

**DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**23 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM**  
**AT BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY**

**AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject/Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
10.30	1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Bufton
	1.1	Change of FE representative	
10.35	2.	Chair Update (verbal)	Cecilia Bufton
	<b>3.</b>	<b>CIC Delivery</b>	
10.40	3.1	Business Update	Shelley Collins-Trevet
10.50	3.2	Skills Update	Rebecca Davies
11.05	3.3	Evidence Base and Strategic Priorities Refresh	Vinita Nawathe
11.15	3.4	Homes for the Economy Conference (verbal)	Vinita Nawathe
11.25	3.5	Growing Places Fund Update	Vinita Nawathe
	<b>4.</b>	<b>Policy</b>	
11.35	4.1	Postponed Item - Implications of Published Guidances; and Follow up Integration plan pro-forma for DBT	Vinita Nawathe
11.50	4.2	Devolution (presentation)	Spencer Flower, Simon Gibson
12.10	4.3	Updates from Board Members (verbal)	All
	<b>5.</b>	<b>For Noting</b>	
12.20	5.1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Vinita Nawathe
	<b>6.</b>	<b>Minutes from the Last Meeting</b>	
12.25	6	Approve Minutes and actions from November Board Meeting and matters arising	Cecilia Bufton

	<b>7.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

**Note: Date of Next Meeting – 23 January at 1.30 pm**

**DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	23-11-23	<b>Item Number</b>	3.1
<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 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**

To brief the Board on delivery, activities and developments related to business growth and inward investment within Dorset LEP.

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.

**2. SUMMARY**

**Growth hub funding delivery (Dorset LEP Business)**

The bi-annual report was submitted to DBT end Oct. Key outputs include:

- Light touch support – 224 (annual target 200)
- Medium intensity – 53 (annual target 100)
- High level – 9 (annual target 60)

This was achieved despite the DBT Funding agreement being received almost 5 months after the start of the financial year and is on track to exceed all targets.

Dorset LEP funded business growth programmes:

**LIVE**

- **Business Growth & Productivity Groups** – this peer support programme is supporting 40 businesses across four key sectors (Engineering & Manufacturing / Marine & Maritime / Digital & Creative / Visitor Economy) with strategic growth, leadership, business performance and productivity. 15 hours of contact time is included – a mixture of group and one-to-one coaching sessions.
- **Bid Writing Masterclasses** – small group masterclasses have been delivered for three key clusters (SWRDSC, DEMC, Digital Creative).
- **Horizon Scanning Service** – this programme helps businesses navigate the complex landscape identify suitable funding opportunities.
- **Bid Writing Support Service** – this popular programme continues to provide expertise on bids to Innovate UK and Government funds.

**Additional programmes** to commence from December 2023:

- **Dorset Business Innovation Programme** – two delivery partners contracted to deliver practical innovation support to 40 businesses (12+ hours).
- **Funding / Investor Readiness Programme** – delivery partners have been selected and contracts to start Dec 2023.

#### **COMPLETED**

- Investor Readiness Pilot Programme – this workshop ran in June and attracted 25 businesses. Feedback was excellent and this programme has been developed into a series.
- Strategic Business Review Pilot Programme – this programme is now complete with 5 businesses receiving 12+ hours of one-to-one specialist advice and support.

These programmes are in addition to the **business signposting service, CRM management** and **DBT reporting** (monthly, bi-annual and annual).

The **DLEP Business LinkedIn page** is very active with 1390 followers as at 9<sup>th</sup> Nov (up from 1344 at 11<sup>th</sup> Sept).

**Innovate UK Marine and Maritime Launchpad** – Dorset LEP have worked closely with Innovate UK, Maritime UK SW and GSW teams to develop the scheme, all communications messages and launch of this high-profile funding opportunity. The Launchpad launched in Oct and Dorset businesses can apply for funding from the £7.5m pot for projects related to Clean Maritime, Digital Oceans and Marine Autonomy.

**Dorset Ambassadors** – the latest event took place on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at Bournemouth & Poole College. Additional new potential members were hand-selected and invited and the group is growing. Over 30 attendees benefited from networking and a tour of the college facilities. A partnership between B&PC and Hall & Woodhouse Brewery was brokered as a direct result of the event. The next event will be held at AUB in Q1 2024.

**Dorset Chamber Business Festival** – Dorset LEP were represented at the Expo, Conference and Awards at this high-profile event and engaged with a large number of the 1k attendees over the 4 day event.

**South West Regional Angel Development Programme** – Dorset LEP are working with Tech South West and other LEPs, Combined Authorities and Local Authorities across the wider-SW region on this new initiative on regional angel network development. A “Super Connector” is being recruited by Tech SW and Dorset activity is planned for Dec.

**Local Nature Recovery Strategy** – Dorset LEP is the representative for and link to business on the steering group for this initiative led by Dorset Council in conjunction with BCP Council. Dorset LEP Communications Manager is on the Comms and Engagement Working Group.

**Fintech West South Coast** – Dorset LEP has partnered with BCP Council and Fintech West to launch the “South Coast Spoke” of Fintech West in Dorset. A launch event took place on 27<sup>th</sup> September – 35 delegates attended the event at Foundry, Poole. The next event is planned for Spring 24.

**Business Improvement Districts** – All BID Directors have been invited to join the Dorset

Ambassador Network with 2 expressing an interest (Wimborne and Bournemouth Town Centre).

**South West Investment Fund** – a £200 million commitment of new funding to the South West region. Dorset LEP has strong relationships with both fund managers (SWIG & FSE Group) and Dorset businesses have already benefited from this investment.

**Inward Investment** – Inward Investment prospectuses for all priority sectors in Dorset will be reviewed and updated in Q1 2024. Working with DBT partners, BCP and Dorset Council the team work to share resource and provide an effective support service for inward investors under the Invest In Dorset (IID) brand. The team recently presented the Financial Services proposition to the FPBS team at DBT.

**GSW** – we continue to work closely with the GSW team on several initiatives:

- Innovate UK Marine and Maritime Launchpad
- Ocean Futures (No longer formally part of GSW)
- GSW Energy Prospectus & Energy Programme Board
- Internationalisation Strategy

**UK SPF** – BCP Council's UK SPF Programme continues and is very popular with grants already paid out to successful applicants. Dorset Council are offering business support via Dorset Growth Hub prior to the full launch of their UK SPF Programme expected mid-Nov.

**Future Farming Resilience** – working with Devon County Council and Business Information Point we are driving forward the delivery of support for farmers across Dorset. GSW region is still the highest performing region in England on programme registrations and engagements. A radio advert has been live on Greatest Hits Radio Dorset since Sept, executed by Dorset LEP.

**Clusters / Programmes** – Dorset LEP continue to play an active role in a number of clusters / programmes including South West Regional Defence & Security Cluster, National Farmers Union, Dorset Chamber, Business Improvement Districts, Maritime UK South West, South West Agri-Tech, South West Aquaculture Network, Dorset Innovation Hub.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only

## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	23/11/23	<b>Item Number</b>	3.2
<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 Skills Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	None		
<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 following the meeting of the Dorset Skills Board (DSB), with operational updates from Dorset LEP skills team.

### 2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

#### Labour Market Information

Dorset LEP have published the Labour Market Insights for Q3.

At a national level the labour market has continued to soften with vacancy levels continuing to fall from their historical highs at the end of 2022. Despite this, wage growth has been strong – in reaction to continued high inflation – and for the first time in recent years it broadly reached parity with inflation which is now beginning to slow. Businesses have come under pressure to increase wages, helping employees withstand some of the squeeze on incomes.

The increase in interest rates that have occurred as a reaction to inflationary pressures are having an impact, particularly with evidence that house prices are beginning to fall – although rental levels remain high. This means that household wealth has come under pressure, alongside the squeezes on household income.

The Bank of England employment intentions had reduced over the past couple of months and they had eased significantly since the start of the year. However, businesses generally expected to keep staff numbers broadly stable over the coming year. The Bank expected pay settlements to ease gradually over the rest of 2023 and into 2024. Fewer businesses expected to make 'cost of living' payments to staff over the coming year than done so last year. Many businesses, especially in consumer services, remained concerned about the possible impact of National Living Wage increases next year.

There were continued signs that recruitment difficulties continued to ease. The easing was still concentrated at the lower end of the skills range, but there were signs that it was becoming more general. Recruitment remained difficult for businesses in sectors with persistent skill shortages, such as IT, engineering, and finance.

Nationally, ONS reports an estimated 6% fall in the number of vacancies in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter of 2023. In contrast to the national picture of softening demand, vacancies across Dorset have been consistent through the summer and into early autumn. Dorset has had an average of 9,500 vacancies advertised per month in 2023, with a

total of 28,756 vacancies advertised in Q3. Nationally vacancies are +16% on Q3 2022, in Dorset vacancies are +49% on Q3 2022.

Unemployment in Dorset is lower than the national average, with 9,300 people currently unemployed in Dorset (2.6% compared to 3.7% nationally). Interestingly 16,500 people have joined the workforce in Dorset in Q3 of 2023, 6,900 who were previously unemployed and the remainder likely to have moved from economically inactive, to employed.

As we have seen previously, increases in economic inactivity in the post pandemic period have been mostly driven by those aged 50-64 with long term sickness increasing to record levels, and those caring for family or home decreasing to record lows. We undertook some Dorset specific analysis on this category and have seen that the increase in economic inactivity post pandemic reached a peak in Q4 2022, with numbers consistently dropping during 2023. This may explain Dorset's increasing workforce during Q2 and Q3.

Labour demand across key sectors remains strong. The first 9 months of 2023 have seen vacancies increasing 4.5x and also strong growth in goods services and wholesale trade. There was a small fall in the number of advertised vacancies in the human health sector, despite it remaining as the most significant sector in terms of labour demand. Hospitality vacancies have also risen to a new high in 2023.

Demand for lower and mid-skilled roles in Dorset continues to be persistent, making up 28% of vacancies and focused particularly on Elementary and Caring occupations. This is likely a reflection of higher turnover, declining supply and possible changes in the way employers recruit for these roles in recent years.

The openings for high skilled jobs that typically demand university and college graduates in Dorset however remain critical to local growth. This accounted for c46% of the advertised vacancies, with mid-skilled roles making up c27%.

Finally, for this brief overview of Q3, we see finance, project management, auditing, invoicing and accounting as the top 5 sought after skills. Personal care comes in at number 6, and nursing at number 9. Digital skills requirements strongly reflect the need for Microsoft package skills. As previously noted, the need for soft skills remains strong.

The full presentation of Labour Market Insight for Q3 2023 will be published on our website w/c 20/11/23.

### **Dorset Skills Board**

---

Nicola Newman chaired the first Dorset Skills Board (DSB) in November. The DSB is convened to support the growth of an inclusive economy with a highly skilled workforce to meet business need and aspiration. It provides collective leadership and strategic steer for skills and employment activity, and oversight for the Local Skills Improvement Plan.

DSB heard from head of HR at Vistz, Evonne Pemberton, and discussed the challenges highlighted around resourcing of skilled staff and apprentices.

The remainder of the meeting heard updates from members, an update on the Local Skills Improvement Plan and a presentation on the Q3 Labour Market Insights.

### **Dorset LEP Skills activity**

---

**Skills Boot Camps** – wave 4 is now live, and wave 5 grant expected in December. Businesses are able to secure specific training needs as required by the business. Training is applicable to employees and those not working, so businesses are able to use this scheme to train their

existing workforce. Business who might benefit from this delivery can contact Dorset LEP [Contact us | Dorset LEP](#) or Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network [Skills Bootcamps - DSTPN](#) to start the process of informing the learning needed.

**Pioneer Project** – Seetec Plus have a wrap around service funded by Department for Work and Pensions to help those who are economically inactive due to sickness/disability back into the workforce. Drop in appointments are available at the Digital Skills Hub every Tuesday or through Job Centre Plus.

## **Dorset Careers Hub**

---

We've had a busy start to the academic year, with a full calendar of in-person events and virtual CPD sessions, for Careers Leaders, parents, young people, employers and enterprise advisers. Our Careers & Coffee Saturday roadshows kicked off in Wimborne and attracted over 40 people, and we are sold-out in Weymouth, and looking forward to similarly busy sessions in Poole and Sturminster Newton. We're getting ready for our SLT Sessions event where we continue to engage and encourage head teachers throughout our network.

**Targeted Transitions Fund** launched last month, with £115,000 of DfE funding, to support a further 155 young people who are at risk of NEET (RON). Working with both local authorities and 5 schools in each council area, young people on free school meals, have been selected from both mainstream and alternative provision settings. Similar to our Dorset Marvels scheme that is ongoing, we're providing targeted interventions and additional careers advice and guidance for those most in need. We've also allocated 20% of our budget to working with Electively Home Educated and School Refusers cohort, and their parents/carers, as a result of discussions in our steering group, where the need was identified.

Following the success and scalability of our **Removing Barriers Project**, that concluded in September, we're rolling out some additional resources and workshops for employers to continue to spread the word and simplify the messaging around becoming a Disability Confident Employer. Opportunities have been created for young people and there are true legacies of the work, including Weymouth College launching their supported internship scheme, on top of 10 new Dorset businesses seeing culture shifts and opening their workplaces up to SEND young people.

With guidance from the CEC to spend a third of our budget on improving the opportunities for young people to **experience the workplace**, we have hired a dedicated project manager to lead on this important piece of work. We have partnered with Dorset Chamber of Commerce, who will host Laura Bush, one of our existing EC's, who will take up the post from January. We will be continuing to spread the word about the mutual benefits of work experience, and the alternatives, to both employers and future employees. Given the tangible link with work experience and raising aspirations; increasing confidence; fostering a better understanding of the next generation; and increasing job applications, this is an important step forward. The project will include a comms campaign, resources, open doors events, how-to workshops for businesses, and culminate in production of a much-needed directory of work experience providers in Dorset, for schools.

The CEC **Employer Standards** framework, a self-assessment tool for businesses that defines what 'good' looks like in employer outreach and early careers activities, was recently rolled out nationally after a successful pilot with Cornerstone Employers. 95% said it was a useful and user-friendly application that had influenced them to make improvements to their outreach to young people. Over 360 organisations, representing 1 million employees, have completed the assessment. Findings so far show a direct relationship between outreach and intake, and an increase in job applications, and career readiness, as a result of employer encounters with young people. It also shows that construction and health sectors, that have the most



sophisticated outreach programmes, have the most interest in their vacancies, and apprenticeships.

Our **Cornerstone Employer Group** is now complete, with new members from Hoare Lea, representing design, construction and green careers; The Lighthouse, Poole, representing creative industries; RNLI representing maritime careers and National Farmers Union representing agriculture and AgriTech, key industry sectors in Dorset. The group, that also includes NHS Dorset, Brewhouse & Kitchen, ASMPT, BAE Systems, CG Fry, Dorset Council, Marriott Hotels, Superior Seals, RAF and Saffrey, came together in September and is passionate about supporting us in our work around disadvantage and removing barriers across the county.

### Change in Leadership at the Hub

Rebecca Phillips has recently resigned and will be leaving DCH on 15th December. Helen Stevenson, who has been on maternity leave for the last year, is returning to work on the 2nd January, and we have been able to retain Jan, who has covered in Helen's absence. This will provide continuity and stability for the Hub, and our team and retain knowledge and working relationships. Jan and Helen will jointly lead the Hub.

### Digital Skills Hub

---

We are delivering the following impacts and benefits which are directly aligned to the project objectives

- An inclusive, knowledge-based Hub delivering opportunities for residents and business around technology adoption and aspirational learning.
- A coordinated, inspiring digital skills, innovation and learning ecosystem building on existing strengths and generating community learning impact.
- Delivery of specialised incubator and accelerator business support and advice for digital and creative tech companies
- Be the home of digital skills accessibility for Boscombe and the wider community

The following table gives an overview of the autumn delivery schedule:

<b>Digital Skills Hub Delivery</b>	
Mondays :	Personal Development – a very popular course designed to help those furthest from the workforce recognise and develop the attributes needed for the workplace.
	Business staff resources – working with business advisors and Department of work and pensions, we answer business's questions about growth, resilience, innovation, funding, and staffing.
Tuesdays :	Work focused Tuesdays – we provide an 'all about work' delivery by bringing together providers from Job Centre Plus, National Careers Service, Seetec Plus, and Family Hub staff. Customers get the opportunity to talk to all services in the same space, and providers get to understand other provision and appropriately signpost. These are very popular days, and the local residents enjoy the more relaxed atmosphere offered to discuss potential work opportunities.
Wednesdays :	Business Accelerator – Our flagship provision of a business accelerator, bringing together 15 companies to work on innovation, growth, and resilience. These are digital companies aligned to the

	strategy of the hub, working with our specialist provider to help build stronger, bigger businesses.
	Essential Digital Skills – In the training room, we offer an Essential Digital Skills course, delivered in partnership with BCHA. We are on our second delivery of this course and have commissioned a pathway course to lead customers to the Level 2 course delivered through Skills and Learning in Kings Park.
	Pop up activities – we have a range of workshops focused on helping businesses – things like pitching, funding opportunities, bid writing, resilience, cyber security and more. We've also hosted Dorset Careers Hub confidence building session for year 11 pupils.
Online	Mentoring – working in partnership with Silicon South we have created an opportunity for business mentoring. Businesses can register and find a suitable mentor from a range on offer. This is a digital service.
Partnership offer	Business Startup programme – in partnership with The Old School House we are delivering two 6-week programmes of business startup workshops. This fully booked offer helps to ensure new business owners have as much information available to them as possible. Essentially, this is delivered within the Boscombe ward.

We have created a digital comms platform to promote our offer including a website, [www.digitalskillshub.org.uk](http://www.digitalskillshub.org.uk), Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn profiles. We are delivering blog articles and useful signposting via our digital platforms. By creating a cohesive digital comms delivery, we ensure that we can reach the widest number of people and businesses.

A critical part of the delivery model for BCP would be aligning the Digital Platform App delivery organisation with the Hub delivery organisation. This is currently in the early stages of creation, and we are working with BCP to inform the look and feel of the app. Importantly, we have provided the digital assets created for the Digital Skills Hub so that the new app product will align to the Hub.

Forward planning includes delivery across 4 days per week, evening business focused workshops, education pathways to support those returning to work and more.

### KPIs

We report bi-annually, against the following criteria. Our delivery in the first six months is compromised by the set-up time, but we have made excellent progress towards the forecast targets. It is expected we will meet the targets for the year by the 31 March 2024.

	Output title	Actual	F/C
1	# of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready	12	15
2	# of enterprises receiving non-financial support	195	45
3	Number of closer collaborations with employers	20	12
4	Number of customers/ businesses using the Hub	576	1500
5	Number of qualified new learners in new courses	6	20

6	Number of referrals to existing courses and facilities	576	1100
7	Number of new learners enrolled on existing courses and facilities	15	0

At the 6 month point we were on target with the forecast budget for the project

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

For information.

## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	23 November 2023	<b>Item Number</b>	3.3
<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>	Evidence base an strategic economic priorities update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	Board members are asked to note this update and to engage with the work as it evolves. Board members are invited to suggest documents, data sources and colleagues that would usefully feed into this work.		
<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

For noting

### 2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Since the last board meeting, Emma Buckman from Buckman Associates Ltd has been commissioned to:

- Update our economic evidence base; and
- Update our economic priorities to reflect the latest evidence and current opportunities.

This work commenced at the beginning of the month with a review of current and previous strategies to understand how the LEPs strategic plans have evolved over time. The results of this exercise are show in Appendix 1. This highlights a number of recurring issues as well as a subtle evolution of priorities.

As part of this initial review process, a review of current/previous evidence bases was undertaken to identify:

- Which parts of the evidence base have been updated recently;
- Which parts have not been updated recently; and
- Any gaps in the evidence base.

Following this, an outline content structure was developed to form the basis of the updated evidence base. This currently includes the following themes:

- Output productivity and competitiveness
- Innovation and research
- Business environment
- Sectors
- Population
- The labour market
- Skills supply
- Skills demand

- Mapping skills supply and demand
- Housing and place
- Accessibility and infrastructure
- Energy and the environment

Appendix 2 details the proposed indicators to be reviewed as part of this analysis (subject to availability). Work has now started on populating this evidence base, including drawing on analysis and dashboards which are currently being updated to support the LCIP.

The aim will be to complete the majority of the evidence base during the rest of November and December. Alongside working on the evidence base, Emma will also start to engage with both internal and external stakeholders to understand current priorities, challenges and opportunities. We anticipate that this engagement process will culminate in 1-2 workshops to agree the strategic direction in the new year. We hope that you can fully engage with this process.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

Board members are asked to note this update and to engage with the work as it evolves. Board members are invited to suggest documents, data sources and colleagues that would usefully feed into this work.

## APPENDIX 1: STRATEGY REVIEW

The analysis below summarises the key elements of following strategies:

- Dorset LEP's Strategic Economic Plan (2014)
- Dorset LEP's Strategic Economic Vision (2016)
- Dorset LEP's Statement of Intent (2018)
- Dorset LEP's Horizon 2038 (2018)
- Dorset LEP's Local Industrial Strategy (2019)
- Dorset Investment Prospectus 2021-2030
- Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole's Economic Development Strategy (2021-2026)
- Dorset Council's Economic Growth Strategy

The review summarised:

- Vision statements
- Targets and growth ambitions
- Key sectors identified
- Any priorities/themes

## VISION STATEMENTS

Strategic Document	Vision statements
<b>Strategic Economic Plan (2014)</b>	Not clearly identifiable
<b>Strategic Economic Vision (2016)</b>	By 2033 Dorset will be one of Britain's Core City-Regions, and the most sustainable of these. Its competitiveness will be driven by innovation, particularly in its key sectors, including Advanced Manufacturing and Financial Services.
<b>Statement of Intent (2018)</b>	Our vision for Dorset is to realise a 21st century city by the sea within a sustainable and modern county economy. Doing nothing is not an option; standing still is going backwards. This means creating a growing economy that works for local people, raising Dorset's national and international standing, and maintaining and enhancing the fantastic quality of life that makes Dorset such an attractive place to live. In doing so, we can be an exemplar for innovative and healthy 21st century economic growth, providing an alternative to the 'legacy' model – i.e. the attempts among post-industrial cities to reinvent their 19th century prosperity. Dorset can embody an alternative, forward-looking model.
<b>Dorset Horizon 2038 (2018)</b>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> By 2038, Dorset will be one of Britain's Core City regions and the most sustainable of these. Its competitiveness will be driven by innovation, particularly in its key sectors, including advanced engineering, manufacturing, financial services, creative industries and health.</p> <p><b>Skills and Enterprise:</b> By 2038, Dorset's workforce will be highly productive, aspirational and agile so that the talents of all contribute to prosperity, well-being and innovation.</p> <p><b>Connectivity and mobility:</b> By 2038, we will create an efficient, sustainable, technology-driven transport system that improves connectivity in the region and enables increased productivity across all areas of the transportation network.</p> <p><b>Business support:</b> By 2038, we will develop and enhance a world-class business support hub that will help businesses start, grow and maximise their potential</p>

	<p>through a range of focused actions that are aligned with our priority areas and the objectives set out in the Government's Industrial Strategy and our Local Industrial Strategy.</p> <p><b>Digital:</b> By 2038, Dorset will become a first-class, smart and connected digital region supporting the future needs, economic expansion and productivity of industry. We will be at the forefront of 5G and digital technology, products, manufacturing and application development globally.</p>
<b>Local Industrial Strategy (Dec 2019)</b>	<p>By 2030, Dorset will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using a <a href="#">One Health</a> approach as a basis to age well and live sensitively in the environment. Dorset will be the UK lead for One Health and the aquaculture capital of the UK.</li> <li>• Using opportunities of new technologies in security, lead a revolution in <b>defence innovation and security</b>. Dorset will be a key defence hub for the UK, and a leader in defence tech and commercialisation.</li> <li>• Leading a <b>digital and cultural transformation</b> across all communities.</li> </ul> <p>In achieving these ambitions, Dorset will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a culture of innovation and embed a strong innovation eco-system across all industries</li> <li>• Create a smarter and more productive workforce that produces more with fewer resources.</li> <li>• Develop a genuinely smart place that is well-connected, allowing people to interact both in person and digitally; a place that is energy resilient, utilising local renewable energy sources</li> <li>• Build national and international recognition as a 'total business environment' – combining new levels of support, leadership and skills alongside a collaborative business approach which inspires sustained growth, ambition and success in a great place to live</li> <li>• Create an exemplar coastal city region for 21<sup>st</sup> Century seaside towns and coastal communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Dorset Investment Prospectus 2021-2030</b>	None clearly identifiable
<b>BCP Economic Development Strategy (2021-2026)</b>	The aim of this strategy, therefore, is to balance the many economic opportunities within the BCP city region – whilst addressing impacts of global, national and local challenges. This strategy will help deliver the government's levelling up ambitions to strengthen local leadership to drive real change and raise living standards.
<b>Dorset Economic Growth Strategy</b>	This Economic Growth Strategy sets out our ambitions to enable clean, inclusive, sustainable and good quality economic growth across the whole council area. We aim to bring improved standards of living, quality of life, health, and wellbeing for all of Dorset's residents. We want to ensure that Dorset is great place to live, work and visit.

## TARGETS AND GROWTH AMBITIONS

Strategic Document	Targets and Growth Ambitions
<b>Strategic Economic Plan (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a business environment that accommodates up to 40,000 additional jobs by 2021, with annual employment and GVA growth consistently above the UK average.</li> <li>• Prioritise key sectors and high growth companies which strengthen the knowledge based economy in Dorset and provide higher paid and higher skilled jobs capturing national and international opportunities for Dorset's businesses and supply chains.</li> <li>• Exploit potential for high growth, high skilled and high value employment associated with priority sectors: Advanced manufacturing, creative and digital, marine, and healthcare technologies with an explicit aim to boost exports.</li> <li>• Transform Dorset by leveraging its unique natural advantages. Bringing people and resources into the region through tourism-innovation, employer relocations and by attracting and retaining a talented workforce.</li> <li>• Strengthen economic growth by continually improving connectivity through investment in transport infrastructure and services and new generations of digital infrastructure, including mobile technologies.</li> <li>• Maximise the contribution of talented people and businesses in the conurbation and rural Dorset, linking our education and training systems to the needs and opportunities of a growing economy.</li> <li>• Ensure that a sustainable, affordable and diverse housing market meets the needs of residents and employees relocating into the region. Our housing development should contribute to and in no way impede economic growth.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Economic Vision (2016)</b>	<p>By 2033:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 82.5% economic activity rate</li> <li>• £63,000 GVA per worker</li> <li>• 50% of employment in key sectors</li> <li>• 0.7% increased number of graduates</li> <li>• Growth in the number of apprenticeships at or above England average</li> <li>• Increased % of population with NVQ 3 and 4</li> <li>• Net increase in businesses per year the same as UK average</li> <li>• Increased and more coherent public transport use</li> <li>• Travel time to London and Bristol reduced by 15minutes</li> <li>• All areas have access to ultrafast broadband</li> <li>• Uninterrupted mobile internet at 5G or latest equivalent</li> <li>• A realistic supply of allocated an developable employment land is available</li> <li>• 6.5 housing affordability ratio</li> <li>• All areas with an environmental designation continue to be maintained and improved and increase the number of green and blue flags awarded</li> <li>• Have Dorset recognised for the quality of its green spaces, and as part of the development process, particularly within urban areas</li> </ul>
<b>Statement of Intent (2018)</b>	<p>By 2038 we aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double our GVA to £35.6bn</li> <li>• Increase our productivity by 55% (so that it converges with England average)</li> <li>• Create 80,000 new jobs</li> </ul>
<b>Dorset Horizon 2038 (2018)</b>	<p>By 2038</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double economic output</li> <li>• Create 80,000 new jobs</li> <li>• Build around 78,000 new homes</li> </ul>



<b>Local Industrial Strategy (Dec 2019)</b>	None clearly identifiable
<b>Dorset Investment Prospectus 2021-2030</b>	<p>Expressed as value of investment opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FUTURE</b> The Dorset Investment Prospectus headlines the following investment opportunities over the next 10 years: Living £2.2bn Natural £285m Smart £350m Wellbeing £140m £2.975bn</li> <li>• <b>RETURN</b> These deliver an estimated 10 year economic return to Dorset of: Living £9bn GVA Natural £5bn GVA Smart £6bn GVA Wellbeing £4bn GVA New Jobs 48,000 £24bn GVA</li> </ul>
<b>BCP Economic Development Strategy (2021-2026)</b>	<p>For the city region to become a top 20 ranked city region in terms productivity by 2026 - it is currently ranked 32 out of the 62 cities.</p> <p>Goals for each theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting actions to increase productivity across our SME business community. Achieve top 20 GDP per capita of UK Cities by 2026.</li> <li>• Encouraging growth in the city region's priority sectors and clusters as catalysts to success – impacting on local supply chains, employment and overall prosperity, maintaining and expanding BCP Council's role as a leading area for success in these sectors</li> <li>• Creating the best local economic conditions to achieve a world-class, sustainable city region and one of the best coastal places in the world in which to live, work, invest and play.</li> <li>• Achieving an outstanding Economic Development Team (EDT) within BCP Council, acting as the concierge for council business-facing functions.</li> </ul>
<b>Dorset Economic Growth Strategy</b>	<p>We will focus on supporting social mobility and protection for the environment. We will address Dorset's particular challenges related to its demographics. We will be aware of the highly protected landscapes. We will challenge low productivity and lower than average skills. We will seek to address the high proportion of businesses in lower value added activity.</p> <p>To achieve the economic ambitions of the Council, our ambition is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhanced digital infrastructure, full fibre technology and mobile connectivity, serving the whole of Dorset</li> <li>• securing additional funds and inward investment to deliver transformative schemes</li> <li>• improved capacity and reliability of power supplies and networks to drive growth (especially at key employment sites and preferably from green energy sources)</li> </ul>

## SECTORS

Strategic Document	Priority/key sectors identified
<b>Strategic Economic Plan (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT &amp; Precision Instruments</li> <li>• Digital, Creative &amp; Information Services</li> <li>• Financial Services &amp; Business Services</li> <li>• Health &amp; Social Care</li> <li>• Education &amp; Research &amp; Development</li> <li>• Advanced Manufacturing / Automotive &amp; Aerospace</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Economic Vision (2016)</b>	<p>Does an analysis of key sectors, but does not seem to come to a conclusion about which are to be supported – based on HJA analysis</p>
<b>Statement of Intent (2018)</b>	<p>High Growth Sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced manufacturing and engineering</li> <li>• Creative Tech</li> <li>• Agri-tech/aquaculture</li> </ul> <p>Established sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial services</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul>
<b>Dorset Horizon 2038 (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Growth</li> <li>• Health Services and Technology</li> <li>• Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering</li> <li>• Financial Services and Technology</li> <li>• Rural Economy</li> <li>• Housing</li> </ul>
<b>Local Industrial Strategy (Dec 2019)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One health</b> - Leading a combined approach to the healthy ageing and clean growth challenges through a 'One Health' approach to achieve the best, cross-generational health outcomes for humans, nature and the environment with organisations working together to revolutionise future living in Dorset.</li> <li>• <b>Defence Tech and Security</b> - Maximising a unique geography to unlock new innovation in defence and cyber security which places Dorset's defence and security industry at the forefront of technological innovation across land, sea, air and cyberspace</li> <li>• <b>Creative, Culture and Digital</b> - Making Dorset a digital smart place of exceptional culture, releasing the potential of the very best creative and cultural businesses, and unlocking innovation and imagination in all that we do.</li> </ul>
<b>Invest in Dorset</b>	<p>Invest in Dorset identifies the following sectors (although they are not mentioned explicitly in the prospectus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing</li> <li>• Agritech and aquaculture</li> <li>• Creative digital</li> <li>• Financial services</li> <li>• Marine</li> </ul> <p>It also identifies several specific inward investment opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5G ecosystem</li> <li>• Aerospace MRO</li> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Sustainable aquaculture</li> <li>• Visual effects</li> </ul>

**BCP Economic Development Strategy (2021-2026)**

- **Financial services and fin-tech:** Enhancing BCP's role as a premier financial district outside of the City of London.
- **Advanced engineering and manufacturing (AEM) (inc. marine/aerospace):** Growing a resilient, 'smart-enabled' AEM cluster via an economic acceleration zone incorporating the Port of Poole and Bournemouth Airport Aviation Business Park.
- **Health and care:** Creating a total business environment for the future of integrated health and care exploiting new technology and innovation. The BCP area to become a secondary national hub for the Department of Health and Social Care.
- **Environmental Technologies (inc. sustainable construction):** Unlocking the zero carbon dividend for new environmental technologies and establish BCP as a globally leading sustainable coastal destination.
- **Creative and Digital Tech:** Growing BCP as one of the best destinations for creative, cultural and digital entrepreneurs.
- **Retail, hospitality & leisure (RHL):** Working with the sector to underpin an exceptional local and visitor offer across the day and night-time the BCP area's economy.

<b>Dorset Economic Growth Strategy</b>	<b>Dorset prospects</b>	<b>Key sector</b>	<b>Growth scenario</b>
	Potential to provide significant growth	Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing	Scope for strong local growth in high and medium-high technology manufacturing. Focus on aerospace marine and defence
		Construction	Increase in jobs and productivity likely providing availability of skilled and adaptable workforce met
		ICT services	Productivity anticipated to grow above national average. Support and infrastructure critical for all sector growth
	Potential to increase contribution to growth if local challenges addressed	Health and social care	Significant job growth anticipated, particularly with e-health and e-care solutions
		Land based industry	Agri-tech and aquaculture priority sectors for investment and development of workforce skills
		Tourism and leisure	Job numbers to remain steady, investment to improve the Dorset 'offer' improving visitor experience, productivity and quality of employment opportunity
	Intervention required to mitigate negative effects on Dorset economy	Financial and professional services	Marginal falls in jobs and GVA anticipated, reflecting national trends
		Public Administration and defence	Likely to experience continuing reduction in jobs and investment without local intervention
		Retail	Jobs fall anticipated in line with national trends and changes in retail patterns, especially towards online  Reduced requirement for multiples to have presence in smaller locations

**PRIORITIES/THEMES**

Strategic Document	Priorities/themes within the strategies
<b>Strategic Economic Plan (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitive Dorset</li> <li>• Connected Dorset</li> <li>• Responsive Dorset</li> <li>• Talented Dorset</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Economic Vision (2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high productivity economy</li> <li>• Provision of housing to facilitate growth</li> <li>• A growing business population</li> <li>• A competitive, sustainable and resilient sector mix</li> <li>• A world-class workforce</li> <li>• Accessible to markets</li> <li>• Making the most of the natural environment</li> <li>• Delivering growth across Dorset</li> </ul>
<b>Statement of Intent (2018)</b>	<p>Addressing grand challenges to raise productivity by 55% by 2038:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data and digital growth across the economy - Drive growth in our key sectors: createch, advanced engineering, and agri-tech/aquaculture</li> <li>• Future of mobility and digital connectivity - Work with Government to prioritise investment in connectivity</li> <li>• Harness innovation to support an ageing society - Pursue an affordable housing deal for local workers Pursue a healthy living deal to support improved health outcomes</li> <li>• Clean growth and a sustainable Dorset - Create a vibrant and sustainable 21st century city by the sea and support the modern county economy to growth</li> </ul>
<b>Dorset Horizon 2038 (2018)</b>	<p>Foundations of productivity: Ideas, People, Infrastructure, Business Environment &amp; Places</p> <p>Grand Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AI and data</li> <li>• Ageing society</li> <li>• Clean Growth</li> <li>• Future of Mobility</li> </ul>
<b>Local Industrial Strategy (Dec 2019)</b>	<p>Three specialisation areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One health</b> - Leading a combined approach to the healthy ageing and clean growth challenges through a 'One Health' approach to achieve the best, cross-generational health outcomes for humans, nature and the environment with organisations working together to revolutionise future living in Dorset.</li> <li>• <b>Defence Tech and Security</b> - Maximising a unique geography to unlock new innovation in defence and cyber security which places Dorset's defence and security industry at the forefront of technological innovation across land, sea, air and cyberspace</li> <li>• <b>Creative, Culture and Digital</b> - Making Dorset a digital smart place of exceptional culture, releasing the potential of the very best creative and cultural businesses, and unlocking innovation and imagination in all that we do.</li> </ul> <p>Plus 5 foundations of productivity: Ideas, People, Infrastructure, Business Environment &amp; Places.</p>

<p><b>Dorset Investment Prospectus 2021-2030</b></p>	<p>Investment opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smart</b> - Leading a smart revolution across Dorset by accelerating gigabit and wireless connectivity, including 5G. This is a significant opportunity at the heart of our prospectus, increasing the accessibility and application of digital technology to benefit our economy, people and places</li> <li>• <b>Wellbeing</b> - Dorset is one of the leading integrated care systems in England, a living laboratory with a unique demographic and some of the most advanced population health intelligence in the UK. Commercial and research opportunities to meet the global challenge of healthy ageing</li> <li>• <b>Natural</b> - Enhancing the value of our natural capital on land and at sea, amplifying Dorset's environmental distinctiveness through investments in agri-tech, aquaculture, clean energy and skills, while meeting the challenges of the global climate emergency</li> <li>• <b>Living</b> - Dorset enjoys an exceptional quality of life – it is a premier destination to live, work, learn and visit. Combining the UK's newest City Region alongside outstanding rural and coastal locations – all conveniently within reach of London and other major UK and international destinations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BCP Economic Development Strategy (2021-2026)</b></p>	<p>7 objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team BCP championing the city region to the world</li> <li>• Focusing on a rapid, resilient recovery</li> <li>• A diverse and skilled workforce</li> <li>• Increasing productivity leading to higher wages</li> <li>• Maximising technology for clean growth</li> <li>• Dynamic supply chains and world-leading primes</li> <li>• A shared commitment to future social and ecological values</li> </ul> <p>Priority Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1. Supercharging our business community:</b> Focusing on supporting increased productivity across our small and medium sized business community.</li> <li>• <b>2. Supporting the BCP exemplar industries:</b> Encouraging growth in BCP priority sectors and clusters as the catalysts to success.</li> <li>• <b>3. Opening doors to prosperity:</b> Creating the best local economic conditions to achieve a world-class, sustainable city region and one of the best coastal places in the world in which to live, work, invest and play.</li> <li>• <b>4. Business matters @ BCP:</b> Achieving an outstanding economic development service, acting as the concierge for all Council business-facing functions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dorset Economic Growth Strategy</b></p>	<p><b>Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhance Dorset as a place to do business and attract inward investment</li> <li>• support the creation and growth of new sustainable business. This will support high quality job creation</li> <li>• improve transport and digital connectivity across the area</li> <li>• enhance aspirations and skills to improve social mobility</li> </ul> <p><b>Six foundations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">digital infrastructure</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">people and skills</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">business and environment</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ideas and innovation</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">place</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">transport infrastructure</a></li> </ul>

**Appendix 2: Proposed Evidence Base Structure and Content**

Theme	Headline Analysis (subject to availability at LEP level)	Source	Detail (subject to availability and capacity)
<b>Output, Productivity and Competitiveness</b>	Output	ONS	Over time Split by LA Compared with national average
	Forecast GVA	tbc	
	Productivity per hour worked	ONS	Over time Split by LA Compared with national average
	Productivity per filled job	ONS	Over time Split by LA Compared with national average
	UK Competitiveness Index (rank)	UKCI 2023 Nottingham Business School	Over time Split by LA
<b>Innovation &amp; Research</b>	Business Enterprise R&D Expenditure per person employed	ONS	Nothing available no ONS for sub-regional geography
	R&D Expenditure per person employed	Eurostat	By NUTS2 area
	Innovate UK	Innovate UK	
	% employed in science, research, engineering and technology professions	APS	Not available post Jan 2021
	First degrees with honours, qualifiers, STEM and non-STEM	HESA	
	Doctorate Degrees STEM and non STEM	HESA	
	FT postgraduate entrants	HESA	
	Graduate retention	HESA	
	Interaction between HE and business and wider community – total income per HE academic FTE	HEFCE	
	% of firms engaged in product or process innovation	ONS	
	Patent applications	Eurostat	
	Qualitative description of research assets and strengths	Multiple	Consider alignment with UK innovation strategy missions and technology families and UKRI strategic themes
<b>Business Environment</b>	Number of businesses	IDBR/ONS business demography	Over time LA By employment size band
	Births/deaths/net change	ONS business demography	Over time LA
	Business survival	ONS business demography	1 year and 5 year survival
	High Growth Enterprises	ONS business demography	

	Scale Ups – summary statistics	Scale-up Annual Review 2022	
	Exports (SW)	HMRC	
	Number of FDI projects and employment created		
<b>Sectors</b>	Employment/output by SIC codes	BRES	
	Qualitative SWOT analysis by sector groups		
<b>Population</b>	Total Population	Mid Year Population estimates	By Age group By LA
	Population Projections (2018- 2043)	ONS – Sub- national population projections	Focusing on working age/non working age By LA
	Dependency Ratio	ONS	
	Migration	ONS	
	Social Mobility	Social Mobility Index	
<b>The Labour Market</b>	Size of workforce	APS	Over time By LA Compared with national average
	Inactivity	APS	Over time By LA By Gender Compared with national average
	Employment	APS	Over time By LA By Gender Compared with national average Full time/Part time
	Jobs Density	ONS	Compared with national average
	Occupational Profile	APS	Over time By LA By Gender Compared with national average
	Unemployment rate	APS	Over time By LA Compared with national average By age
	Claimant Count	DWP	Over time By LA Compared with national average
	Median Earnings	ASHE	Workplace Residential By Gender Over time

	Earnings Living Wage	ASHE/Living Wage Foundation	By LA Compared with national average
<b>Skills Supply</b>	Qualification Levels	APS	Over time By LA Compared with national average
	Education outcomes at 16	DfE	Attainment 8 Progress 8 Over time By LA Compared with national average Disadvantaged/non disadvantaged
	KS4 Destinations	DfE	Over time By LA Compared with national average Disadvantaged/non disadvantaged
	Outcomes at 16-19	DfE	APS per A level entry Average A level result Number of A level students APS per applied general entry Number of applied general students APS per tech level entry Number of tech level students By LA and compared to national average
	KS5 Destinations	DfE	Over time By LA Compared to national average Disadvantaged/non disadvantaged
	Apprenticeship achievements	DfE	By sector subject By level Over time By LA Compared to national average
	Apprenticeship destinations	DfE	By apprenticeship level Over time By LA Compared to national average Disadvantaged/non disadvantaged



	Adult Education and Training achievements	DfE	By sector subject By level Over time By LA Compared to national average
	Adult Learning destinations	DfE	By subject area/level Over time By LA Compared to national average
	Participation in HE	HESA	Number of students in Dorset HEIs by subject area Number of Dorset residents enrolled on HE courses (at Dorset HEIs and elsewhere)
	Graduate Retention	HESA	% of graduates from Dorset's institutions residing in the SW
	Employer Provided Training	ESS 2022	By LA Compared to national average
<b>Skills Demand</b>	Online Vacancies	Lightcast	Over time Vacancies offering remote or hybrid work
	Online Vacancies by sector	Lightcast	Over time
	Online Vacancies by occupational group	Lightcast	Over time
	Top employers	Lightcast	
	Sector growth forecasts		
	Occupational growth forecasts		Replacement Demand New Jobs
	Skills requested by employers	Light cast	
<b>Mapping Skills Supply and Demand</b>	Proficiency of workforce	ESS	The latest ESS survey does not provide LEP level coverage
	Skills shortage vacancies	ESS	
<b>Housing and Place</b>	Urban/rural classification	DEFRA	Population by type of area Business population by type of area
	TTWA	ONS	
	Typology of key towns	ONS	Town Employment to residents ratio Income deprivation percentile ONS quadrant group Population growth (2009-2019) Population growth flag Employment growth flag Jobs density TTWA name and type
	Deprivation	IMD 2019	LSOAs in the most deprived 10% and 20%

	Demand for housing	BCP and Dorset Housing Market Needs analysis 2021	Summary
	Housing affordability	ONS	Median house price to income ratio Lowest quartile house price to income ratio
<b>Accessibility and Infrastructure</b>	Transport	LTP3? Poole Harbour draft masterplan	Summary of issues/opportunities
	ICT	Ofcom – connected nations <sup>1</sup>	Coverage by speed/type By LA Compared to national average
	Sites and premises		Has there been an update on the workspace strategy done in 2016?
<b>Energy and the Environment</b>	Current energy use	Dept for Energy and Net Zero	
	Current carbon emissions	Dept for Energy and Net Zero	
	Current energy infrastructure	Regen	
	Energy opportunities and challenges	Regen	
	Natural Capital	Dorset LNP	Summary of key information

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/data/opa>

The papers for agenda Item 3.5 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

The papers for agenda Item 4.1 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	23 November 2023	<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 type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
<b>Recommendation</b>	For noting		
<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

To inform the board about the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### 2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee usually meets three times a year, unfortunately the July meeting had to be cancelled. The next meeting will be held in March 2024. At the time of writing this paper, the minutes of the last meeting are still draft, therefore this paper is simply to bring to the attention of the board that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met recently. It was attended by:

Cllr Dave Bolwell (DB) (Dorset Council)  
 Cllr Lawrence Williams (Chair) (LW) (BCP Council)  
 Cllr Patrick Canavan (PC) (BCP Council)

The Committee were given an overview of the Chancellor's statement and subsequent guidance regarding the funding and responsibilities for the LEP core functions; the strong and agile position the LEP was left in by the previous director in streamlining operations; and the decision-making process of the board to continue its budgeted three year plan to March 2025 during which time longer term local working arrangements for these, and potentially other functions across LA boundaries, would be developed and agreed. The Committee were made aware of the integration Plan proforma to be completed and returned by end of November.

Following the Committee's request at the previous meeting, the Committee were presented papers and asked questions of the executive team to better understand:

- the LEP's activity in delivering the Boscombe Digital Skills and Learning Hub
- Decision making regarding the Growing Places Fund following the EBS review and pause; and
- Apprenticeships and the Careers Hub contract.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

For noting.

**DRAFT**

**DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.00 PM**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Board Attendees:**

Aaron Lawes (AL)  
Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)  
Ian Girling (IG)  
Jim Andrews (JA)  
Julia Howe (JH)  
Luke Rake (LR)  
Neil Skelland (NS)  
Nick Gaines (NG)  
Nicola Newman (NN)  
Paul Gough (PG)  
Paul Read (PR)  
Cllr Simon Gibson (SG)  
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)

**Also Present:**

Adrian Trevett (AT) (BCP Council)  
Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)  
Anwen Jones (Cities and Local Growth Unit)  
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)  
Vinita Nawathe (VN) (Dorset LEP)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Millie Earl (ME)  
Cllr Vikki Slade (VS)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Millie Earl and Vikki Slade</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: no declarations of interest were declared.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Chair's Update</b></p> <p>CB gave an update on the recruitment for the Chief Executive of the Great South West. Interviews have been held and a candidate chosen. This is on a fixed term contract until June 2025 and will be announced as soon as the contractual details have been sorted and references have been taken up.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Policy</b>	
3.1	<p><b>Next Steps Following Ministerial Letter and Technical Guidance</b></p> <p>VN started by saying that the last Board meeting and Strategy session took place before the Government issued their letter and technical guidance. VN said that good discussions had taken place and a way forward agreed.</p> <p>SF said that as the BCP Councillors will not be joining the meeting today, he did not want any decision to be made and would like to defer this agenda item until the next meeting.</p> <p>SF asked for a seconder to his proposal to defer discussion of the paper to the next meeting when BCP councillors would be present. NG seconded the proposal.</p>	
3.2	<p><b>Strategic Priorities and Evidence Base Refresh</b></p> <p>VN started by saying that part of our continued core-funded remit over the next six months is to make sure that we have an evidence base that's up to date, and to broker agreement on what the evidenced strategic opportunities and priorities are for the area. To this end, a data refresh and strategic priorities review would be taking place to ensure that come the new year we can all be shouting about them and be on the same page. She emphasised the need to be up to date with and reference Council plans and to make sure that our priorities and our evidence base are aligned. The work will start in the Autumn. It will involve desk research, interviews and workshops to get some buy in before a consultation draft goes out. This item is for noting, to make the board aware, and to ask board members to please take part.</p> <p>LR said he wanted to endorse this piece of work, which is very much core work of the LEP and, therefore, uncontentious. He said he did not see any reason why we should stop existing workflows.</p> <p>CB informed that this is in line with the conversations that the LEP Network have been having with officials and that the LEP Network is now working with Jacob Young. She said that LEPs across the country are experiencing different levels of alignment with the devolution deals that could be coming forward but they are all being encouraged to continue with their work plans.</p> <p>PR expressed his support for this piece of work.</p> <p>AJ reiterated, that Government are still expecting delivery to continue and the funding that has been provided is until March 2024. So we do need to see delivery over that period.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
4.	<b>CIC Business</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update</b></p> <p>JA stated that based on the conversations had at the previous couple of Board meetings around both the continuation of the current responsibilities and the ongoing work taking us through to 2025 funded by reserves, the Nominations and Remuneration Committee is responsible for ensuring that we have the right people in post to both run the company and maintain those projects. The Nominations and Remunerations Committee addresses a number of issues, as agreed at the last Board meeting.</p> <p>Firstly, the Committee looked at the terms for existing Directors and propose two extensions, CB and PR, to give us consistency in terms of Board leadership. Secondly the extension to VN's contract until March 2025.</p> <p>CB, PR and VN left the room.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Board agreed to extend the terms for CB and PR.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Board agreed to extend the contract for VN to March 2025.</p> <p>CB, PR and VN re-joined the meeting.</p> <p>JA explained that the Committee then looked at the composition of the Board membership across the different committees and propose to appoint Aaron Lawes to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>A volunteer is sought to replace Richard Smith who has now left the FACR Committee. NG volunteered.</p> <p>It is proposed that that Paul Hilliard will be replaced by Patrick Canavan on the Overview and Scrutiny committee.</p> <p>CB mentioned that Julia Howe is finding it hard to contribute to the Board meetings at the moment due to her workload. There is an opportunity for us to consider asking another FE Rep, Phil Sayles, if he has time to come back to the Board, so she will be taking that to the Remuneration Committee for consideration.</p>	<p>All agreed</p> <p>All agreed</p> <p>All noted and agreed</p>
4.2	<p><b>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update</b></p> <p>NN said that in the absence of a permanent chair, she chaired this Committee meeting. There were two main parts of the meeting, one was the current budget and spend and predicted spend to the end of March 2025, the other was a proposal around reinvesting the Growing Places Fund.</p> <p>We are on target and on budget in terms of the planned and agreed to spend to March 2025. There is a slight overspend but nothing of note. So that does mean, as agreed, we've got agreed budgets and funding through to March 2025 and that does give us space to continue to produce work and outcomes and invest.</p>	



Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
4.2	<p><b>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update Cont'd</b></p> <p>The Corporate Risk Register was discussed. VN mentioned that the one risk that has been on for quite some time and she would flag up, is the issue of constant uncertainty for the team. The potential to affect current delivery worries her. She informed that sometimes the team is walking into a meeting and people are talking about what is happening to the LEP. She asked for partners to be aware that there are people who are sensitive to the messaging that is coming out from some of your teams.</p> <p>NG highlighted the need to ensure risks that were captured on the register were current and of the right level to bring to the Board.</p>	
4.2	<p><b>Growing Places Fund</b></p> <p>NN then went on to talk to the paper regarding the Growing Places Fund. She explained that the Board had agreed at the last meeting that they wanted this fund to be recoverable and to have impact. They directed the Committee to develop a firm proposal and a draft prospectus to invite bids to make the most of the money. The Board were asked for their approval to go ahead and reopen the GPF loan fund with the issuing of this prospectus.</p> <p>VN informed that the S151 officer, who was present at the FACR Committee, confirmed that in the event of changes to the LEP, any outstanding loans would stay with the Council because they lend on our behalf and would manage the continuation. He was content with the proposal.</p> <p>LR noted the broadening of the criteria for measuring economic impact, particularly for the smaller micro businesses as they find it more difficult. He wanted to make sure the LEP will measure and see impact and that the projects will be monitored.</p> <p>NS asked for clarity around the scale of the projects the LEP was looking for. VN confirmed that we have had a range in the past, from £250,000 up to £3m.</p> <p>CB stated we would be looking for volunteers to help with the initial screening of projects to take forward to the due diligence phase.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> PR, LR and NS volunteered to be part of the panel for screening the projects.</p>	<p><b>All Agreed</b> To issue the GPF prospectus</p> <p>PR, LR, NS</p>
5.1	<p><b>Business Update</b></p> <p>RD took the paper as read and all noted the paper. RD highlighted a business accelerator that is being delivered through the Digital Skills Hub in Boscombe that kicked off on the 6 September.</p> <p>AL informed the first British Business Bank Investment Fund meeting was taking place on Thursday and he would report back.</p> <p>LR informed that the Future Farming Resilience Fund is being coordinated by Devon Council and it feels somewhat clustered around that part of the Southwest. They were present at the Dorset Show and there has been some engagement, with Kingston Maurward hosting an event for them.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
5.1	<p><b>Business Update</b></p> <p>NS updated on the Southwest Regional Defence and Security cluster. There was a networking event and the cluster has grown to over 300 members. The cluster are working closely with the MOD on innovation schemes and projects and have also got links into a network in Australia and companies from the US. The Diana project will be kicking off next year which is with NATO, and the test centre that the UK is offering for that project is the BattleLab. NS stated his ambition for Dorset LEP to do what it can to help the BattleLab, and the innovation park generally, to become an attractive place for NATO members to come and do test and evaluation etc. It will generate business for us as well as being an excellent facility for our own local companies.</p> <p>LR informed that he is Chair of the Rural Food and Farming group for the Great SW. He explained that they had drawn up a number of suggestions that could operate at scale across the Southwest. This piece of work will go to the GSW Board. Commenting on his role as rural champion on the board, LR noted that "rural" often requires slightly different solutions and it is good to see Dorset leading and facilitating the work across the SW.</p> <p>NW updated on a couple of projects related to digital. There is a bid in on behalf of the whole of the Southwest region looking at 5G networks. We should hear back in the next month or so and it would cover all of the other counties, as well as Dorset. NW also spoke about an open source networks project which would involve working with partners virtually as well as bringing them back into BattleLab on a regular basis.</p> <p>IG gave an update and informed business confidence is mixed depending on which sector you look at. Professional services, law firms, accountancy firms etc, all seem to be quite busy. The issues around staff retention and recruitment are still there and employers are having to do the very best they can to attract and keep the best staff at all levels across all sectors. He explained businesses are struggling with what to do in terms of reducing the carbon footprint but they know they need to do so. Business confidence is improving and it was quite positive that the Bank of England held the interest rate last week. He said that he hoped it would free up some business investment, as investment has been held back over the last 12 months and has not really recovered since the pandemic.</p> <p>Export was discussed and that it is a mixed story. Exports have increased but the smaller companies who do not have the infrastructure in place to export have struggled.</p> <p>AL mentioned that some businesses are struggling with longer supply chains which are taking longer to get stock, so they are having to order and pay earlier. Suppliers are shortening payment terms and saying that they need payment up front, so businesses are having to hold more stock and are tying up cash that way. If they are exporting, they are getting stretched in terms of their working capital requirements and that's having quite a big impact.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
5.2	<p><b>Skills Update</b></p> <p>RD informed that we have launched the Digital Skills Hub now which is proving to be busy and popular. A lot is scheduled over the next six months up to the end of the first year. RD noted there should be another refresh of the labour market information up to the end of September.</p> <p>Apprenticeships were discussed and the UCAS trial for promoting them. JA informed that this has been rolled out in schools and pushing that through one portal is going to help promote them to students. This covers all types of apprenticeships including degree apprenticeships, so it is a positive step. The bureaucracy around the apprenticeships was discussed and NN informed that this has been highlighted across the country in the Local Skills Improvement plans.</p> <p>NS suggested RD should ensure she is linked in with defence companies as they have a high demand for people and skills.</p> <p>AL asked whether there was an education piece for some businesses to be encouraged to take on apprenticeships or learning how to do it.</p> <p>NN explained that was one of the key outcomes of the report that also that the communication needs to be strengthened across all partners, all channels, all messages.</p>	
5.2.1	<p><b>Skills Advisory Panel and Board transition to Dorset Skills Board</b></p> <p>RD explained that following the Board meeting in July, revised terms of reference were agreed by the Dorset Skills Board in September and they agreed to change their name from the Skills Advisory Panel and Board to the Dorset Skills Board. The Dorset Skills Board will have a slightly increased membership and is also linked in with the Local Skills Improvement Plan. It is proposed that Nicola Newman will chair that group going forward. JA, who is part of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, was at the meeting. This paper was written for JA as his recommendation to the Board to note and endorse those changes.</p> <p>CB thanked LR for all the work he has done as Chair of this Committee.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> All approved change of name and chair for the Dorset Skills Board.</p>	All approved
<b>6.</b>	<b>Minutes from the Last Meeting</b>	
	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 23 November at 10.00 am – in person meeting at Bournemouth University