

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING
26 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 1.30 PM to 4.00 PM
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
AGENDA

Time	Item	Subject/Title	Presenter
1.30	1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Bufton
1.35	2.1	Chair Update (verbal)	Cecilia Bufton
1.45	2.2	Updates from other board members (verbal)	All
	3.	Policy	
2.00	3.1	Next steps following Ministerial letter and technical guidance	Vinita Nawathe
2.20	3.2	Strategic Priorities and evidence base refresh	
	4.	CIC Business	
2.40	4.1	Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update and recommendations	Jim Andrews
3.00	4.2	Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update and recommendations - Financial position - GPF - Corporate risk	Nicola Newman
	5.	For Noting	
3.45	5.1	Business Update	Shelley Collins-Trevett
	5.2	Skills Update	Rebecca Davies
	6.	Minutes from the Last Meeting	
3.55		Approve Minutes and actions from November Board Meeting and matters arising	Cecilia Bufton
	7.	Any Other Business	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 23 November 2023 at 10.00 am – in person meeting at Bournemouth University

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	26th September 2023	Item Number	3.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Next steps following Ministerial letter and technical guidance.		
Recommendation	To note		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

To acknowledge the publication of the ministerial letter and guidance relating to the core funding of LEPs.

To outline next steps following the board's agreement at both the July 23 and March 23 board meetings to continue with the budgeted plan to deliver LEP functions through current structures to April 25 while developing options for delivery beyond then.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

At the Dorset LEP strategy day on 27th July 2023, the board had a wide-ranging discussion in anticipation of a letter from ministers outlining:

- The end of core funding for LEP core functions
- The transfer of LEP core functions to Local Authority structures, to be delivered on a footprint of 500k+ population
- Local determination regarding
 - o the continued operation of the LEP (or otherwise-named partnership) as an independent body
 - o LAs without a devolution deal and integration pathway, choosing to continue delivering LEP functions through a LEP vehicle temporarily or indefinitely
 - o Future management of assets including GPF in consultation with Section 151 officer

As it had done in March 2023 when the Chancellor had delivered his "minded to" statement, the board reiterated the benefits of a strong multi-sectoral partnership with the common purpose of identifying and working towards measures for the economic resilience and long-term prosperity of the area.

The board again agreed to continue with the remainder of the budgeted 3 year plan, and so to a "flight path" to the end of financial year 2024/25. This would entail the Partnership continuing to deliver core functions and associated contracts throughout 2024/25. It was agreed that delivery would continue alongside the development of options for the best form for future functions in the context of devolution considerations and the emerging political landscape, as both local and national elections play their course.

The board agreed, as they had done in March, that it was sensible to pursue a managed transition to a longer-term position to avoid negative effects on current delivery. At the board meeting of the same day, the board agreed a budget for the remainder of 2023/24 and an indicative budget for 2024/25.

The letter from ministers and associated technical guidance was published on 4th August 2023. These were circulated to the board upon publication. There was nothing in these materials that had not been anticipated in our planning assumptions. Confirmation of the Chancellor's "minded to" statement regarding the end of LEP core funding was accompanied by clarification regarding the intention that the LEP functions should continue on a subregional footprint of at least 500,000 population with "current LEP geography as a starting point where no devolution pathway is yet agreed."

Ministers met with LEP Chairs on 4th August. Officials met with LEP Chief Executives the following week. It was clarified that the intention in the guidance was for a continuation and not a fragmentation of current functions. Officials described their understanding that LEPs were now in one of three different positions a) those where transition to Combined authorities was agreed and in train, b) those that had the support of their Local Authorities, that would continue delivering functions at least while devolution or other pathways were developed, and a third more difficult set of c) LEPs that had no support from their LAs, no integration plan and no agreement between LAs for future delivery. Dorset had been considered to be in group b.

It should be noted that the technical guidance and its reference to the March 22 Integration guidance, are steeped in the objectives of the Levelling up White paper and the intention for all areas to enter into devolution agreements. Current indication is that this policy would continue in some form regardless of who wins the general election. There is an indication that some level 2 (non mayoral) devolution arrangements will happen during this administration but these are likely to be "easier" single authority county deals in the first instance.

Our Local Authority board members are at the beginning of their considerations regarding devolution. It would be prudent timing to be ready with a locally agreed plan in time for the next CSR – which would fit with our proposed "flight path" . However, at this stage of the journey some steps need to be taken to ensure smooth and continued delivery of functions while longer term plans are developed and established. There are examples from other parts of the country where the LEP structure and delivery model has been used as a starting point on which to build a devolution proposition, others where a partnership has had support of its LA members and have been "contracted" for continued delivery of functions. It is suggested these, and other models are explored in more detail between now and the next board meeting. In the meantime, Local Authorities are able, as allowed for in paragraph 17 of the technical guidance, to use LEPs as a vehicle for delivering LEP core functions. This would be an executive function and may need to be agreed by cabinets, however, if the decisions of the board are to be followed through, the appropriate processes should be achieved in good time.

For clarity, the £250k funding for 2023/24 is to:

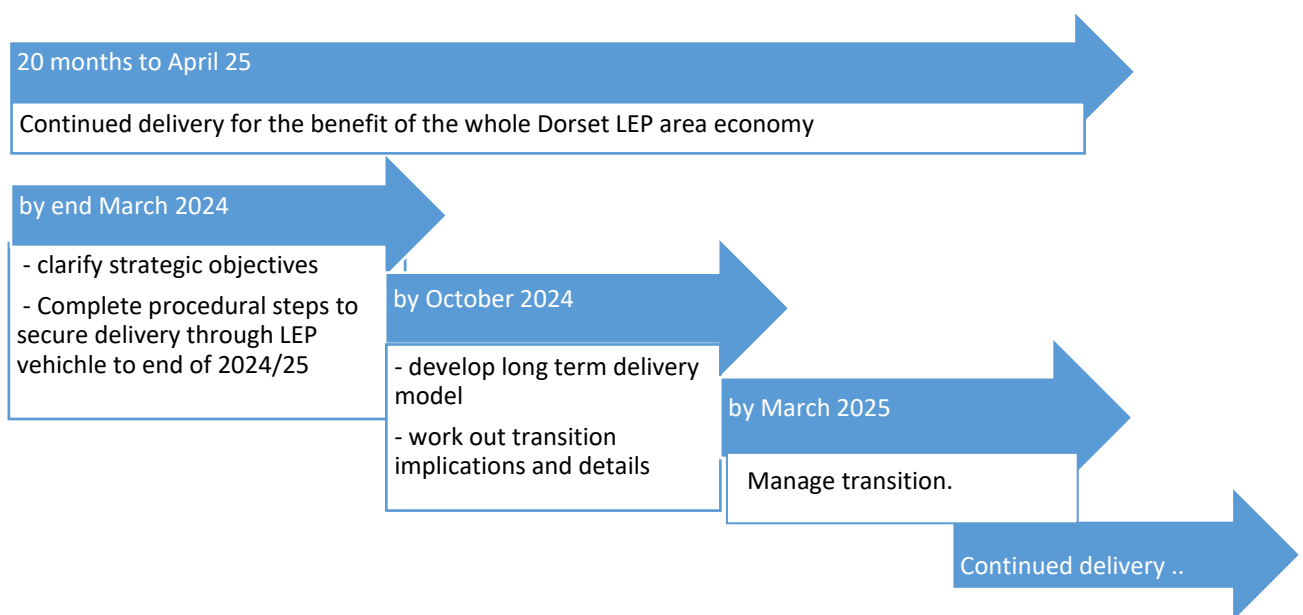
- a. Embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions.
- b. Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates their area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths. This should involve building and maintaining a robust local evidence base that identifies local strengths and challenges, future opportunities and the actions needed to support priority sectors, aligned to the relevant levelling up missions.
- c. Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice where relevant. This includes the delivery of Growth Hubs on behalf of the Department for Business and Trade, and Careers Hubs on behalf of the Department for Education.

d. Where appropriate, help broker and support new or deeper devolution deals, where requested by local partners.

Further to the boards previous discussions, the objectives for the next 20 months are therefore:

- Continued delivery of functions
- Clarify strategic objectives
 - Regarding Devolution
 - Regarding Economic priorities and opportunities
 - Regarding other or sub policy areas
- Determine best delivery structures for pan area objectives
- Managed transition to new local landscape

Timeline.



3. RECOMMENDATION

The board is recommended to

- To note and endorse the timeline set out in this paper
- Ask council leaders to make use of the provision in paragraph 17 of the technical guidance to deliver functions through the LEP vehicle to 31 March 2025 and to set in motion the required steps, including if necessary their cabinet agreement.
- To agree a clear message regarding the commitment to multisectoral-partnership working for the benefit of the Dorset economy.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	26 th September 2023	Item Number	3.2
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Strategic Priorities and evidence base refresh.		
Recommendation	The board are recommended to note the paper and potential participation of colleagues.		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

To update the board on plans for a refresh of evidence base data and cross-check with published economic strategies to ensure our understanding of priorities and opportunities for the economic prosperity of the area are current and relevant.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

A core function of the LEP for which we are funded this year is to:

“Carry out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates their area’s economic priorities and sectoral strengths. This should involve building and maintaining a robust local evidence base that identifies local strengths and challenges, future opportunities and the actions needed to support priority sectors, aligned to the relevant levelling up missions.”

Since 2014, the LEP has produced a number of overarching strategic documents including:

- [The Strategic Economic Plan – Transforming Dorset](#) was published in 2014 and set out the key strengths and opportunities within Dorset's economy and how they would be supported to drive economic growth as well as constituting the area's bid for the Local Growth Fund;
- [A Strategic Economic Vision](#) was subsequently published in 2016 and updated the Strategic Economic Plan. This was underpinned by a comprehensive evidence base as well as a key sector report;
- [Dorset Horizon 2038 – a vision for growth](#) was published in the Winter of 2018 and further developed the economic vision for the area and informed the development of the draft Local Industrial Strategy; and
- The [Draft Local Industrial Strategy](#) was submitted to Government in December 2019.

In addition, several thematic strategies have also been developed including:

- [Dorset Low Carbon Investment Opportunities](#) – which identified our opportunities to support our county's journey to net zero and create significant economic and social benefits; and
- [Dorset Local skills Report 2022](#) encompassing local skills insights, priorities, success stories and initiatives.

Given the economic turbulence since 2020, and as outlined in the high level delivery plan objectives, we will undertake an evidence based review of our published economic objectives and priorities to:

- Ensure that we have a sound, consolidated and current understanding of the issues and opportunities facing the area;
- Ensure our collective vision and priorities are fully supported by our partners and stakeholders and that there is alignment with local and regional strategies;
- Highlight time critical opportunities and intervention needs
- Position the area to take advantage of future opportunities
- Develop clear key messages.

Additional and aligned strands of work that the LEP have been asked to contribute to or co-ordinate are the Great South West Economic Intelligence offer and an evidence piece on housing needs.

It is expected that initial research will commence in October. It is expected that the work will involve desk research, interviews and workshops which board members or their colleagues will be invited to take part in.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The board is recommended to note the planned workstream and to take part co-operatively in its development.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	26th September 2023	Item Number	
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Nominations and remunerations update and recommendations		
Recommendation	To discuss and agree recommendations		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

To update the Board on the nominations and remunerations committee's meeting of 4th September.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

. The Committee reviewed the terms of office of current board members, current committee membership against three of the committee terms of reference, and the Executive Director's contract.

The Nominations and Remuneration Committee did not review the terms of reference or composition of the Skills Advisory Panel at this time, as the Skills Advisory panel had not yet met and agreed their own new terms of reference and fully discussed and agreed the transition from the Skills Advisory Panel to the Dorset Skills Board. This will form part of the Skills update at the September board meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATION

On the basis that the board has agreed a budget and plan through to 2025, the nominations and remunerations committee recommend:

- Board member extension
 - To renew Cecilia Buffon's term of office
 - To extend Paul Read's term of office to 2025
- Executive Director extension
 - To extend the Executive Director's contract to 31 March 2025.
- Committee membership
 The board is recommended to:
 - note current spread and gaps of participation in committees. Appoint Aaron Lawes to the FACR Committee as a member with financial expertise and to fill the current vacancy left by May Palmer.
 - Seek a volunteer and appoint a replacement for Richard Smith on the FACR committee.
 - Replace Cllr Paul Hilliard with Cllr Patrick Canavan (Lab) on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

BOARD MEMBERS TERMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It is good practice to periodically review board and committee composition and consider recent or imminent changes that might affect effectiveness or business continuity.

The government has decided to pass responsibility for LEP core functions into Local Government from 2024/25. The driving principles of those functions – to drive economic and employment growth in Dorset - are hardwired into the objects of Dorset LEP CIC. The board has agreed a budget and plan for delivery of those functions through to 2025. Government guidance suggests a continued need for LEP functions to be delivered on a footprint greater than a single local authority and leaves it to local areas to decide whether they want a LEP-like vehicle for delivery. This will be part of the managed transition, as discussed at the Board away day.

The nomination and remuneration committee should ensure the board and senior executive team roles are in a position to steer the ongoing delivery of functions during this period. It is likely that a sustainable delivery model for these functions will entail an element of co-design with partners and the board and senior executive team will need to ensure any transition to new ways of working is smooth.

the following sets out

- the current board membership
- Board member term expiry dates.
- Board member Committee memberships, external representation and lead areas of interest.

BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTMENT EXPIRY DATES

Name	Board Appointment Expiry Date
Aaron Lawes	First term: 27 July 2026
Cecilia Buffon	First term: 1 December 2023
Ian Girling	Second term: 1 July 2025
Jim Andrews	For term of office
Julia Howe	FE Rep until 1 July 2025
Luke Rake	Second term: 1 April 2025
Millie Earl	For term of office
Neil Skelland	First term: 29 July 2026
Nick Gaines	Second term: 1 July 2025
Nicola Newman	Second term: 28 March 2025
Paul Gough	For term of office
Paul Read	Second term: 26 July 2024
Simon Gibson	For term of office
Spencer Flower	For term of office
Vikki Slade	For Term of office

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Board Member	Committee	External Committee	Champion
Aaron Lawes		British Business Bank South West Fund – Stakeholder board	Finance
Cecilia Buffon	Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Nomination & Remuneration	Great South West Integrated Care Partnership	Health
Ian Girling		ICP	SMEs?
Jim Andrews	Nomination & Remuneration Skills Advisory Panel & Board	ICB Great South West	HE
Julia Howe	Skills Advisory Panel & Board		FE
Luke Rake	Skills Advisory Panel & Board	Great South West Rural Programme board	Rural, FE
Millie Earl			
Neil Skelland		Great South West Programme board South West Regional Defence and Security Cluster	Defence, Adv Engineering and Manufacture.
Nick Gaines	Nomination & Remuneration	Great South West Energy group	Energy
Nicola Newman	Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Skills Advisory Panel & Board		Skills
Paul Gough			Culture? HE
Paul Read			Housing
Simon Gibson	Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk		
Spencer Flower		Great South West	
Vikki Slade		Great South West	

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	26.09.23	Item Number	5.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Business 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

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 – the grant offer letter from DBT was signed 15th August meaning all programmes can now be implemented.

Dorset LEP funded business growth programmes:

LIVE

- **Business Growth & Productivity Groups** – this peer support programme will support 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 are now being advertised for three key clusters (SWRDSC, DEMC, Digital Creative) and will be held in Oct and Nov.
- **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 October 2023:

- **Dorset Business Innovation Programme** – two delivery partners contracted to deliver practical innovation support to 40 businesses.
- **Funding / Investor Readiness Programme** – a delivery partner will be sourced via the standard procurement process.

COMPLETED

- Investor Readiness Pilot Programme – this workshop ran in June and attracted 25 businesses. Feedback was excellent and this programme will be 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 1344 followers as at 11th September (up from 1291 on 14th July).

DBT Internationalisation Fund – the final data was published for this initiative which closed in Jan 23. 68 Dorset businesses benefitted from this fund to grow their overseas trading and strengthen their business. This is anticipated to lead to over £34m increase in international sales and 45 additional jobs created.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Dorset LEP is the representative for and link to business on the steering group for this new initiative led by Dorset Council in conjunction with BCP Council.

Fintech West South Coast launch – Dorset LEP are partnering with BCP Council and Fintech West to launch a “South Coast Spoke” of Fintech West in Dorset. A launch event is taking place on 27th September and attendees will be asked for their views on the future format of this cluster for the South Coast. There are already over 50 delegates booked to attend the event at Foundry, Poole.

Business Improvement Districts – SCT has now met with three BID Directors from Bournemouth Town Centre, Christchurch and Wimborne with DLEP Programmes being shared with BID members.

South West Angel Investor Ecosystem Partnership – 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.

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

Digital Skills Hub – the Evolve Business Accelerator programme went live in September and the Silicon South programme of activity is also live. SCT is supporting the Digital Skills Hub Lead with the business element of the programme.

Dorset LEP Ambassadors – the next event will take place at Bournemouth & Poole College on 1st Nov and will include a tour of campus facilities.

Inward Investment – Inward Investment prospectuses for all priority sectors in Dorset are available online and in print if required. 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 IID team worked with DBT on the refresh of the Aquaculture HPO for Dorset as well as updates to two national sector propositions (EdTech and Cyber Security). The IID team also signpost, link, monitor and

attend events to promote Dorset key priority sectors such as the DSEI event in London this month.

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

- Ocean Futures (No longer formally part of GSW. Innovate UK Launchpad decision not yet announced.)
- GSW Energy Prospectus & Energy Programme Board
- Internationalisation Strategy work with Henham

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.

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 currently the highest performing region in England on programme registrations. A radio advert is being planned to reach Dorset businesses.

DCMS Create Growth Programme – Dorset LEP established a Local Area Partnership with BCP & Dorset Councils, BU, AUB and Silicon South to submit an EOI. Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful, however, this has led to closer working relationships between organisations.

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, Talbot Innovation Quarter, Dorset Innovation Hub.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Board

Meeting Date	03/09/23	Item Number	
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Skills Advisory Panel and Board update to Dorset Skills Board		
Recommendation	For the Board to confirm their endorsement of this proposal		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper provides an update for the Dorset LEP Board on the Skills Advisory Panel and Board, and its intended move to become the Dorset Skills Board. This paper includes a revised terms of reference and includes the logical integration of the Local Skills Improvement Plan oversight.

2. SUMMARY

Formal Change to Dorset Skills Board

At the May meeting of the Skills Advisory Panel and Board, it was agreed in principle to become the Dorset Skills Board. The funding that required us to be the Skills Advisory Panel has ceased, and members indicated they wished to continue meeting to collaboratively boost economic growth by creating a relevant and skilled workforce.

Revised Terms of Reference

To formalise the change to Dorset Skills Board, we need to agree new terms of reference. The terms of reference have been reviewed and agreed by the committee to reflect the aims shared in May and include the Local Skills Improvement plan creation and delivery oversight. A draft of new terms of reference are attached to this paper.

Chair

The committee agreed to provide oversight of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), delivered through Dorset Chamber and funded by Department of Education (DfE). With the recently advised DfE acceptance of Dorset's LSIP and the 2 year delivery plan, DfE have been specific regarding the role of this committee.

Working with Dorset Chamber, DfE have agreed that the Dorset Skills Board will provide oversight of the plan, and feedback to Dorset Chamber Board on its delivery. This will avoid duplication of an additional committee to oversee LSIP activity. DfE have agreed this on the basis that Dorset Chamber would Chair the DSB.

The Dorset Skills Board have asked Nicola Newman to become the Chair. Under the new terms of reference, this position would be reviewed bi-annually.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Board are asked to confirm their endorsement of the change to the Dorset Skills Board, with the new terms of reference and welcome Nicola Newman as Chair.

The committee also acknowledge the work of the current Chair, Luke Rake, and thank him for his Chair role of this committee over the last 2 years.

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Board

Meeting Date	13/09/23	Item Number	
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Skills 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 an update following the meeting of the Dorset Skills Advisory Panel and Board (SAPB), with operational updates from Dorset LEP skills team in Dorset.

2. SUMMARY

Skills Delivery

- **Better Boscombe Digital Skills Hub** – the hub has been delivering its first events during August, with positive feedback from customers. A particular highlight has been the Tuesday sessions with Job Centre Plus, National Careers Service and Seetec Plus working together to deliver customer focused pathways leading to employment. The Business Accelerator starts on the 6th Sept, a range of business workshops are in place through the autumn term and business and personal development opportunities will be promoted. The website goes live w/c 11th Sept, along with social media and flyers to advertise the services to the local area. Partnership work with the college, BU and AUB is underway, with AECC delivering health checks via the community provision in the space. Opportunity exists to try something different in this space to support workers and all ideas are welcome.
- **Labour Market Information (LMI)** – the latest LMI has been published providing data to end of March 2023. As advised, the data provision for 23/24 will be provide LMI updates in March and September together with a full year overview in Dec. Bi-monthly Business Insight reports will also be available. Dorset Chamber and Dorset LEP are working together to ensure the data provision for the LSIP meets requirements.
- **Skills Boot Camps** – Wave 4 and 5 are currently targeting businesses to provide short, 12 week, skills courses to upskill, reskill or develop new employees with new learning. Businesses can tender for provision of a course as part of a framework, or by contacting Dorset LEP to discuss options for delivery of skills needed. Courses are mostly government funded, with small top up from business requested. Take up from Dorset businesses has been low, and we are working with DSTPN to encourage businesses to find out more about the offer.
- **Employability support Test and Learn programme** – Seetec Plus are working with DWP for one year to target those considered economically inactive due to health challenges. Andrea Murphy as Dorset lead will be working with customers that fit the criteria to help them into employment through a series of skills and development activities. Customers who declare they are disabled are encouraged to apply.

- **Digital Skills Partnership** – Dorset Council host the Digital Skills Partnership for Dorset together with a Cyber Crime Focus group. The next meeting is 6th September. To note, there will be a Festival of the Future in Oct and Coding Day in Sept. These will be promoted via Dorset LEP social media.
- **Apprenticeships and UCAS** – in line with our work to amplify technical education, we have been part of a UCAS working programme as they develop the opportunity for businesses to promote apprenticeships on the UCAS site. Individuals will be able to search the website to find apprenticeship jobs, training providers and future career options. Dorset Careers Hub will be working with Careers Leaders through CPD sessions to embed the changes, and also with BU via their careers leaders conference.
- **DWP Restart** – Seetec Plus as deliverer of this scheme for DWP, have recently reviewed their staffing structure aligned to Restart. The programme is still running in Dorset with lower numbers than originally forecast. Dorset LEP continue to work closely with the Restart team and suitable participants are enrolled on a 6 month journey to finding employment.
- **FE area review** – the Department for Education is conducting a review of Further Education across the county.

Dorset Careers Hub Update

Dorset Progression

We have had a great year, using our data to really overcome gaps and weaknesses, and in turn tailor our efforts to the needs of our institutions, with great results.

- Average number of benchmarks achieved : 6.45 against national average of 5.56
- Higher than national average on all 8 benchmarks
- Enterprise Advisor Network - 92.67% matched, above national average
- Grown from 75 to 82 institutions
- Real focus and results across Special Educational Needs and Disability schools, Alternative Provision, and Middle Schools

Strategic Partnerships

We have strengthened our strategic partnerships across our network, which has really benefitted many cohorts, with clear benefits:

- Local authority partners and specialist teams within the councils, such as NEET (not in education, employment or training) prevention and Post-16 support.
- Trade and sector groups such as Digital Dorset, NHS, DEMC
- The Chamber through the LSIP, where we are working on partnership projects to meet objectives
- Economic Development departments in both BCP and Dorset Councils to focus on key sectors, and raise awareness of and increase enthusiasm for sectors with the most vacancies
- Schools & Colleges to increase capacity and deliver joint events

Highlights

- Increased community strength and spirit
- Strong response to need and meeting demand on a low budget
- SEND Careers Forum for 100 people and Disability Confident/Marvels project feels like a movement has started to deliver equality

- Primary Project win is an exciting development for 23/24

Impact

- Marvels impact - 1 young man secured full time employment through his work experience placement
- Disability Confident project - Westfield Arts College Did Tour of MacDonalds that resulted in an interview for a job. Brewhouse & Kitchen hired a student from Linwood/CHI, Supported Internships are being developed through Weymouth College
- Institutions - More young people than before the pandemic are now doing work experience, raising aspirations and guiding them into positive destinations

Finances

- We delivered more for less with greater impact, due to virtual CPD, partnership working i.e. North Dorset Careers Day and Dorset Festival of Careers & Industry.
- Transport Funds - We launched this new initiative and raised pledges from charity and corporate companies, to the value of over £10,000 to support our schools in accessing events and work experience

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only.