

**DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**24 NOVEMBER 2022 FROM 10.15 AM TO 12.45 PM**

**WEYMOUTH COLLEGE, CRANFORD AVE, WEYMOUTH DT4 7LQ  
AND VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**MINUTES**

**Board Attendees:**

Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)  
Ian Girling (IG)  
Jim Andrews (JA)  
Cllr John Beesley (JB)  
Julia Howe (JH)  
May Palmer (MP)  
Nicola Newman (NN)  
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)  
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)

**Also Present:**

Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)  
Matt Prosser (MPr) (Dorset Council)  
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)  
Vinita Nawathe (NW) (Dorset LEP)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)  
Liz Williams (LW)  
Luke Rake (LR)  
Nick Gaines (NG)  
Paul Gough (PG)  
Paul Read (PR)  
Sophia Story (SS)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Cllr Drew Mellor, Liz Williams, Luke Rake, Nick Gaines, Paul Gough, Paul Read, Sophia Story</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest.</p> <p>CB informed that this was Liz Williams' last meeting as her term as a co-opted Board member ends on 1 December 2022.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Policy</b>	
2.1	<p><b>Current Context – Strategic Discussion</b></p> <p>Board members discussed the current political and economic context. Perspectives on the Autumn Statement, Levelling Up, Devolution were considered. Board members shared intelligence from their sectors regarding the effects of the current economic climate on businesses, availability of staff, work placements for students and housing.'</p> <p>There was a consensus that there should be a strong Dorset wide voice in Parliament and that effort should be made to brief our MPs to lobby collectively for our area.</p>	
2.2	<p><b>Governance Structure</b></p> <p>CB mentioned there was going to be a review of the LEP Board with the aim of making it smaller and also revamping the Dorset Ambassadors.</p> <p>VN updated that the next submission to BEIS of our future plans has been put back and she is waiting to hear when the new date will be.</p> <p>SF commented that if the Board was going to become smaller, we need to ensure a skills audit is carried out to make sure we have the right skills around the table.</p> <p><b>ACTION: VN to ensure a Board Skills Audit Questionnaire is circulated for them to complete.</b></p> <p>It was suggested that it might be a good idea to bring in a representative from the ICB to engage with the LEP. MPr thought the Integrated Care Partnership might be the better option and he could help with contacts if needed.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>CIC Operations</b>	
3.1	<p><b>Business Growth and Inward Investment Update</b></p> <p>RD said she would take her paper as read and updated the Board that the Invest in Dorset brochures are now complete and captured the great things that we collaborate on in Dorset and show case the highlights. She informed that we will produce paper copies of the brochures for specific events. She said the brochures were produced in collaboration with the two local authorities and LEP.</p> <p><b>Action: RD or organise for some printed copies to give to our MPs.</b></p>	RD

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3.2	<p><b>Skills Update</b></p> <p>RD said she would take her paper as read. She mentioned that the Skills Boot Camps is a key project she is working on. She informed that the Department of Education have to be driven by business and the Skills Boot Camps can help fill some of those gaps. Hopefully the LSIP will help us attract some of those people who are in the in-active category.</p> <p>VN informed the Board that RD has all the LMI data and it is easy to find on our website.</p> <p>RD explained she was attending a number of events around the county to present the LMI data.</p> <p>NN gave a brief update on the LSIP and that there has been great partnership working so far. The next part is about asking questions that have hopefully not been asked before and she informed they are going to commission an external marketing research company.</p>	
3.3	<p><b>Nominations and Remuneration Committee</b></p> <p>It was noted that there had not been a Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting held since the last report but that Liz Williams' term as a co-opted Board member ends on 1 December 2022.</p>	
3.4	<p><b>Finance and Corporate Risk Committee</b></p> <p>VN explained the next meeting will be held on Friday 2 December. She updated that there is currently a review taking place of the Growing Places Fund, our revolving loan scheme, to look at whether this is the best use of these funds.</p>	
3.5	<p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p>VN explained that the Committee met recently but that there has not been anything major to scrutinise of late. She thought it was good that this Committee is in place and ready to be utilised.</p>	
3.6	<p><b>Great South West Update</b></p> <p>CB updated that she and VN had attended the GSW Energy Summit in Plymouth yesterday. She said there were a lot of useful discussions around skills, the grid, the supply chain. She said that people want an affordable, reliable energy supply so they can heat their homes and run their businesses.</p> <p>VN explained that capacity only gets added to the grid when there are applications to be on it. Current regulation does not allow the grid to forecast and supply ahead of actual demand. A change to the regulation is something that we could lobby for.</p> <p>CB informed that they are looking at 2026 for the next tranche of the grid.</p>	

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3.7	<p><b>Marine Cluster Launchpad EOI and Defence Cluster Launchpad EOI</b></p> <p>VN explained that Innovate UK had put out a call for expressions of interest to partner with them to develop clusters. As a result of this, the GSW has submitted an expression of interest for a Marine Cluster and Dorset Council have put in an expression of interest for a Defence cluster. News about the progress of these submissions would not be heard until at least the end of the year.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes from the Last Meeting</b>	
	It was noted that the Minutes from the last meeting would be circulated for approval.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 24 January at 1.30 pm