

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING
24 MARCH 2022 AT 10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM
ZOOM MEETING
AGENDA

Item	Subject/Title	Presenter	Recommendations
1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Buffon	
2.	Guest Presentations		
	Digital Dorset	Deborah Smart Dugald Lockhart	Presentation
3.	For Decision / Discussion		
3.1	Interim Director's Update	Corrina Osborne	None – for information only
3.2	Delivery Plan and Budget	Corrina Osborne	It is recommended the Board approves the draft 6-month delivery plan and budget
3.3	Nominations and Remuneration Committee	Jim Andrews	Verbal Update
3.4	Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee	May Palmer	It is recommended the Board notes the Finance Report 2021/22
4.	For Information / To Note		
4.1	Chair's Update	Cecilia Buffon	Verbal Update
4.2	Performance and Investment Committee	Nicola Newman	It is recommended the Board notes the Recommendations in the paper
4.3	Business Growth and Inward Investment	John Sutcliffe	It is recommended the Board:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> notes the achievements of the delivery outlined including Back to Business and Peer Networks. notes the current 2021/22 data for new business starts across the Dorset LEP region.
4.4	Enterprise Zone	John Sutcliffe	None – for information only
4.5	Skills Advisory Panel and Board	Luke Rake	The Board are asked to note the strategic input and operational delivery of skills
4.6	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	Cecilia Bufton	
5.	Any Other Business		

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 24 May 2022 at 1.30 pm

LEP BOARD MEMBER KNOWN CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Board Member	Project Name
Diane Grannell, Bournemouth and Poole College	Getting Building Fund - Network Infrastructure
Drew Mellor, BCP Council	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Ian Girling, Dorset Chamber Of Commerce and Industry	Dorset Gateway - Custom Brokerage Service
	Dorset Gateway - Peer Network
	Dorset Gateway - EU Transition - International Trade Support
Jim Stewart, Poole Harbour Commissioners	Getting Building Fund - Border Control Post
John Beesley, BCP Council	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Luke Rake, Kingston Maurward College	Getting Building Fund - University Centre and Rural Business Hub
	Growing Places Fund - The Barn
Spencer Flower, Dorset Council	Getting Building Fund - Fibre Hub Connectivity in Rural Dorset
	Growing Places Fund - Ultrafast Broadband
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Tony Ferrari, Dorset Council	Getting Building Fund - Fibre Hub Connectivity in Rural Dorset
	GPF – Growing Places Fund - Ultrafast Broadband
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	24.03.22	Item Number	3.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Interim Directors Update		
Recommendation	None – for information only.		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper provides the Board with a snapshot of some of the activity undertaken since January that is not captured elsewhere in the Board paper pack. A highlight strategy update can be found in Appendix 1 and the corporate risk register in Appendix 2.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
2021/22 Key Achievements

Over the last 12 months, the considered decisions of the Board and high performance of the Dorset LEP team in delivery has led to a fantastic year of achievements and real impact in our region, despite working with the ongoing certainty of the LEP review. Delivery this year includes:

- **Strategy development:** Dorset Investment Prospectus, Dorset Low Carbon Energy Opportunities, Dorset Skills Report, Agritech Positioning Paper and contributing to studies and plans such as Reimagining the Visitor Economy in the South West and the Dorset Connectivity Strategic Study. We have also fed into national strategic consultations, including those from Department for International Trade, Department for Education and National Audit Office.
- **Business Support:** delivery of Peer Networks Programme, supply chain studies, UK-EU transition support, Crowdfund campaign, Back to Business programme, Bid Writing support, Department for International Trade's Export Growth Programme, Design Innovation Support service, English Aquaculture Innovation Hub, High Potential Opportunity Round 2 Marine Autonomy, One Health Nucleus pilot, positioning paper and conference, South West Aquaculture Network, numerous sector events such as Advancing Dorset in Defence, Security & Innovation and Women in Business.
- **Skills:** delivery of the Dorset Careers Hub, Skills Bootcamps, Midlife MOT, Labour Market Insights intelligence, T-level support, apprenticeship support, effective transitions funding and numerous events including the Careers & Apprenticeship Show.
- **Capital Programmes:** Ongoing management of Local Growth Fund outputs and an evaluation of the achievements of the programme, delivery of the Getting Building Fund, recycling funds under Growing Places Fund Loan and investing in low carbon projects, supporting the Enterprise Zone investment plan and capital project pipeline.

Many of the highlights were shared with Government as part of our Annual Performance Review in February this year. A presentation will be given at the March Board meeting to

give an overview of key achievements under these areas over the last 12 months. The Annual Report will also soon be available.

LEP Review

Board members have been kept up to date on the LEP Review. We still await a letter from Government providing more detail following the White Paper and any funding. We have communicated with MPs several times since the last Board meeting and continue to lobby Government via the LEP Network for strong and early messaging.

Examples of Sector Activity

- One Health: The One Health conference was held on 10 March 2022. The conference had 19 speakers across industry, academia and government with good representation from Dorset businesses. The One Health Nucleus was launched in the afternoon session, and work continues on taking the One Health Nucleus Pilot forwards which is expected to run April 2022 - March 2023. The results of the work will be monitored throughout and reported back to the Dorset LEP Board.
- Rural: The theme of the One Health 2022 conference was sustainable agricultural innovation and food technology. The South West AgriTech Positioning Paper was featured, including the agritech strengths developing in Dorset and close borders. The strength of the region as an agricultural technology powerhouse was highlighted to delegates. We are working with partners to refresh the South West Rural Productivity report and the Farming Innovation Group work previously outlined to the Board is progressing well.
- Energy: The Business case pipeline now has four completed Full Business Cases which are being supported for funding. Two of these are low carbon energy projects.

Communications Update

Activity includes promoting our two Growing Places Fund green energy projects. Dorset Green H2 is the first green hydrogen plant in the South West and has attracted much interest not just from the media (BBC South Today and Radio Solent features as well as trade press) but from sector specialists and even a school keen to showcase the technology and career paths to their students.

The launch of the Dorset Local Skills Report was also very popular as was the introduction to our new Board members. We also launched communications around national apprenticeship week, international women's day and a special release on the importance of rural enterprise in the Levelling Up agenda.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only.

The papers for agenda Item 3.2 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

The papers for agenda Item 3.4 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

The papers for agenda Item 4.2 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	24.03.22	Item Number	4.3
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Business Growth and Inward Investment update		
Recommendation	It is recommended the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notes the achievements of the delivery outlined including Back to Business and Peer Networks. notes the current 2021/22 data for new business starts across the Dorset LEP region. 		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

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

This report supports Dorset LEPs 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 HELPING DORSET BUSINESSES TO INCREASE THEIR RESILIENCE AGAINST THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC SHOCKS
Back to Business: BCP Futures Campaign

This programme, funded by BCP Council as part of their BCP Futures Campaign, is aimed at helping businesses in the BCP area recover stronger from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This project officially started at the beginning of September and will conclude by 31 March 2022. With the aim of engaging 100 businesses by 31 March, we have surpassed that target, with 118 enquiries received. 48 businesses have completed a business diagnostic and have been signposted to other support, such as Peer Networks, as well as programmes offered by others such as Dorset Growth Hub. Eleven enquiries have so far been assessed and referred for further funded support with our delivery partners.

This programme continues to be popular amongst local businesses and feedback so far has been extremely encouraging.

“Thank you for your time, I really benefited from some time out to look at the business from another perspective. It made me feel more positive about what we are doing well instead of concentrating on our weaknesses.” - Managing Director, Care Home Supply Specialists

More information can be found at: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/back-to-business>

Peer Networks Programme

We are on track to deliver 17 cohorts by the 31 March 2022 which will mean 188 businesses will have been enrolled onto the programme in 2021, surpassing last year's total of 148 businesses. 9 cohorts have been completed with the remaining 8 finishing on or by the 31 March.

Whilst our target had been to deliver the 20 cohorts we had secured funding for, given the difficult trading conditions that businesses faced in the early part of the financial year and during the winter, we feel that this programme still been an amazing success and it's proved to be very beneficial to those business and individuals taking part. As reported previously, through our contract management arrangements, we took action to address the shortfall in November 2021 which has enabled us to get closer to our target figure.

We have had a formal exit interview with the government team coordinating the programme and they have confirmed that Dorset is still on target to achieve one of the highest numbers of delivered cohorts nationally.

We would like to highlight the particular efforts of the Dorset Gateway Team – notably the Project Coordinator, Jacqui Timms and Business Relationship Officer, David Mutton – in helping to make this programme such as success, as well as delivery partners Evolve Members and Dorset Chamber who have been involved in the programme since it launched during the height of the Pandemic.

As previously advised, the Peer Networks programme will not be continuing in 2022/23 and will be replaced by the Help to Grow: Management programme.

New Business Starts

Companies House data shows that there have been 7,811 active new businesses registered since 01 April 2021. For the same period, there were a total of 5,522 businesses that ceased trading or were dissolved. This gives a net change of +2,289 business for the year to date. This compares to a net figure for the period 01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021 of +1,184 businesses

The BCP Council area had the highest concentration of new starts as, illustrated in the chart below. to date there have been 4,043 new starts in the BCP Council region and 3,768 in Dorset Council region.

Based on standard industry classification (SIC) code, most new businesses were registered as 'Wholesale and retail trade, which includes the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, with over two thousand businesses across the Dorset LEP area.

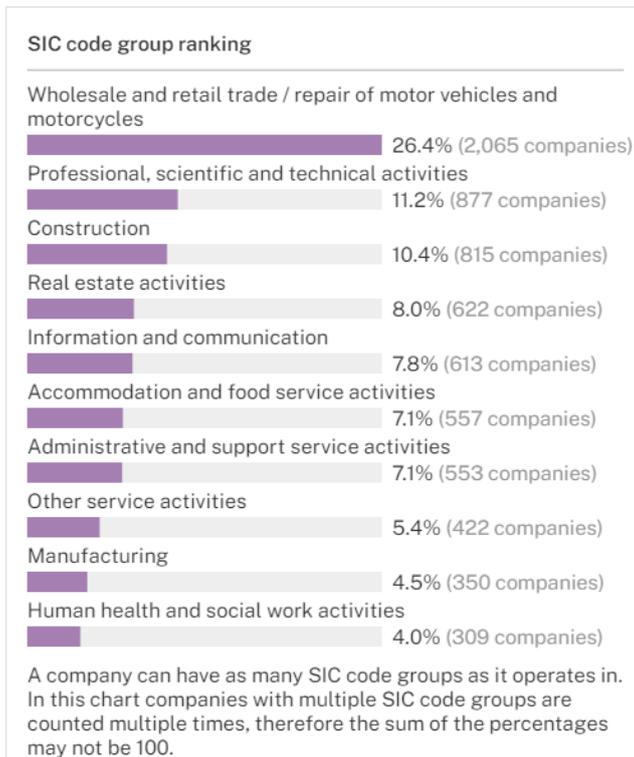


Figure 1: new starts by SIC Code, 01.04.2021 – 13.03/2022

Based on the records available (i.e. where gender balance is known), a vast majority of new businesses had all male directors (65%) whilst all female director-led businesses made up just 21%.

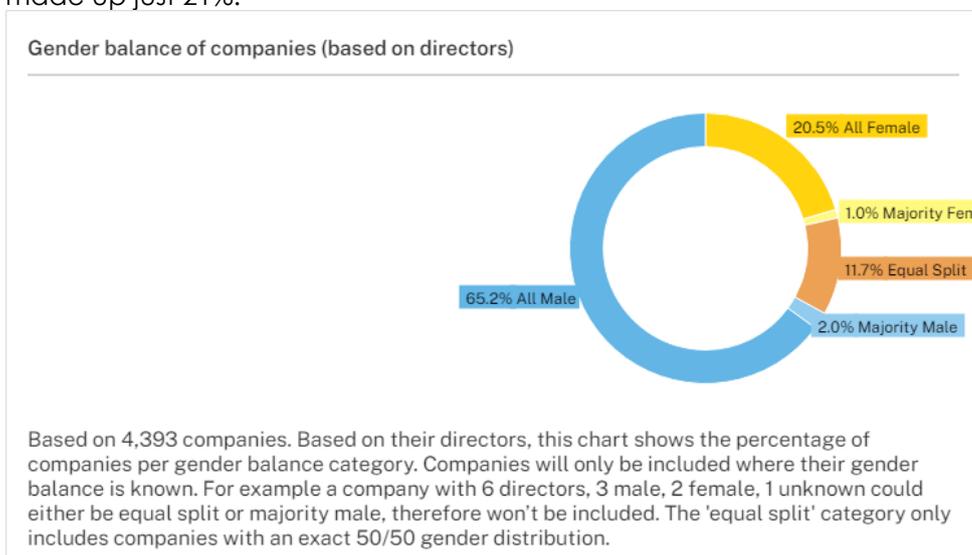


Figure 2: new starts by gender balance at director level, 01.04.2021 – 13.03/2022

Support for small businesses

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in the South West have produced a wide-ranging report which urges towns to move away from being an 'identikit' of one another, to encourage local pride and to embrace digital initiatives to boost a high street and town centre fight back.

The report includes examples of successful initiatives which have helped support local town centres across the South West, with the work of the Dorset LEP funded ShopAppy platform among the local success stories mentioned. Through the support that Dorset LEP has funded over the last 14 months, we have helped six town areas to support

nearly 100 small businesses across Dorset trade their goods and services via the ShopAppy eCommerce site. This has generated more than £62,000 of additional revenue for businesses across the region, particularly in more rural areas of the Dorset Council area, during a really challenging time for small, independent businesses.

The report will be formally launched at an online meeting for stakeholders and interested businesses on Monday, April 25 but you can download the full report here: <https://firstvoice.fsb.org.uk/static/95caea9d-95d9-4a0e-9bea53627455683b/FSB-South-West-Policy-Report.pdf>

2.2 FOCUSING RESOURCES ON OUR EXISTING STRENGTHS AND HIGH-GROWTH SECTORS

Defence Battle Lab Events

The Dorset Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster (DEMC) ran an event on 10th February at the Defence Battle Lab. Dorset LEP Board members, Cecilia Buffon and John Sutcliffe presented on the strategic importance of the Enterprise Zone at the event which was attended by around 85 businesses, including representatives from the Department for International Trade and Defence and Security Accelerator's (DASA) Access to Mentoring & Finance Team.

Members of the Dorset LEP team also attended and gave presentations at two Battle Lab open day events on 25 February and 4 March 2022. Other presenters included the DASA, Bournemouth University and Innovate UK Edge. Each event was attended by around 70 business representatives and key stakeholders and we are in discussions with the Battle Lab team regarding further support and engagements.

Finally, as members of the South West Regional Defence and Security Cluster, we are helping to support and promote a key stakeholder event at the Battle Lab taking place on 31 March. This event will be attended by a junior minister, but is subject to confirmation.

National Ship Building Strategy

The government has published a refreshed version of the national Ship Building Strategy which aims to position the UK as a globally successful, innovative and sustainable shipbuilding enterprise nation.

First published in 2017, the National Shipbuilding Strategy outlined ambitions to transform naval procurement, securing export and design contracts for British naval ships. Building on that success, this refresh outlines the government's further ambitions to reinvigorate the whole British shipbuilding industry.

Over £4 billion of government investment will galvanise and support shipyards and suppliers across the UK, with new measures including better access to finance, vital skills-building, and funding for crucial research and development into greener vessels and infrastructure.

Designed in partnership with industry and delivered by the recently formed National Shipbuilding Office, the National Shipbuilding Strategy Refresh will also deliver a pipeline of more than 150 new naval and civil vessels for the UK Government and Devolved Administrations over the next 30 years. The vessels will include large warships, Border Force cutters, lighthouse vessels and the new National Flagship.

The refreshed strategy recognises that regional and local collaboration is already allowing the Solent and the South West of England to build a reputation for expertise in marine autonomy. It highlights that the South West is home to a range of UK vessel producers including BAE Systems, Autonaut Ltd., M-Subs and ATLAS ELEKTRONIK UK, while testing and development assets at Smart Sound Plymouth and the ATLAS

ELEKTRONIK UK Portland facility allow for trialling and validation of technology for the future.

2.3 ENSURING INNOVATION IS A KEY FOUNDATION OF PRODUCTIVITY IN DORSET

One Health 2022: Sustainable Agri-Innovation and Foodtech

Dorset LEP's fourth national One Health conference took place on 10th March. Around 80 people registered to the event which showcased national and international agri-innovation and food technologies that can help provide sustainable, commercial solutions to these global problems. The included representatives from national research centres, government funded agri-centres and local Dorset businesses based at Dorset Innovation Park – Intrepid Minds and draperGROUP.

Opened by Dorset LEP's Chair, Cecilia Buffon, and hosted by LEP Board Member and Chair of the Rural Enterprise Committee, Luke Raked, the conference also saw the launch of Dorset's One Health Nucleus Pilot, explored the next steps for the South West AgriTech Positioning Paper and learnt about the Dorset Coast Forum's work to define an Aquaculture Innovation Hub for England.

2.4 PROMOTING DORSET AS A KEY INWARD INVESTMENT AREA FOR INNOVATIVE, AMBITIOUS AND FAST- GROWING BUSINESSES

Department for International Trade (DIT) Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing (AEM)

Working with our partnership manager at the DIT, we are arranging a visit from their AEM Team on 11th May 2022 to the Battle Lab and meet with the likes of ATLAS ELECTRONIK UK and a selection of other non-UK owned AEM businesses located in Dorset. The LEP Board Chair and Interim Director have been invited to attend this event and will be the first time the team has visited the region since October 2019.

High Potential Opportunity (HPO) scheme

Work has continued on the promotion of both the Sustainable Aquaculture HPO and the multi-LEP Marine Autonomy HPO with activities focused on lead generation taking place in the last three months.

- **Marine Autonomy HPO:** In early March, working with colleagues across the Great South West region, DIT hosted Marine Autonomy: Investment Opportunities in the South West of England' webinar aimed at potential domestic and overseas investors. The session was attended by over 70 external guests and was recorded so that it could be shared more widely. Pleased contact Finn Morgan (fmorgan@bournemouth.ac.uk) if you would like to receive a link to the recording.
- **Sustainable Aquaculture HPO:** this still remains the most successful round one HPO and has generated 18 inward investment enquiries from UK and overseas based companies.

2.5 HELPING DORSET'S BUSINESSES TO ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH THROUGH EXPORTING GOODS AND SERVICES OVERSEAS

DIT Export Growth Programme

Members of the Dorset Gateway team have been working alongside DIT to connect local businesses with Export Academy and SME Internationalisation Fund. To date, 33 Dorset SME's have applied for funding via the SME Internationalisation Fund, which offers match-funded grants of between £1,000 and £9,000 to help support future export activity. 32 of these have received funding offers totalling just over £230,000.

Our target is to help up to 95 Dorset SME's successfully apply for this fund between now and the end of December 2022.

Just over 50% of the funds are still available for Dorset SMEs. With nearly half of the funding allocated for Dorset, we are on track to achieve to fulfil our funding allocation. The Dorset Gateway team will continue to promote this programme and look at some targeted activity with key sectors, such as manufacturing and engineering where has been a good level of interest already, as well as underrepresented sectors such as food and drink to try and increase interest in the programme. To find out more, visit: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/business-support-international-trade#InternationalisationFund>

3. RECOMMENDATION

- To note the achievements of the delivery outlined including Back to Business and Peer Networks.
- To note the current 2021/22 data for new business starts across the Dorset LEP region.

The papers for agenda Item 4.4 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

DORSET LEP SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL AND BOARD MEETING

Meeting Date	24-03-22	Item Number	4.5
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Skills Update		
Recommendation	The Board are asked to note the strategic input and operational delivery of skills.		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <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 January and March 2022.

2. SUMMARY

Skills Team Update

Dorset LEP have been working to ensure Dorset residents have opportunities to participate in skills initiatives, as they become available. In addition to operational delivery, Dorset LEP have fed into the following activity:

- a) Directly to the Department of Education Director of Strategy, regarding the future of strategic skills planning at a national level and how this translates to local planning and delivery;
- b) the CIEAG Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into careers education, information, advice and guidance for children and young people
- c) the National Audit office as they undertake a value for money examination on Developing workforce skills for a stronger recovery.

In terms of delivery, the following work is underway

- **Skills Advisory Panel Programme** – working with the SAP Board we have published the updated Dorset Local Skills Report, data annexe and activities meeting the Department for Education (DfE) deadline of 28 January 2022. Funding for the existing work with DfE ends 31 March 2022 and we await details of transition to future plans which will include a Local Skills Improvement Plan aligned to a strategic development fund (subject to budget availability).
- **Skills Boot Camps** – Wave 2 technical programmes continue to deliver although securing participants has been challenging. Dorset LEP have bid under the national framework for Wave 3 working in partnership with Somerset County Council and we are awaiting confirmation to proceed.
- **Restart Programme** – Seetec Plus are delivering for Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) with extended criteria due to the low number of qualifying unemployed participants. Those who have been unemployed for 9 months to 2 years are able to access the programme of wellbeing support, training and self-development to secure employment. The programme continues but has had early success with around 300 job starts.

- **Skills Commission** – BCP and Dorset Councils have approved funding for a year long Skills Commission to review the Dorset skills landscape in consideration of the Skills White paper, the levelling up agenda and produce a report that lays out a potential skills journey with 10, 20 and 30 years trajectories. The tender was published in early March.
- **Labour Market Information (LMI) delivery** – Dorset LEP have delivered LMI sessions at Bournemouth and Poole College and Weymouth college FE colleges to help inform curriculum strategies. LMI delivery to schools, young people and parents is under development with the Dorset Careers Hub for roll out in the summer term.
- **Skills4Now – Navigating the Dorset labour market maze** – a webinar delivered by Dorset LEP in March to help businesses understand why it is challenging to recruit, and strategies to help attract and keep the talent they need.
- **Communications** – working with Board members and other local leaders we have continue to publish a series of opinion pieces linking data analysis with business needs, growth and work that is happening across both council areas to support recovery. The latest was linked to International Women's Day and celebrated the success of female business leaders across Dorset yet recognised the impact of Covid19 on the female workforce.

3. The LMI update

The latest labour market update has been [published](#) including dashboards, [report](#) and [presentation](#). The indicators show that the economy is growing and is now close to its pre-coronavirus levels. Despite acute recruitment difficulties remaining in many sectors and rising costs being passed through to prices, business confidence in the UK economy is rising, suggesting more positive expectations for the economy in 2022.

In 2021 the Dorset jobs market was tumultuous but strong where overall recruitment not only recovered but exceeded previous years. The aggregate vacancies advertised in 2021 exceeded 80,000 and were the highest on record. As businesses were trying to fill their increased demand, the moves back to work accelerated among those displaced by the pandemic, but the pace has slowed down in recent months and unemployment climbed up. The report's future careers section features apprenticeships highlighting the demand for apprenticeships has increased over the first months of 2022.

Key engagement updates:

- Dorset's Skills Advisory Panel and Board published its [Local Skills Report – new for 2022](#), which was covered by [local press](#) and press releases expected by BCP and Dorset councils.
- The National Apprenticeship week was celebrated across [Dorset LEP areas](#) and widely covered by training providers and Dorset & Somerset Training Provider Network are partnering with Dorset Chamber to launch the [Dorset Apprenticeship Awards 2022](#) – find out more [Future Career Corner: Apprenticeships](#).
- [The BCP Local Plan is open for consultation](#), the [BCP Economic Development Strategy](#) was approved by Cabinet.
- [The Dorset and Somerset Training Providers Network](#) has published [Your Future Sorted](#) – a directory for school students, parents, teachers and stakeholders in Dorset and Somerset and [Skills Elevator](#) – pathways to different job roles and knowledge and behaviour requirements of potential jobs.
- [Dorset's Careers and Apprenticeship Show](#) is coming on the 17th of March at the Bournemouth International Centre.

- The Government published its Levelling up white paper and started consultations on proposed changes to HE funding.

4. Dorset Careers Hub Update

Dorset LEP is contracted to deliver the Careers & Enterprise Company funded Effective Transitions Project working with Learning Centres and senior schools in key deprived areas to help young people make effective and positive transitions at the end of yr 11. The project is working with 10 learning providers across the county and will be live until the end of 2023.

Across the Dorset Careers Hub, significant analysis of our schools data has highlighted great achievements and trends, combined with weaknesses, which has enabled us to identify focus areas and where there is a need for specific intervention. Some highlights are:

- Middle Schools have emerged as an area where key support is needed and a plan has been put into place to overcome current low attainment of targets. We are specifically working to improve Enterprise Adviser (EA) representation and work experience in the cohort, which equates to 15% of the schools in our network.
- Our SEND schools also need greater support, and we will focus on engaging the SLT at these institutions to get renewed buy-in and in turn increase opportunities for the students.
- We have reviewed and re-engaged with our Cornerstone Employer Group and Lead Schools and some changes have been made to the members to ensure the support from these key support networks is felt and impact is seen. More new employers will be brought on board to boost the Cornerstone Group.
- T-Levels at Ferndown Upper School were launched, and we are working with the schools' senior leadership team to proactively support their campaign.
- We have recently bid for and been awarded funding for amplification of apprenticeships and technical qualifications which will see us run a research project, conference and a further initiative that aims to change perceptions of apprenticeships amongst key target groups.
- Networking and social media activity has increased significantly which means that more people are aware of our presence and work and wanting to contribute and support, importantly the number of offers of work experience and EA's.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Board are asked to note the strategic input and operational delivery of skills.

DRAFT MINUTES

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

25 JANUARY 2022 FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Andrew Wickham (AW)
Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)
Ian Girling (IG)
Jim Andrews (JA)
Jim Stewart (JS)
Cllr John Beesley (JB)
John Sutcliffe (JSu)
Luke Rake (LR)
May Palmer (MP)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Gough (PG)
Phil Sayles (PS)
Sara Uzzell (SU)
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)

Also Present:

Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)
Daniela Doncakova (DD) (Dorset LEP)
Elizabeth Spence (ES) (BEIS)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Neil Gorman (NG) (Dorset Council)
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)
Sandra Rothwell (SR)

Apologies:

Arabella Lewis-Smith (AL)
Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)
Liz Williams (LW)
Paul Read (PR)
Sophia Story (SS)
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Arabella Lewis-Smith, Cllr Drew Mellor, Liz Williams, Paul Read, Sophia Story and Cllr Spencer Flower.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: JS declared an interest in respect of Poole Harbour Commissioners Border Control Post project. LR declared an interest in the One Health Nucleus Proposal</p>	
2.	For Decision / Discussion	Action
2.1	<p>Interim Director's Update</p> <p>CO took the paper as read. She mentioned a couple of points to highlight, the first being the positive initial feedback regarding the DLEP Annual Performance Review and the meeting with Government colleagues to discuss this further is in a couple of weeks. The second was engagement with the British Business Bank regarding the £200m SW Regional funding was going well.</p> <p>Action: The Board notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing delay to the LEP review and the corporate risks associated with this. • The positive indicative outcome of the Annual Performance Review. • The continuing work around key sectors and infrastructure. 	All noted
2.2	<p>One Health Nucleus Proposal (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>LR explained that the One Health Nucleus is a One Health focused Knowledge Exchange entity which will support potential high-growth companies to establish clean growth commercial solutions to global One Health problems. He outlined a proposal for a pilot which will seek to establish the best service model for a fully operational One Health Nucleus and will also identify potential funding models.</p> <p>Action: The Board approved submitting the One Health Nucleus Project Proposal for government funding.</p>	All approved
2.3	<p>Nominations and Remuneration Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>JA explained that there are three board members whose terms are coming to an end shortly. Although the future form and function of the Board is unknown until the LEP Review is announced, it was recommended that the re-election of these Board members be approved.</p> <p>LR and NN left the room whilst the Board considered this. LR and NN then re-joined the meeting.</p> <p>Action: The Board approved the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board are recommended to agree the second term appointments of Board members. • The Board are recommended to note a Board Composition Review will be undertaken once the outcome of the LEP Review is known. 	All approved

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.	For Information / To Note	
3.1	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>CB thanked all Board Members for their continued participation, including the chairing of Committees, despite the disruption whilst we wait for the outcome of the LEP Review. She thanked the Council Leaders for the positive discussions they have been having. She went on to thank CO for her continued positive leadership through this uncertain time and RD also, for all the work she is doing at what is a very challenging time.</p>	
3.2	<p>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO said she would take the papers as read. She thanked May Palmer for taking on the role of Chair of the Committee. CO highlighted that the red risks in the Risk Register were around the outcome of the LEP Review.</p> <p>Action: The Board noted the Finance Report 2021/22.</p>	All noted
3.3	<p>Performance and Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>NN said she would take the paper as read. A discussion took place around the recommendations in the paper. It was agreed that NG would attend a future Committee meeting.</p> <p>Action: DD to invite NG to the next PIC meeting.</p> <p>JA left the meeting at 3.00 pm</p>	DD
3.4	<p>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee</p> <p>JSu informed that work was ongoing on how to establish the role and function of the committee. He emphasised that the Dorset Ambassadors is a valuable tool which should be enhanced further.</p> <p>Action: The Board noted the recommendations in the paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the Peer Networks programme update, including risks identified. • Notes the progress of an English Aquaculture Innovation Hub in Dorset. • Notes the launch of the Design Innovation Support. • Notes the start of work around the creation of a Farming Innovation Group. • Notes the update on the proposals for a South West Maritime Innovation Service. 	All noted
3.5	<p>Skills Advisory Panel and Board</p> <p>LR thanked RD and Mira Koseva for all the work they undertake for this Committee and welcomed Phil Sayles and Paul Gough to it. He informed the Board that the Skills Advisory Panel and Board works effectively and advised that the updated Skills Action Plan was coming out this month.</p> <p>Action: The Board noted the work of the Dorset Gateway Skills Brokerage and the skills support offered to business, along with the Labour Market Information review of 2021 and the impact of continuing Covid-19 and EU-exit challenges.</p>	All noted

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.	For Information / To Note	
3.6	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.7	<p>Enterprise Zone Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>JSu said he would take the paper as read and highlighted a couple of points to note.</p>	
3.8	<p>Advisory Group Updates</p> <p>Rural Enterprise Group - LR explained that as he is also Chair of the Local Nature Partnership, some key crossover issues are being worked on together as well as working with the Dorset Tourism Association where needed too.</p> <p>Dorset Tourism Association (DTA) - CO highlighted that DTA meetings are themed, as per the paper, and if any Board member would like to attend, to get in touch and an invitation can be sent.</p>	
4.	Any Other Business	
	There was no other business raised.	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 24 March 2022 at 10.00 am