution to the economy from tourism. It was explained that the ask is to cover the next 18 months and some pilot projects to build the case for more significant investment. The £5m will help get the structure for the future asks.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
<b>4.</b>	<b>Guest Presentations Cont'd</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Presentation from the Great South West Tourism Partnership Cont'd</b></p> <p>JS asked whether marine leisure was mentioned in the plan, as Poole Harbour has seen a massive surge and this is happening all along the south coast. There has been a surge in small boat purchases and is a sector that is strong at the moment.</p> <p>SU explained that the historical challenge has been the fragmentation of the tourism sector. If there is a strong tourism sector that offers something all year round, we can attract other industries. Aiming big, connecting to create a broader strategy and linking everything up, can attract new businesses and staff.</p> <p>SR asked the Board to continue to support the evolving work of the Great South West Tourism Partnership and commit to discuss ways in which the LEP can support the Recovery Plan and asks of government once the report is finalised at end of March 2021.</p> <p><b>Action: KH to circulate a copy of SR's presentation to the Board.</b></p> <p><b>SR and RS left the meeting at 10.41</b></p>	KH
4.2	<p><b>Presentation from Department for International Trade</b></p> <p>Thomas Webb, introduced himself and explained he is the Deputy Director for Southern England for the Department for International Trade. He gave a presentation providing an overview of the Department's work in the region. He explained what the region does, the trade agreements and support available to regional businesses including the departmental programmes, the investment strategy, High Potential Investment Opportunities within Dorset and the work behind levelling up in the region.</p> <p>TW explained there are nine trade commissioners, who are at ambassadorial level, and cover the nine regions of the world. In the South West there is a team of professional trade advisors. They work with businesses to connect them with a central buyer, help them with overcoming issues with paperwork. The sector focussed teams work closely with the Department for Business to help ensure investment and trade happens in the best way possible. He mentioned the trade agreement and sector campaigns and ran through the different programmes.</p> <p>He ran through the process of the high potential investment opportunities. In Dorset, there is one confirmed and one in the pipeline. Aquaculture has seven active projects in the pipeline. These have been stalled slightly due to the current world event but hope that these will land over the next eighteen months or so. There is also a Marine Autonomy HPO in Dorset and along the whole of the south west.</p> <p>TW informed that he received additional funding in the budget for levelling up in the south west and that he has recruited more investment specialists who are actively working to increase trade and investment into the region.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
<b>4.</b>	<b>Guest Presentations Cont'd</b>	
4.2	<p><b>Presentation from Department for International Trade Cont'd</b></p> <p>EH asked about the investment opportunities strategy and the levelling up funding which seem to have a different set of sectors. TW explained that the two strategies are evolving and they need to look at re-aligning them. He mentioned that they hold round table events with LEPs where the Investment team and Policy team talk through their most recent thinking. They have a commitment to continue talking to the LEPs.</p> <p>TW said he was happy to come back and talk to the Board about their Export Strategy.</p> <p><b>Action: KH to circulate a copy of TW's presentation to the Board.</b></p> <p><b>TW and RE left the meeting at 11.20 am</b></p>	KH
4.3	<p><b>Strategy Update</b></p> <p>LC explained this item was about the ongoing work on strategy and the investment prospectus.</p> <p>Jason Clark (JC) introduced himself and explained that he was a communications consultant and journalist by training. He explained that he has been asked to look at the narrative that underpins the strategy for the future and to pick out some threads for that narrative, from a communications point of view, that Dorset can start pushing. He explained that the Investment Prospectus is a place based strategy for Dorset and not something that the Dorset LEP will deliver alone, but rather in partnership with others.</p> <p>He informed the Board that the Investment Prospectus will be formally launched on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March and communications will be going out under embargo to local press outlets for next week.</p> <p>LC explained that an email will be sent out to the Board today regarding the launch and that we will be working with the Board, reporting back and ensuring activities remain joined up.</p> <p>JA mentioned that we should now think about where we are going, add another layer of work about what other things individual companies are doing to add into this, for example the re-development of the hospital, the Dorset Gateway building for BU, make the scale of investment happening even bigger and not just about government's money. This would enable adding to the narrative that has already started.</p> <p>CB mentioned that part of the next steps was looking at how we are going to resource this.</p> <p><b>The Board agreed the recommendations in the paper:</b></p> <p><b>It is recommended the Board approve working with partners to finalise the Balanced Business Score Card.</b></p>	All agreed

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
<b>4.</b>	<b>Guest Presentations Cont'd</b>	
4.3	<p><b>Strategy Update Cont'd</b></p> <p><b>It is recommended the Investment Prospectus Partnership Balanced Business Score Card is reported on under the strategy section of the Board paper pack.</b></p> <p><b>TF left the meeting at 11.30 am</b> <b>JC left the meeting at 11.35 am</b></p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Governance</b>	
5.1	<p><b>Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>LC explained that under the National Local Growth Assurance Framework, Dorset LEP is required by government to produce an annual delivery plan and publish this online and we commit to doing so in our Local Assurance Framework.</p> <p>The annual Delivery Plan is an operational document that covers the work of the executive function and the Board over one year and runs from April to March. Our Annual Report, published each spring and our Annual Performance Review and Mid-Term Reviews with government, examines our delivery against these objectives. Wider partnership activity both underway and planned, is articulated in the Investment Prospectus Implementation Plan and the Dorset Skills Action Plan.</p> <p>The Dorset LEP 2021/22 Delivery Plan has been created and includes the areas of strategy, delivery and governance as these are the key areas of assessment by government in our Annual Performance Review. It is required that we submit the Delivery Plan to government and publish online by 9 April.</p> <p>CB commented that staffing needs will have to change as the work changes.</p> <p><b>The Board agreed the recommendation in the paper:</b></p> <p><b>It is recommended the Board endorse the 2021/22 Delivery Plan.</b></p> <p><b>EH left the meeting at 11.45 am</b></p>	All agreed
5.2	<p><b>Communications Update</b></p> <p>CO introduced the paper which is to provide an update to the Board on Dorset LEP communications activity and forthcoming plans.</p>	
5.3	<p><b>Board Finance Report (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</b></p> <p>LC pointed to the usual Board finance report and asked the Board to note it as we come up to the end of the current financial year.</p> <p><b>The Board agreed the recommendation in the paper and noted the 2020/21 financial position.</b></p>	All agreed
5.4	<p><b>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</b></p> <p>LC outlined the proposed 2021/22 budget and explained that the draft budget and several modelling options was reviewed and recommended to the</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
<b>5.</b>	<b>Governance Cont'd</b>	
5.4	<p><b>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</b></p> <p>Board by the Finance, Audit &amp; Corporate Risk Committee which meets quarterly and will continue to review the budget at these meetings.</p> <p><b>The Board agreed the recommendation in the paper and approved the 21/22 budget.</b></p>	All agreed
5.5	<p><b>Performance and Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</b></p> <p>DD asked the Board if they were happy to note the recommendations in the paper. The Board discussed the contents of the paper.</p> <p><b>The Board agreed the recommendations in the paper.</b></p>	All agreed
5.6	<p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cont'd</b></p> <p>CO informed the Board that the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee met in February and appointed a new Chair to fill the vacancy. Cllr Lawrence Williams has taken on this role. An overview of governance and assurance arrangements was presented, as was detail as to the impact of Covid-19 on Dorset LEP strategic direction, the risk management framework and project lifecycle.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the future work programme and for the next meeting it was agreed that presentations would be given on a range of topics including how SMEs are engaged in business support and how conflicts of interest are managed.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	
6.1	<p><b>Strategic Infrastructure Committee</b></p> <p>CO updated the Board that the Strategic Infrastructure Committee met in February. There were a number of presentations given including transport, digital and green infrastructure across Dorset. A document summarising infrastructure ambition, relevant strategy documents and responsibilities for these areas was shared in the meeting and an update was presented on energy. There are still no groups looking into energy and Dorset LEP continues to engage in numerous discussions with SSEN, Regen and the South West Energy Hub to identify the most appropriate way forward. Dorset LEP will form an energy task and finish group linked to the Strategic Infrastructure Committee and commission evidence to support discussions.</p> <p>JSu suggested that following committee meetings the Committee Chair and the LEP team member responsible for the committee get together to have a look at what information is presented to the Board via updates.</p> <p>CB Commented that the key points from the meeting should be captured in the meeting in order to inform the Board papers rather than a separate meeting.</p>	



Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
<b>6.</b>	<b>Strategy Cont'd</b>	
6.2	<p><b>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee</b></p> <p>FM said he wanted to signpost Board Members to the fact that funding is available and encouraged them to mention this when talking to businesses within their network.</p> <p>JSu mentioned that there was a Dorset Ambassadors event taking place on 28 April and asked that all LEP Board members were invited to it. FM confirmed that they have all been invited.</p> <p><b>The Board noted the recommendations in the paper:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To note funding for Peer Networks in 2021/22 and promote the opportunity to participate in this programme</b></li> <li>• <b>To promote the funded specialist support being offered to businesses around EU/UK Transition</b></li> <li>• <b>To promote the two programmes being offered by the Department for International Trade</b></li> <li>• <b>To note the priority areas for FDI business support for 2021/22 and alignment of local and national approaches</b></li> </ul>	All agreed
6.3	<p><b>Skills Advisory Panel and Board</b></p> <p>RD wanted to highlight three things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Local Skills Report was going live on 31 March.</li> <li>2. The Mid Life MOT was being launched with communications happening next week. RD asked the Board to please share via their networks.</li> <li>3. If anyone was able to offer virtual work experience to year 10 students around May/June time please contact RD to let her know.</li> </ol> <p>JSu mentioned that there is a national movement about green jobs, all about Government signing up to zero carbon and where are jobs and skills associated with it. A national movement has started up around this targeted at young graduates. RD said there is already much activity around green jobs but would also look further into other government publications.</p>	
6.4	<p><b>Enterprise Zone Committee</b></p> <p>The Enterprise Zone Committee met in February and discussed the progress of the Enterprise Zone. A presentation was given on the business rate relief modelling work within the meeting and the Committee agreed to standing agenda items and reporting documentation.</p> <p>CO informed the group that following the meeting, Tony Ferrari had provided an outline of work that has been commissioned to explore options for the Enterprise Zone to drive its success.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
<b>7.</b>	<b>Papers for Information</b>	
7.1	<p><b>Advisory Group Updates</b></p> <p>The Board noted the papers.</p> <p>LR mentioned the Rural Enterprise Group acts as a conduit for other partners to see what the LEP is doing. They are looking at their five year plan, so if anyone has any comments on what they should do next, please contact LR.</p>	All
<b>8.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	JSu wanted to highlight the enormous amount of work going on at the moment and to recognise how industrious the Dorset LEP team has been.	
	<p><b>Investment Prospectus</b></p> <p>LC mentioned the communications around this and that this will be sent to all of the Board and the local MPs. There is then a piece of work being prepared on business engagement and getting the industry voice in it.</p> <p>CB commented that there were a lot of businesses represented around the Board table and hopefully Board Members will be happy to use their voice. The more people telling this story the more helpful it is.</p>	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 25 May at 1.30 pm

## FORWARD PLAN

### Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meetings

**2021**

Date and Time	Location	Items for Agenda
26 January 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance and Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update</li> <li>• Communications Update</li> <li>• Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update</li> <li>• Advisory Group Updates</li> <li>• Investment Prospectus</li> </ul>
25 March 10.00 am to 12.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update</li> <li>• Performance and Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update</li> <li>• Communications Update</li> <li>• Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update</li> <li>• Advisory Group Updates</li> </ul>
25 May 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance and Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Communications Update</li> <li>• Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update</li> <li>• Advisory Group Updates</li> </ul>
22 July 10.00 am to 12.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update</li> <li>• Performance and Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update</li> <li>• Communications Update</li> <li>• Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update</li> <li>• Advisory Group Updates</li> </ul>
28 September 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance and Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update</li> <li>• Communications Update</li> <li>• Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Skills Advisory Panel and Board</li> <li>• Advisory Group Updates</li> </ul>

Date and Time	Location	Items for Agenda
25 November 10.00 am to 12.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee</li> <li>• Performance and Investment Committee Update</li> <li>• Communications Update</li> <li>• Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee</li> <li>• Skills Advisory Panel and Board</li> <li>• Advisory Group Updates</li> </ul>

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	25.05.21	<b>Item Number</b>	3
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Directors Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	To note that the Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk committee, will continue to support the Board to consider any possible implications arising from the LEP review.		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board of pertinent activity or announcements since the last Board meeting.

**2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**
**I. LEP Review**

As the Board were made aware at the last meeting, a LEP Review is underway. The review is related to policy changes as LEP performance is acknowledged as good and not in question. The intention of the review is to evolve the form, functions and geographies of and build on the contribution LEPs are making and a detailed resolution will be made in the Summer.

The LEP Network has assisted in forming different working groups covering certain topics and members of the 38 LEPs will sit on these. Dorset LEP has good representation on these groups; Board member Emma Hunt is a member of the Objectives and Functions working group, Chair Cecilia Buffon is a member of the Accountability working group and Director Lorna Carver is part of the Geography group.

Other activity includes participating in a LEP Network Chairs session with Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and included requesting an advocate at Cabinet, establishing what is unique about LEPs (agile, convenors, private sector links, apolitical partnership model). Board Members may have been invited to participate in a regional roundtable session on the future of LEPs organised by BEIS. This session was to gather views from regional stakeholders not included in existing engagement forums, including those in Business Related Organisations, Higher Education and Further Education, to inform advice to Ministers on how to reform local institutions to best support and represent businesses in places.

To support the LEP Board to be on the front foot in relation to this, that the Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk committee, will consider any possible implications arising from this review.

The Committee highlighted the importance of the Board recognising that funding is secured until April 2022 and therefore no financial decisions or decisions on scaling back of activity should be undertaken at this time. They highlighted significant risks are Dorset LEP staff leaving which would lead to a failure to deliver or be prepared for any future

activity and Local Authorities ceasing to engage. They acknowledged through the Dorset Investment Prospectus, the region is in a good place for future funding and Dorset LEP will continue to focus on positive communications. They emphasised the need for the Board to focus on the project pipeline at this time to place Dorset in a key position for any future funding.

## **II. Plan for Growth**

The Chancellor and Business Secretary have [written](#) an open letter to businesses detailing the Government's [Plan for Growth](#). The letter sets out the key pillars of investment that the Government will focus on as we recover from the pandemic to create new jobs and drive forward its priorities.

The development of new ideas, products and processes, and unlocking the finance to pursue these, will put the UK at the forefront of new opportunities for growth and will be crucial to delivering key priorities such as transitioning to net zero by 2050.

The Plan for Growth looks ahead, “*building on the best of the Industrial Strategy set out in 2017*” and refreshing the Government's long term strategy for growth in a new economic landscape, including the pandemic, our net zero target and our new place on the world stage as an independent nation outside the EU.

The Dorset Local Industrial Strategy is entirely evidence based and therefore will still be relevant to underpin any plan for growth. The Dorset Investment Prospectus builds on the LIS, is therefore evidence based and could deliver the plan for growth and is intentionally neutrally branded to ensure it will therefore still be relevant.

## **III. Advocacy & Collaboration**

Linked to the investment prospectus the LEP Board has asked the LEP team to focus on Energy, Defence and Security, One Health and Finance as areas of competitive advantage for Dorset and as part of our pipeline development process to support Dorset to secure future funding. Naturally partners will continue to deliver against the full investment prospectus areas. Pipeline development is vital.

### Energy

We continue to lead discussions on the energy need in Dorset. We commissioned the creation of the Dorset Energy Investment Plan, including an extensive evidence base and a road map of opportunities. We have liaised with key stakeholders including the Local Authorities and power suppliers. It is anticipated the Plan will be completed in June and an energy group has also been created to discuss the implications of the Plan.

### Defence

Cecilia Buffon participated in a press opportunity at the Defence Innovation Centre site, which was released on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We are participating in an industry engagement session is being held on May 20<sup>th</sup> by Ministry of Defence regarding the Defence Innovation Centre; this will include opportunities to use the facility and Dorset Council's plans for the rest of the site. The Centre will open formally in Autumn.

Dorset LEP have organised a ‘Advancing Dorset in Defence, Security & Innovation’ event which will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> which will be opened by John Sutcliffe and feature speakers from the British Army, Defence and Security Accelerator, Department for International Trade and local universities. It will promote Dorset's assets, the region's role as a key player in defence and security, highlight opportunities and support available and promote collaboration.

We are preparing material in the hope that it can be mentioned by the Secretary of State at a speech at the DSEI London in September 2021.

#### Innovation

Via BEIS we have requested ministerial engagement at the formal launch of the Dorset LEP funded Arts University Bournemouth Innovation Studio in May 2021, given its link in helping recovery in the region.

#### South West Engagement

We continue to participate in key South West activities including the Western Gateway STB Corridor Group: Midlands to South Coast.

#### Economic Recovery

We continue to support the region in economic recovery not only through our own delivery, such as Dorset Gateway and our skills initiatives but also through participating in events such as Dorset Economy Recovery which included representation from Dorset Council, Dorset Chamber and DWP.

### **IV. Confirmation of Funding**

Since the last Board meeting we have received confirmation of core central funding from government and in-kind match funding support from both Local Authorities which includes confirmed and committed representation on committees and the Board, participating in Dorset LEP events, implementing the Dorset Investment Prospectus and other key activity.

We have also had Getting Building Fund (tranche 2), Gateway and Peer Network funding confirmed and have been advised we will also continue to receive Careers & Enterprise funding for the Careers Hub and Department for Education funding when this is renewed in September.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

To note that the Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk committee, will continue to support the Board to consider any possible implications arising from the LEP review.

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	25.05.21	<b>Item Number</b>	5.1
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Communications Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	None – for information only		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board on Dorset LEP communications activity and forthcoming plans.

**2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**
**Media coverage**

We are pleased to report continued positive coverage across the county's main local media outlets (Daily Echo, Dorset Echo, Lyme Regis News and Blackmore Vale) and regional business news sites (South West Business Insider, Business Live, Dorset Chamber, Dorset Biz news) following proactive communications activity and media engagement. Further details and links are included below in highlights of specific promotional activity,

All of our coverage is currently captured via a free 'google alert' system and our media releases are issued via our own media database that we continuously update and review. We are looking at ways to utilise the Evolutive Customer Relation Management system for media contacts and opportunities to further broaden our media reach particularly in regional, sector and broadcast outlets.

**Linked In**

Our Linked In site remains one of our most popular engagement channels. We posted 58 items throughout March and April and now have 1163 followers, with 133 of these joining throughout March and April. Our following, impressions and engagement rates have been on a steady upward trajectory since January although we are looking to conduct further analysis to see how we can generate more impact via the site whilst driving and capturing engagement with key audiences. This will include a review of the Dorset Gateway Linked In site to see how we can better promote our business and skills support services via Linked In.

**Video**

We are currently working on a new corporate video, capturing some of our major successes and future aspirations, particularly linked to our delivery. The short video aims to be completed by the end of July.

**Thought leadership**

We are keen to start rolling out some new thought leadership articles, to help bring to life some of the key elements within the Dorset Investment Prospectus and to raise the profile of our work in the key theme areas. Board members will be invited to participate in some of these articles and we would be grateful for your contributions.



### **Website**

We are currently looking at how to better align our website with the new Dorset Investment Prospectus key themes, as well as simplifying information and navigation to better reflect our strategic and operational priorities. You will notice a few changes being made in the course of the next few months and more in-depth update will be given in the next board update.

All news outputs are available on our [website](#), [LinkedIn page](#) and [twitter feed](#).

A breakdown of media coverage, website, social media and newsletter analytics is available on request.

### **Key announcements/ promotional campaigns**

Since the last Board meeting, we have been working on a number of key announcements and promotional campaigns including:

- Announcing the new Dorset Investment Prospectus – [Dorset Echo](#), [Daily Echo](#), [Business Live](#)
- Dorset Skills Report – [Dorset Chamber](#),
- DWP funding announcement for Mid-life MOT project in Dorset and promotion of free resources – [Dorset Chamber](#), [Lyme Regis and Bridport News](#), [Dorset Echo](#)
- Announcing additional funding for Peer Networks Programme – [Lyme Regis and Bridport News](#)
- Investment announcement for full-fibre digital connectivity in rural Dorset – [Business Live](#), [Dorset Echo](#)
- Promoting the #Train4Tomorrow Digital bootcamps
- Promoting the OneHealth Conference and nucleus
- Investment announcement in Lansdown Business District
- Investment announcement for new Border Control Post and Public Trade Office at Port of Poole – 805 impressions on Linked In
- Announcing the successful delivery of the Local Growth Fund programme – 762 impressions on Linked In
- Dorset Careers Hub Virtual Work Experience, call for employers
- Dorset Careers Hub Activation Fund allocation – [Dorset Echo](#)
- Dorset LMI Quarter 1 – 375 impressions on Linked In with 25 clicks and 13 reactions
- Promoting the LEP's involvement in the Careers and Apprenticeship Show 2021

### **Forthcoming announcements and communications activity in May and June**

- New construction at Defence BattleLab
- Getting Building Fund investment in new Dorset Clinical Trials Unit
- New Agritech Glasshouse at Stewarts Garden Centre
- Defence Innovation event
- Virtual Work Experience wrap-up story
- Production of Dorset LEP successes and future plans promotional video
- Refresh of website content
- Thought leadership articles promoting Dorset Investment Prospectus

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

None - for information only.

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	25.05.21	<b>Item Number</b>	5.2
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee Meeting Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	To note the update on the LEP Review and the Committee's view that there is currently no financial risk associated with this and that activity should continue and the project pipeline be developed.		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the last Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee meeting which took place in May.

**2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

The meeting, Chaired by Board Member Diane Grannell, was held specifically to discuss the LEP Review and the risk to Dorset LEP associated with this and capitalisation costs.

**Update on LEP Review**

The Director provided an update on the LEP review which is summarised as follows.

- The review is related to policy changes as LEP performance is acknowledged as good and not in question. The intention of the review is to evolve the form, functions and geographies of and build on the contribution LEPs are making.
- A detailed resolution will be made in the Summer
- The LEP Network has assisted in forming different working groups covering certain topics and members of the 38 LEPs will sit on these. Dorset LEP Board member Emma Hunt is a member of the Objectives work group, Chair Cecilia Buffon is a member of the Accountability working group and Director Lorna Carver is part of the Geography group.
- The Dorset Investment Prospectus is evidence based and will still be relevant regardless of the outcome of the review.
- Dorset LEP is well-prepared for any changes. The Local Industrial Strategy and Dorset Investment Prospectus evidence and key themes still stand, and we have a place-based plan to drive investment.

Given the remit of the Committee, this group will discuss matters related to the LEP Review which will enable visibility and offer reassurance to the Board.

This year funding is fully secured and therefore any possible financial implications would not be until April 2022. The LEP review has been added to the corporate risk register and we will continue to flag via communications the achievements of Dorset LEP and also to

influence and lobby. There is no action to be taken yet but any discussion will come through this Committee and recommendations made to the Board. This is in addition to Board discussions.

The Committee highlighted the importance of the Board being very clear that there is no need to panic at this time as Dorset LEP funding is secured until at least April 2022 and therefore the current level of activity and resources should continue for the time being. They advised that the Board must be aware that attempting to create savings through staff costs at this time would create significant risk. They stated the biggest risk at this moment is the loss of key staff and their knowledge during this period of uncertainty, not financial risk.

The Committee advised the Board should be focused on the project pipeline and associated data rather than LEP structure and that there is a key opportunity between now and July to contemplate further work on the project pipeline following the Investment Prospectus. Understanding what projects would make the biggest positive impact on key sectors and clusters in Dorset, underpinned by robust data to evidence why those identified projects would have the biggest impact is essential and Dorset LEP should work with economic development teams within the councils on this.

The Committee agreed that a key risk is Local Authority partners ceasing to engage, and emphasised that the next 3-6 months is the most important time for the Local Authorities and Dorset LEP to be exactly aligned so Dorset can be on the front foot of any changes. Developing a robust pipeline will help with this as if capital funding no longer is to be distributed by LEPs, the Local Authorities will have this in place if they are expected to deliver it.

#### **Capitalisation Costs**

The Committee were advised that there was a discussion at Performance and Investment Committee around the capitalisation of programmes and received a presentation on this. The Section 151 Officer agreed that he was content with the principle of the approach.

The Committee agreed to apply a capitalisation charge to projects where funding is not fully committed and where 3 months' notice can be given.

The minutes of the meeting can be found here: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/finance-audit-corporate-risk-committee>.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

To note the update on the LEP Review and the Committee's view that there is currently no financial risk associated with this and that activity should continue and the project pipeline be developed.

The papers for agenda Item 5.3 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	25.05.21	<b>Item Number</b>	5.4
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	None – for information only		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the last Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting which took place in April.

**2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Chaired by Councillor Lawrence Williams, met in April.

The meeting covered how Conflicts of Interest are managed, how SMEs are engaged in the business support offer, a case study example of the project lifecycle, the project pipeline and support given to more rural areas of the county.

The Committee discussed the future work programme and for the next meeting it was agreed that topics covered would include sharing best practice with other LEPs and activity around energy and digital connectivity. Information as to how we advertise/market Dorset LEP to the business world will also be discussed.

The Committee highlighted the positive nature of Dorset LEP in helping the breadth of businesses across the county and the proactive nature and willingness to support activity that benefits the whole of Dorset.

The papers and minutes of the meeting can be found here:  
<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/overview-and-scrutiny-committee>.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

None – for information only.

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	26.05.21	<b>Item Number</b>	6.1
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Dorset LEP Business Growth and Inward Investment update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the opportunity to participate in Peer Networks in 2021/22</li> <li>• To promote the two programmes being offered by the Department for International Trade</li> <li>• To decide which projects, if any, from Dorset should be put forward as part of the Global Investment Summit in October 2021</li> </ul>		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**1. PURPOSE**

To brief the board on activities and developments relating to business growth and inward investment and current activity within the key sectors across Dorset.

This report supports the DLEP's strategic objective for business growth and attracting inward investment to increase employment opportunity and raise productivity of businesses across the region.

This paper aligns with Dorset LEP's governance structure and will reflect those areas that are overseen by the Business Growth and Inward Investment (BG&I) Committee.

Inward investment is achieved through the delivery of the Memorandum of Understanding for foreign direct investment in partnership with the Department for International Trade (Investment Services Team).

**2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**
**2.1 Providing strategic direction in shaping the current and future business support provision across Dorset;**

Dorset LEP's growth hub, Dorset Gateway, has received confirmation of its funding for the current financial year – a total of £462,000. This makes up the core funding for the service, although an additional £300,000 has been awarded for the delivery of the Peer Networks Programme – see below.

There are certain conditions that are attached to the funding – as is normal – but this includes two new provisions for 2021/22 and reflects the national review of growth hubs (as part of a broader business support review being led by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy).

These provisions are:

- our agreement to fully align its growth hub with any new national business support brand that may follow; and
- our agreement to ensure that the growth hub delivery model will have the flexibility to evolve and to adjust to priorities during the current financial year, ready to align with - and transition to - any revised delivery model which may potentially come into being from FY 2022 – 2023.

Whilst the review is ongoing, this may suggest that the delivery model will change – or begin to change – over the coming months.

In terms of delivery this year, we have also been asked to ensure that the Dorset Gateway service proactively promotes business support programmes (public and private) that:

- a) enable more businesses to access new market opportunities and be more confident in trading internationally;
- b) are most successful at stimulating business investment in science, research & development and innovation, and encourage the adoption of innovative technologies and management best practice;
- c) enable more businesses to source the right people, access apprenticeships and develop workforce skills to enable businesses to attract and employ new workers and fill gaps in technical and basic leadership and management skills;
- d) increase business awareness and participation in public procurement and major infrastructure projects, improving the knowledge needed to compete successfully and increasing SME procurement capabilities?
- e) increase business awareness of the opportunities created by new national strategies and support programmes e.g. Net Zero, Peer Networks, Help to Grow, Made Smarter, etc.

These provisions have been incorporated into to Dorset Gateway's delivery plan for 2021/22 and align with Dorset LEPs wider delivery plan objectives.

## **2.2 Helping Dorset businesses to increase their resilience against the impact of economic shocks**

### **Peer Networks Programme**

As reported at the last Board meeting, Dorset LEP secured £300,000 of funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to deliver the national Peer Networks programme in Dorset in 2020/21, giving Dorset LEP the joint third highest allocations this year. This funding will support a minimum of 220 individual businesses across the county between now and the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The Peer Networks programme is administered by Dorset Gateway (Dorset LEP's growth hub) and will be delivered by three delivery partners; Evolve Members, Dorset Chamber – who were both involved in last year's programme and - Dorset Business Mentors.

The Programme is free for owners, directors and senior managers whose business employs between 5 and 250, has been in operation for more than 12 months and has a minimum turnover of £100,000. As of 11<sup>th</sup> May, we had received 64 eligible applications in two weeks.

More information about the programme can be found on Dorset LEP's website: [www.dorsetlep.co.uk/peernetworks](http://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/peernetworks)

### **UK/EU Transition support**

Having secured additional funding to provide support for businesses in the run-up to the end of the Transition Period, we were able to commissions and deliver a package of tailored support to and gather valuable business intelligence from across the business community in Dorset. This included:

- **Advisor support:** in partnership with Dorset Chamber's experienced International Trade team, offering access to tailored advice and support;
- **Specialist 1:1 business clinics:** aimed at Dorset businesses needing support for trading overseas, covering topics such as immigration and work travel, supply chain and business models, and customs duties;
- **Specialist business VAT/Customs Advice Line:** offering a funded advisory service for Dorset businesses on matters such as place of supply, proof of origin, VAT registration in other countries duty advice on quotas and tariffs and custom warehousing.

The VAT/Customs advice has been particularly well utilised. Off of the back of two specialist webinars which have engaged 54 businesses, we have 30 referrals and of which seven came back again with further queries. This has meant that to date, this funded programme has provided at least 43 pieces of specialist advice given. Case studies are being developed to further illustrate the impact of this support and will be shared with the Board at a later date.

In addition, we have also been working with colleagues at Mazars to promote funded one-to-one business clinics. These were promoted to businesses following a webinar with Mazars, the Home Office and Dorset Chamber on the implications of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement on businesses. Feedback from these clinics have been very positive, for example: "*[the clinic] was really helpful and I think we got some really helpful answers to some of the issues we've been experiencing with Brexit recently. Thanks.*" General Manager – SAFI UK & US

### **Support for small businesses**

At the start of the second national lockdown, colleagues from the Dorset Gateway team entered discussions with local town chambers and Business Improvement Districts (BID) about rolling out a new initiative to allow local businesses free access to ecommerce platform, **ShopAppy.com**.

The platform went live for businesses in Dorset to sign up to at the end of January. To date Shopappy have engaged with over 250 businesses with 86 of those now actively using the platform. Shops and businesses based in these towns are being urged to come forward immediately to take advantage of the free opportunity to secure more local trade and shoppers are encouraged to use the platform to support their local high street outlets. Dorset LEP has committed to supporting this project up until the 31 January 2022. Between now and then, we are working to assess the effectiveness of the platform for local towns, high streets and businesses and working with those areas to identify ways of finding sustainable means for funding this type of support in the future if it is valued/required.

## **2.3 Focusing resources on our existing strengths and high-growth sectors**

### **One Health 2021: Big Ideas in One Health**

Dorset LEP will host its third national One Health conference on 24<sup>th</sup> March. This event provides a platform for key UK Government agencies and departments to talk about big ideas in 'green' innovation. It will also showcase UK and international businesses addressing One Health problems in human, animal and environmental health through technological innovation. Find out more at: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/news-article/one-health-conference-2021--big-ideas-in-one-health>



### **Advancing Dorset in Defence, Security and Innovation, 28 May 2021 10:00 - 12.00**

Leading up to the new Battle Lab gaining operational status, we are hosting a virtual event that will outline the range of business support available for Dorset's SMEs working in, or looking to diversify into, the defence and security sector on 28<sup>th</sup> May. This event will not only talk about the new Battle Lab facility but will take a wider view of the support that is available across the Dorset to help businesses engage with support aligned with innovation and funding opportunities. This will include hearing from both Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth about their industry engagement programmes as well as funding opportunities available through the national Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA).

The full event programme will be published shortly, but will include:

- Dorset Defence Innovation Centre – 'The Battle Lab', Capt. Edward Ebborn, Head of Innovation, British Army
- Funding innovation in Defence and Security: Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA), Mike Madden, Innovation Partner for South West England at the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA)
- Supporting SME Innovation, Arts University Bournemouth
- Security & Privacy by Design, Cyber Security Research Group, Bournemouth University

This event will follow the second in a series of MOD and Dorset Council organised events on 20<sup>th</sup> May which will provide an update to industry on the progress of the project and outline how those Defence users invested in this project are planning to utilise the facility.

Details of the event, including how to register, can be found here:

<https://eventpilot.evolutive.co.uk/eventDetails.aspx?siteId=499&eventNo=29325>

## **2.4 Ensuring innovation is a key foundation of productivity in Dorset**

### **Design Innovation Support**

Dorset LEP is continuing to develop proposals with Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) to offer a new, exclusive, consultant and specialist-led innovation and design support for emerging Dorset businesses. This new offer will aim to support businesses with design and product development, at any stage of their design process, allowing a wide range of businesses to progress design ambitions more quickly and to better respond to opportunities for growth and innovation in the county.

## **2.5 Promoting Dorset as a key inward investment area for innovative, ambitious and fast growing businesses**

### **Global Investment Summit, October 2021**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October, the UK Government will be holding a Global Investment Summit at Windsor Castle and London hosted by the Royal Family and the Prime Minister. The most prominent investors from around the world will be invited to attend this one-day meeting which is expected to catalyse billions of pounds of investment.

As part of this Summit, the Department for International Trade (DIT) is seeking to identify the most high-value, strategically important and innovative green investment opportunities from across the UK. As such, they are issuing a call for projects to surface these green and sustainable investment opportunities, which include:

- **Foreign Direct Investment Opportunities:** attracting corporates to set up in the UK.
- **Large Capital Projects:** securing international investment into large capital projects, including real estate, energy, and infrastructure.
- **Companies seeking to raise funding:** securing international investment into innovative UK start-ups and scale-ups

Further detailed guidance on applying is set out below.

**Criteria for Foreign Direct Investment opportunities:**

In order for an FDI opportunity to be eligible for inclusion, evidence of the following characteristics will need to be shown:

- A clear and specific opportunity such as: commercialising new or disruptive technologies and services, a supply chain gap, high-growth sector, or world-class assets which are capable of attracting sustained investment from overseas corporates.
- A thorough demonstration of how companies can attain a commercial benefit by investing in the location(s) associated with the opportunity, and that relevant sectoral strengths, assets and skills have been highlighted to make the proposed location attractive to international investors.
- A compelling case as to why the opportunity requires promotion: why might overseas investors not be fully informed of the opportunities for their company in this sector/location?

**Criteria for companies seeking to raise funding:**

DIT supports innovative UK start-ups and scale-ups that have achieved an appropriate level of maturity for the international investors we engage with. This will vary by sector and is asking us to highlight key proof-points that investors look for. *The Threshold criteria for Growth Capital nominations is:*

- UK Headquartered and operational
- Intending to raise over £4m in the next three quarters and able to discuss it
- Have a compelling pitch for investors outside the UK
- Are comfortable with non-confidential information about the company and the investment being sought being shared with global, self-declaring sophisticated investors

DIT will then seek to learn more about business' propositions and their international competitiveness, exploring aspects such as disruptive USP, customer traction, investment to date, revenues, the composition of their team and business model.

**Criteria for Large Capital Projects:**

DIT is aiming to assist partners – such as Dorset LEP – to bring forward investable, large-scale projects with the characteristics and a level of maturity which are likely to lead to an investment in the near future. Project proposers should submit projects that offer alignment with DIT's key investability indicators, and where supporting information (project documentation) can be shared. Shovel ready opportunities may be prioritised depending on alignment with other investability indicators. *The threshold criteria for Large Capital nominations is:*

**Energy & Infrastructure Projects:**

- Capex value of over £25m
- Land is owned or controlled by the project developer/promoter.
- There is evidence of a business case with an underlying financial model developed
- If applicable, full planning approval has been secured, or can be secured within 1 year

- For large capital energy projects, DIT is specifically seeking opportunities aligned with the following technologies:

Generation	Networks & Flexibility	Transport
Solar PV	Electricity networks	EV charging infrastructure
Onshore wind	Heat networks	Hydrogen
Offshore wind (floating or fixed bottom)	Interconnectors	Biomethane
Biomass	Offshore transmission OFTO	Biofuels for transport
Energy from Waste	Electrical storage / flexibility	
Anaerobic digestion to grid		
Green Hydrogen (electrolysis)		
Blue Hydrogen (Grey + CCUS)		
CCUS		
Geothermal / mine water		
Tidal stream or tidal range		
Wave		
Hydro		

#### Real Estate Projects:

- Gross Development Value of over £80m.
- Land must be owned or controlled by the project developer/promoter.
- There is evidence of a business case with an underlying financial model developed.
- Full planning approval has been secured, or can be secured within 1 year.
- There is a compelling pitch for investors outside the UK.

#### Timeline and next steps

The call for projects will be launched on Monday 10 May and remain open for a limited window to **Friday 4 June 2021**. In all cases, DIT will review self-assessments and will advise whether it is appropriate to progress into more detailed profiling of the investment opportunity.

#### Action required

We are keen to put forward potential ideas from the Dorset region that can be considered as part of this call.

**High Potential Opportunity (HPO) Round 2 – Marine Autonomy:** The Marine Autonomy HPO which we are part of, along with the Heart of the South West LEP and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP - was identified as one of those to be fast-tracked for development as part of Round 2 of the HPO programme. A third draft has been developed ready and circulated to the wider group of stakeholders early this month. There will be further iterations of the proposition before it is signed-off and adopted by DIT for promotion.

#### National Propositions

Over the last 12 months, DIT has produced almost 20 UK National Propositions, and with a schedule for 2021 to produce a further eight. Each National Proposition focuses on a particular sector and represents a detailed description of the UK strengths in that sector. Typically running to 80+ pages, the proposition documents capabilities, significant assets, business clusters and academic institutions relevant to the sector being described.

The UK National Propositions are held online in the [GREAT Asset Library](#) and are accessible by DIT Posts abroad, DIT sector teams and also local partners such as LEPs and councils. The Propositions are not intended to be shared with companies as a whole, but can be used internally to help inform conversations with existing or prospective investors. For example, relevant extracts can be lifted and sent to a company where that will help answer a particular question. In addition, extracts, images and graphs from the National Propositions can also be reproduced in marketing material as long as any copyright, credit or referencing is maintained.

To date, Dorset has responded to approximately 15 of the calls for content to help write the Propositions in sectors as diverse as Aquaculture, Defence, Insurance and Battery & Energy Storage.

## **2.6 Helping Dorset's businesses to access opportunities for growth through exporting goods and services overseas**

### **Department for International Trade's (DIT) Export Growth Programme**

Dorset Gateway's Business Relationship Officer (Trade and Investment) has been working alongside the Department for International Trade (DIT) to connect local businesses with **Export academy** and **SME Internationalisation Fund**.

To date, fifteen Dorset SME's have applied for and been accepted onto the **SME Internationalisation Fund**, which offers match-funded grants of between £1,000 and £9,000 to help support future export activity. This is an increase of six businesses since the previous Board update in May. Our target is to help up to 95 Dorset SME's successfully apply for this fund between now and the end of December 2021.

The focus of this support is around high growth potential (HGP) SME businesses that also have high potential to succeed or grow in international markets or can bring new products and services to new international markets. Whilst there is a focus on businesses with annual sales of £500K+ there is scope to support smaller companies.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/business-support-international-trade#InternationalisationFund>

The DIT also launched a new programme called the **Export Academy** in the autumn last year. The programme is designed for owners and senior managers of businesses from a range of business sectors looking to grow internationally and who are located in the Midlands, North, South West, or East of England. Up until 31 March 2021 we had helped 19 businesses enrol onto the programme - as reported at the last Board meeting. The programme has been extended for another 12 months and to date we have helped eight further businesses enrol onto this programme.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- To promote the opportunity to participate in Peer Networks in 2021/22
- To promote the two programmes being offered by the Department for International Trade
- To decide which projects, if any, from Dorset should be put forward as part of the Global Investment Summit, October 2021

## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	10.5.2021	<b>Item Number</b>	6.2
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Dorset LEP Programmes Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	For Information		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 1. PURPOSE

This paper provides an update from the Dorset Skills Advisory Panel and Board (SAPB), together with operational updates from Dorset LEP skills team in Dorset between March and May 2021.

### 2. SUMMARY

#### Local Skills Report

The [Dorset Local Skills Report](#)- Dorset's go-to evidence base for local skills insights- has been published at the end of March. Part of a joint initiative led and funded by the [Department for Education](#) across 36 LEP areas, the report builds on the [Skills Advisory Panels' evidence base](#) and ensures skills information is reported in a consistent way across all areas, while providing source of local intelligence to central government and the national Skills and Productivity Board. The [main report](#) is accompanied by a comprehensive [Annex of Indicators](#) summarising the research evidence, as well as a two-year programme of [Skills Activities](#). The report offers an interim assessment of Dorset's [Skills Advisory Panel and Board](#) progress on areas of interest and celebrates the many success stories, investments and projects currently underway across delivery partners in Dorset. The report has been widely shared and presented to key stakeholders and a programme of themed monthly spotlight events and materials will be discussed with the SAPB.

#### Skills team operational update

Dorset LEP have been working to ensure Dorset residents have opportunities to participate in recovery initiatives, as they become available.

- **Skills Boot Camps** – wave 1 boot camps are now completing and there has been a push for employers to engage with participants who are now seeking roles. Wave 2 digital and technical are full, with the exception of Engineering Construction.
- **Mid-life MOT** – DLEP successfully delivered the Mid-life MOT project, running a week of webinars alongside toolkit provision for employers to promote to employees. We worked with around 10 businesses of varying size and will be reporting back to DWP on the lessons learnt in creating and delivering support for mid-life employees aged 50+. The funding was aimed to support older workers remain in relevant employment, giving greater quality of health and prosperity in retirement.

- **LMI training and awareness** – we have continued to deliver training and awareness sessions for the job centres in Dorset, and the 100 Dorset work coaches employed to support those who are looking for work. In addition we have shared the data and analysis with apprenticeship providers and businesses as part of the mid-life MOT.
- **Restart Programme** – Seetec have been successful in their bid to deliver the Restart programme in the South West. DWP are investing £2.9bn in the Restart programme to help those who have been out of work for 1yr+ get back into work. We will be working with Seetec as they roll out the operation from July to ensure the strategic needs of Dorset are embedded with the provision, and the provider is able to deliver relevant support to Dorset residents.
- **Bidding support** – Universities Hospital Dorset have reached the final part of the process for Innovation funding from the Health Foundation. DLEP team have also been bidding with partners for funding in response to various opportunities currently available. This includes additional support for apprenticeships; support for young people who are vulnerable to find positive outcomes following transition to post-16 education or work; post-16 skills accelerator funding and strategic development funds.
- **Apprenticeship myth busting** – we have kicked off our apprenticeship project with delivery of a specific apprenticeship finder tool (<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/labour-market-and-skills-research>). This tool was designed with DSTPN and is based on live data and makes it easier for apprenticeship hunters to find roles available.

### **Dorset LEP Careers Hub Update**

The Dorset Careers Hub is entering the summer term and all major projects are now in the delivery phase. The Hub has worked with 25 Dorset employers from a range of priority industries to secure around 1,250 virtual work experience places for Year 10 students. The Hub is also leading the delivery of the Online Careers and Apprenticeship Show, with over 60 exhibitors (50 employers, 6 universities, 7 FE colleges), 14 keynote speakers, and a range of live vacancies promoted to young people on the day. In addition, 32 schools have been provided with grants to kickstart their careers delivery, the Dorset Careers Live webinar series has three more dates booked for the remainder of the academic year, and work to support SEND young people with careers progression is underway.

In addition to project work, the Hub has scored well in the most recent Compass assessments (in March). These place Dorset Careers Hub in the top third of Hubs nationally.

We expect The Careers & Enterprise Company to share details of the 21/22 contract in the coming weeks. We have recently welcomed the Southwest Regional Assessment Centre (SWRAC) to become the 76<sup>th</sup> school in the Hub, and this means we will qualify for additional staffing budget in 21/22, which will allow us to expand the impact of the Hub.

### **Skills Accelerator Opportunities**

The Skills Advisory Panel and Board discussed the opportunities made available by the Department of Education relating to post-16 technical education. Working with partners and under the leadership of Dorset Chamber of Commerce, we are intending to submit a bid for a trailblazer area and for strategic development funding. Expressions of Interest are required by 25<sup>th</sup> May, with full bids for successful invited areas, in June.

### **The Labour Market Information update**

The [latest labour market and skills insight report and dashboards](#) have been published, reflecting on a first quarter of highs and lows. Employment rates declined, unemployment increased and there was a rise in furloughed employments, but also a noted increase in

vacancies. The pandemic also had noted impact on inequalities, skills gaps and future projections for the world of work nationally and in Dorset.

Please check [www.dorsetlep.co.uk/labour-market-and-skills-research](http://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/labour-market-and-skills-research) for all figures and analysis and [read the full Q1 report](#). Key findings include:

- **Unemployment, furlough, out-of-work benefits increased**

[The ONS subnational employment statistics for 2020 have been released](#), showing employment rate in Dorset fell by almost 2 percentage points and unemployment increased at a similar rate over the past year. While employment remained higher in Dorset than the national average (76.7% Dorset; 75.4% UK), the decline was more pronounced (1.9 ppt vs 0.4 ppt UK average). This represents an estimated 8,400 fewer people in employment at the last quarter of 2020 compared to 2019 and 3,600 fewer than the previous quarter. In fact, the BCP area has seen a more significant 4 ppt decline in employment rate with 11,000 fewer people in employment, while surprisingly Dorset Council marked an increase of .7ppt and 2,700 more people in employment compared to 2019.

*There were 24,910 people claiming job or income support in March in Dorset, which continues to be almost 2.5 times higher than the same time last year, accounting for 5.5% of residents (6.5% UK reference) and 7.7% of those aged 18-24 (9.1% UK).*

*56,000 people in Dorset were furloughed at the end of February – 17% of the eligible employments, over twice as high as November last year and higher than the 15% UK average. Almost half (26,000) of furloughed employments were in Tourism, Hospitality, Retail.*

*26,600 self-employed received Self Employment Income Support - increase of 4,000 on the previous month, 62% take-up (65% in UK).*

[The Centre for Economic Performance analysis](#) shows movements from self-employment to employment were at their highest levels for 20 years. Also in January, 57% of self-employed workers were reporting incomes of less than £1,000 per month, up from 31% in January 2020.

[Visit Dorset LEP's Employment in Dorset Dashboard](#).

- **Recruitment activity picking up**

There were better news on the recruitment front. Over 16,300 vacancies were advertised in Dorset in the first quarter - 95% of 2020 and 97% of 2019 levels. Throughout March and April, vacancies overtook both their 2020 and 2019 levels with over 6000 vacancies advertised each month. This marks a positive development after a turbulent 2020 and a wobbly start of 2021 - in January alone vacancies were down by a fifth on last year.

Sectors with increased employment demand were:

*ICT, property, public administration and defence, construction, financial and other services as well as health and social care. Demand also grew for a number of occupations:*

*Agriculture, Horticulture and the Outdoors | Construction, Building, Architecture |*

*Marketing, Media, PR, IT, HR, Finance, Planning and Analysis*

[Visit Dorset LEP's Vacancies and Opportunities in Dorset Dashboard](#).

- **Chart spotlight: Apprenticeship finder**

The Dorset Apprenticeship Finder dashboard was developed in collaboration with the Dorset and Somerset Training Providers Network and allows direct access to latest apprenticeship vacancies and statistics. Apprenticeship opportunities were on the rise with 88 vacancies in Dorset in March 2021 – 20% higher than the same time last year.

[Visit Dorset LEP's Apprenticeship Finder Dashboard](#).

- **Key reports related to Dorset's skills strategy**



**Place: COVID 19 effects on inequalities**

[OfS report](#) shows notable disparities in Higher Education (HE) participation across areas. There were parts of Dorset where a 100% of young people participated in HE, while in other parts participation was as low as 13%.



**Recovery: Skills bridges to support career change**

[New research](#) reveals that while a third of Britons want to change careers, only 16% understand how their skills are useful in another career. Skills bridges could be the key. Read [our report](#) to find how skills bridges link to our priorities for recovery.



**Futures: The digital skills gap**

The demand for digital skills is soaring, but those taking IT subjects as GCSEs have dropped by 40% since 2015. Upskilling today's young people in digital technology is vital as well as providing the knowledge about the range of job opportunities available. Read [our report](#) to find the digital skills most in demand in Dorset.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

For information only



## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	25.05.21	<b>Item Number</b>	6.3
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Strategic Infrastructure Committee Meeting Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended the Board notes progress towards addressing the Dorset energy crisis including the forthcoming Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Plan.</li> <li>• It is recommended the Board notes that Connected Dorset is now a sub-committee of the Strategic Infrastructure Committee, focused on promoting integrated, efficient and sustainable transport strategic priorities in the area.</li> </ul>		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the progress on the sub-committees focused on energy and transport which fall under the Strategic Infrastructure Committee.

### 2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

#### I. Energy

##### ***Energy Working Group***

A group has been created with representation from the Dorset LEP Board and SW Energy Hub and has met to discuss plans to address the energy crisis in Dorset.

The gap in energy was identified as part of Local Industrial Strategy evidence base and has been flagged through groups such as Strategic Infrastructure Committee. Energy is a strategic enabler and has increasing importance from a national priority linked to future funding and jobs (i.e. The Ten Point Plan for Green Industrial Revolution).

Dorset LEP has a role in supporting partners meeting 2030 net zero targets and supporting climate and biodiversity emergency targets / response and we need to ensure there is an evidence base that enables progress of energy in Dorset through informing local decision making. Some of the recent activity undertaken includes:

- Commissioning a low-carbon energy investment plan
- Meeting with Dorset Council regarding low-carbon energy supply and demand (including nuclear, solar, offshore, onshore etc)
- Meeting with Air Products regarding Hydrogen
- Meeting with Councils regarding offshore wind
- Continued work with SW Energy Hub.

The group will meet again once the Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Plan work is complete to discuss next steps, recommendations will be made to the Strategic

Infrastructure Committee and then to the Board. Dorset LEP will also meet with the SW Energy Hub to discuss additional support and how the region can better access funding opportunities available for low-carbon energy projects.

### **Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Plan**

Dorset LEP has commissioned the creation of this plan which will be completed in June. This work is an evidence base and investment plan for decarbonising Dorset to help the region deliver on net zero, jobs and green recovery.

The evidence base aspect will cover where Dorset is now including current energy use and generation, key low-carbon resources and infrastructure and scenarios for future decarbonisation and implications for generation, heat, transport and buildings. The investment plan aspect builds on the evidence base and existing strategic documents relevant to the decarbonisation in the county including:

- Joint LEP Energy Strategy
- Dorset LEP Local Industrial Strategy
- Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan
- BCP Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration.

To prepare the plan a number of key local stakeholders are being consulted including the councils, universities, power suppliers, ports, quarries and the Ministry of Defence.

Each section of the plan will cover a critical area for decarbonisation and will include recommendations on where Dorset could focus its efforts and investment in the short term.

## **II. Transport**

Connected Dorset has moved from an Advisory Committee within the Dorset LEP structure to now being a designated sub-committee of the Strategic Infrastructure Committee. Dorset LEP Board member Jim Stewart will continue to Chair the group.

As a sub-group of the Strategic Infrastructure Committee, Connected Dorset is focused on transport and will help work towards achieving efficient and reliable systems that improve transport in Dorset. It brings together key partners in order to assist in promoting integrated, efficient and sustainable transport strategic priorities in the area.

This is a stakeholder group providing industry-wide views on will act in an advisory capacity to the Strategic Infrastructure Committee. This group complements existing Council meetings and sub-national groups that help define strategy and action around transport in Dorset.

Connected Dorset has had a refresh of the Terms of Reference and review of membership and will meet in late May.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended the Board notes progress towards addressing the Dorset energy crisis including the forthcoming Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Plan.
- It is recommended the Board notes that Connected Dorset is now a sub-committee of the Strategic Infrastructure Committee, focused on promoting integrated, efficient and sustainable transport strategic priorities in the area.

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	25.05.21	<b>Item Number</b>	6.4
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Enterprise Zone Committee Meeting Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	It is recommended the Board commends the professional and enthusiastic contribution of Dorset Council, Dorset LEP and Ministry of Defence in the successful delivery of the Enterprise Zone Battle Lab.		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the last Enterprise Zone Committee meeting which met on 6 May 2021 and was Chaired by John Sutcliffe.

The meeting discussed the Enterprise Zone which is the entire estate of the Dorset Innovation Park . It also covered the Innovation Centre which is the project for a community and collaboration hub within the Enterprise Zone and the Battle Lab which is contained in and part of the Innovation Centre.

The full minutes of the meeting can be found here:  
<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/enterprise-zone-committee>.

**2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**
**I. Enterprise Zone Investment Plan**

Councillor Tony Ferrari reported on a previous action to present the Enterprise Zone investment plan. Two studies have been commissioned and completed. Cushman and Wakefield have delivered a report for Enterprise Zone management and PA Consulting have delivered a report on future strategy for defence innovation in Dorset. The reports were not available for this meeting. **It was agreed that the committee would meet in two weeks to discuss the Cushman and Wakefield findings and again in four weeks to discuss the Dorset Council Enterprise Zone investment plan.** The Ministry of Defence will check if the PA consulting report can be circulated to inform the work. The resultant investment plan will be briefed to the next Dorset LEP Board meeting.

**II. Reporting**

Data on the Enterprise Zone including BEIS reports, employee numbers and Enterprise Zone business rates was presented. The trend is positive particularly jobs generated which exceeds current forecasts. **It was agreed that the job generation forecast should be reviewed prior to the next meeting in July.**

### III. Engagement

A Ministry of Defence sponsored press conference was held at the Defence Innovation Centre site and was attended by Cecilia Buffon on Thursday 29 April 2021.

A Ministry of Defence industry engagement session will be held on 20 May 2021 for the Battle Lab to encourage engagement from the SME community.

Dorset LEP are sponsoring an 'Advancing Dorset in Defence, Security & Innovation' event which will be held on 28 May 2021. The event will be opened by John Sutcliffe and will feature speakers from the British Army, Defence and Security Accelerator, Department for International Trade and local universities. It will promote Dorset's assets, the region's role as a key player in defence and security, highlight opportunities and support available and promote collaboration.

The Committee recognised a gap between the strategic ambition in the Dorset Investment Prospectus and implementation of it. The key role strategic marketing plays in this was recognised. **Dorset LEP agreed to look at how this can be improved.**

### IV. Defence Innovation Centre

The Battle Lab will open formally in October/ November 2021.

The recent publication of "Global Britain in a Competitive Age" 16 March 2021 and a week later the "Ministry of Defence Integrated Review Command Paper" 23 March 2021, sets out the Defence and Security priorities and in the case of the Command Paper, recognised the potential contribution of Dorset as a focal point for Defence innovation. The Defence Innovation Centre is focused on autonomy in defence, which is a key element of Ministry of Defence strategy and has synergy with the Dorset LEP investment prospectus.

The Committee were informed that the Ministry of Defence are seeking a Defence Innovation Centre Chair from industry to ensure activity is business focused and to make the Centre a good ongoing concern financially.

It was agreed by all attendees that the completion of the Defence Innovation Centre "Army Battle Lab" on budget and on time demonstrated the significant power of collaboration between Dorset Council, Dorset LEP and the Ministry of Defence. **The collaborative working toward the successful outcome of this project is commended to the Board.**

## 3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board commends the professional and enthusiastic contribution of Dorset Council, Dorset LEP and Ministry of Defence in the successful delivery of the Enterprise Zone Battle Lab.

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	March	<b>Item Number</b>	7.1
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Dorset Tourism Association Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	For info only		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	<b>Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**1. PURPOSE**

Update of DTA activities

**2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

The DTA continues to engage with the rest of the region as part of the Great South West Tourism Partnership, lobbying for support for the revitalisation of the tourism economy. This work has been supported by research to which Dorset LEP made a contribution. An "asks" document has been prepared for the short term, looking at £10m of support over 18 months to help set the industry on a new footing.

The DTA board met on 11th May and reviewed progress and challenges regarding reopening. They wish to draw the attention of the Dorset LEP board to four main areas over the coming months.

- 1) Despite the significant damage from the pandemic (85% of businesses saw income fall by an average of about 50%), the industry is confident that it is ready to do business, collaborating with local authorities and public sector agencies to welcome visitors back safely. The areas of readiness risk revolve principally around unregulated tourism, such as wild camping where numbers may increase uncontrollably due to limited capacity in the overall sector.
- 2) Customer demand appears strong, with those organisations already open finding capacity is well used. However the current strength of bookings is related primarily to reduced capacity. There are signs of residual caution amongst a significant portion of the market (surveys suggest around 25%), which may mean that when the industry fully reopens, then numbers may not immediately return to 2019 levels. Demand may also be inflated by generous policies regarding cancellation, where there is some evidence of customers making multiple bookings and cancelling those which they choose not to pursue.
- 3) There is industry-wide concern about staff availability, particularly in regard to catering and cleaning. This applies to accommodation, attractions and hospitality. One operator summed up the impact by saying that his organisation needed to "reduce the offering to suit staff availability". This has a number of root causes:
  - a. Brexit had an immediate effect on staff recruitment in 2016 and 2017. Concern about visas combined with the fall in the pound meant that workers left or did

not come to the UK. The pandemic has concealed this in the last year but is now manifesting across the industry.

- b. People have left the UK during the pandemic, reducing the pool of labour.
- c. The Kickstart programme does not seem to be filling vacancies in customer service roles with the speed necessary for reopening.
- d. Furlough, while immensely valuable over the last 12 months, may start to become an obstacle to restarting as staff begin to see it as a valid alternative to returning to the workplace.

4) There is ongoing regulatory risk. This falls into three main areas:

- a. Late changes in regulation which disrupt delivery or increase cost. One current example is that guidance for soft play areas is due to be released on 17<sup>th</sup> May, the same day on which reopening is possible. Similarly there has been a significant change in data collection requirements for restaurants and attractions for which clarification is still being sought only six days before reopening.
- b. The event industry remains in limbo, unclear about what capacity that they can make available. This will structurally weaken supply chains at the same time at which a large scale reopening could put maximum pressure on those very same suppliers.
- c. Continued constraints on visitor numbers combined with increased costs to meet regulatory requirements will increase prices to the consumer. This has particularly taken the form of organisations removing price incentives, or moving to dynamic pricing models related to capacity. With this trend taking place across all parts of the tourism economy, there is a risk that the "staycation" experience could be dominated by high prices and restricted offerings. This is a key risk the industry recovery.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

Board to note the DTA's comments regarding reopening roadmap.