

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING
23 MARCH 2023 AT 10.00 AM to 12.30 PM
**TO BE HELD AT ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH, FERN BARROW, POOLE BH12 5HH
 ROOM F005 (CONFERENCE CENTRE)**
AGENDA

Time	Item	Subject/Title	Presenter
10.00 am	1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Bufton
10.05 am	2.	Chair Update (verbal)	Cecilia Bufton
	3.	Policy	
10.20 am	3.1	Implications of the Chancellor's Budget - Discussion	Vinita Nawathe
10.50 am	3.2	Letter to LEP Chairs	
	4.	CIC Business	
11.00 am	4.1	Forward Plan	Vinita Nawathe
11.15 am	4.2	2023/24 DRAFT LEP Budget	Vinita Nawathe
11.25 am	4.3	Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update	May Palmer
11.40 am	4.4	Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update	Jim Andrews
	5.	For Noting	
11.50 am	5.1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update	Vinita Nawathe
12.00 pm	5.2	Business Update	Shelley Collins- Trevett
12.10 pm	5.3	Skills Update	Rebecca Phillips
12.20 pm	6.	Minutes from the Last Meeting	
		Approve Minutes and actions from November Board Meeting and matters arising	Cecilia Bufton
12.25 pm	7.	Any Other Business	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 23 May 2023 at 1.30 pm – virtual meeting

LEP BOARD MEMBER KNOWN CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Board Member	Project Name
Philip Broadhead, BCP Council	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Ian Girling, Dorset Chamber Of Commerce and Industry	Dorset Gateway - Custom Brokerage Service
	Dorset Gateway - Peer Network
	Dorset Gateway - EU Transition - International Trade Support
John Beesley, BCP Council	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Luke Rake, Kingston Maurward College	Growing Places Fund - The Barn
Spencer Flower, Dorset Council	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Tony Ferrari, Dorset Council	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	23 rd March 2023	Item Number	3.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Implications of the Budget		
Recommendation	Business as usual		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper sets out initial understanding of the budget's implications, particularly the statement regarding LEP funding from the Dorset LEP secretariat perspective.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

On Wednesday 15th March, the Chancellor of the Exchequer set out the first full budget for 18 months. The budget was set out as a budget for growth with reference to industrial and productivity strategy 4 pillars: Enterprise, Employment, Education, and Everywhere.

Geographically, there was very little highlighted for areas outside devolved areas and only one new Levelling up partnership, Torbay, in the southern half of England.

The Chancellor stated an intention to stop funding LEPs from 2024 and to transfer their functions to local government. This led to headlines on the day referring to the abolishment and wind down of LEPs, with Local government publications in particular were quick off the mark to proclaim the death knell. There are lots of questions regarding practicalities from footprints, associated funding, and the company status/other activities of LEPs.

Briefings by officials followed by a letter to LEP Chairs and Chief Executives, (attached below) on 17th March indicate that there will be a fact gathering exercise underway imminently.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The board are invited to discuss and reflect on any aspect of the budget from their perspectives.

The board are recommended:

- to conclude that the Chancellor's decision to stop funding the LEPs from 2024 has no effect on LEP activities for 2023/24 and little *material* effect on the continued delivery of the 2022 three-year plan for the LEP that had assumed no further funding from Government.
- to commit to strengthening our multi-sectoral partnership for the area and to work over the next two years towards a locally determined model for the future that enables the best decision making for the prosperity and wellbeing of our area.

Implications of the budget from LEP Secretariat perspective

There has been much analysis on various aspects of the budget in the media. There will no doubt be much more analysis, many more briefings and discussions between the writing of this paper and the board meeting itself. This is therefore a snapshot analysis by the Dorset LEP Director, mainly focussing on a small the element of the budget that affects the LEP and its working relationships.

For the LEP the stand-out item of the budget was the announcement regarding LEPs, delivered by the chancellor not quite as it is written in the Red Book which reads:

'The Government is committed to empowering democratically elected local leaders at every opportunity. To this end, the Government intends for the functions of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to be delivered by local government in the future. Therefore, the Government is minded to withdraw central government support for LEPs from April 2024. DLUHC and the Department for Business and Trade will now consult on these proposals, before confirming a decision. The Government will publish an updated policy position to confirm next steps by the summer.'

The Treasury-led announcement that it intends to stop funding LEPs from 2024, at this year's level of funding of £250k over 38 LEPs, equates to a spending cut across the LEP network next year of £9.5m.

There is no indication how the intention for the functions to be delivered by local Government in the future is different to the intentions spelled out in the Levelling up White Paper and the letter to LEPs with their funding last year. Devolution to areas with populations of more than half a million people, particularly in the form of Mayoral Combined Authorities, is still in favour, with LEP functions assumed to be integrated within the new structures. Indeed, around the LEP network, the areas with MCAs are furthest along in having integrated LEP functions.

The immediate difference from this announcement is timescale. Previously there had been a target for devolution and integration of LEP functions to take place by 2030, with a commitment to support LEPs through the transition (nevertheless with a caveat about continued affordability). This and some other elements of the budget seem at first glance, whether by accident or design, to be prodding Local Authorities towards speeding up their moves towards devolution. Indeed, the original 2030 target clearly had the effect of some areas of kicking the whole thing into touch.

Other aspects of the budget showed disproportionate advantage towards devolved areas. MCAs did particularly well with the trailblazer multi-year settlements, and a follow up round of £8.8bn for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement which only MCAs are eligible for (Last year's settlement of £5.5bn over five years was for 8 MCAs). Though it is noted that the location of investment zones did not go as far south as WECA.

Officials have briefed LEP Chief Executives that there will be a "fact finding" consultation underway shortly. There is acknowledgement that LEPs are of different sizes and shapes across the country and are in different local government environments. The transfer out of functions currently paid for through core funding will be felt differently. For some LEPs the removal of even £250k funding will be existentially shocking, there are others with substantial other income streams for which it will make no material difference. All the LEPs, including our LEP, are companies, and have different levels of commercial and contractual arrangements outside the "core" grant in place.

The reputational damage given the manner of the delivery of the Chancellor's statement and how it affects the attitudes of partners is more worrying in places. LEPs are still seen as

creatures of Government by some, as "competition" by others. They are not universally liked and there has already been some "gleeful" commentary.

In the case of Dorset LEP, withdrawal of all Government funding was anticipated at the end of 2021. Dorset LEP put in a lot of work to downsize the operation and the board agreed a costed three-year plan that has two more years to run. We have reasonable reserves that provide stability from which to contract for other services. We are currently negotiating the next Careers and Enterprise Company contract for our team that is currently one of the best delivering Careers Hub teams in the country. We have just received a letter of comfort regarding this year's growth hub funding. And we have been awarded a contract to deliver the Boscombe Digital Skills, innovation and Learning Hub. As a company, we have assets and liabilities within the GPF with loan repayments coming in over the next few years. The removal of £250k from 2024/25 has no material effect on the 3 year plan that started last year and Dorset LEP should be seen as a going concern into 2024/25.

The briefing with officials this morning made clear that when talking about the functions of LEPs, officials consider that what they are buying for £250k and are wanting to make Local Government accountable for are those set out in the letter from ministers last year:

"The future role of individual LEPs will differ depending on local circumstances and the status of devolution locally. Broadly, we expect the future role of LEPs – or the local democratic institution after LEP functions have been integrated – will be 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. The nature of this role will depend on individual LEPs' integration pathway. Across all pathways, LEPs, or local democratic institutions where LEP functions and roles have been integrated, should continue to use their convening power to bring together business, education and other local economic stakeholders.
- c. Continue to deliver a number of functions on behalf of Government departments, shaped by the local business voice where relevant. Future programme and funding decisions will be taken by each respective department according to their own decision-making and business planning processes, priorities and timescales. However, at the present juncture we would expect departments to continue to engage with LEPs, or begin to engage with the respective local democratic institution once LEP functions have been integrated, on the delivery of:
 - I. Growth Hubs, on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
 - II. International trade and investment activity, provision of local business intelligence, grant funding and levelling-up focused projects, on behalf of the Department for International Trade;
 - III. Local Digital Skills Partnerships, on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport;
 - IV. Careers Hubs, on behalf of the Department for Education;
 - V. Local skills analysis via Skills Advisory Panels, on behalf of the Department for Education; and
 - VI. Monitoring and assurance pertaining to existing local growth programmes and funds for which LEPs are responsible.

- d. Where appropriate, LEP business boards can help broker and support new or deeper devolution deals, where requested by local partners. New or deeper devolution deals will not need to be signed off by LEPs."

What is not clear, where there has been no move towards devolution, is on what footprint any transfer of responsibility would take place or any funding that will go with the transfer of functions. Notably, when duties and responsibilities transfer, funding and delivery need not always follow! These things will come out through the consultation. It is likely that one size will not fit all in moving forward.

While there have been a series of changing goalposts for LEPs since 2011, local determinism as a concept has remained – whatever the latest central guidance. Bringing people together from different sectors, with different skillsets and different objectives is not easy, but the exciting thing about local partnership is just that - to build common understanding of the opportunities and challenges for the area, and to develop multi-talented networks to respond to those challenges and opportunities with agility and efficiency.

In the meantime, as Executive Director, well before this announcement I had spoken to my team about increasing our activity after a period of streamlining. We have a clear set of objectives as laid out above. The team responded with ambitious levels of activity for a small group. This is costed into the 2023/24 budget.

The board are recommended:

- to conclude that the chancellor's decision to stop funding the LEPs from 2024 has no effect on LEP activities for 2023/24 and little *material* effect on the continued delivery of the 2022 three-year plan for the LEP that had assumed no further funding from Government.
- to commit to strengthening our multi-sectoral partnership for the area and to work over the next two years towards a locally determined model for the future that enables the best decision making for the prosperity and wellbeing of our area.

Vinita Nawathe
17 March 2017



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Dehenna Davison MP
Minister for Levelling Up
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London
SW1P 4DP



Department for
Business & Trade

Kevin Hollinrake MP
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State for Business and Trade*
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17th March 2023

Dear LEP Chairs, Combined Authority Mayors, the Mayor of London, and all Local Authority leaders,

FUTURE FUNDING AND INFORMATION GATHERING EXERCISE: LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS (LEPs)

Following the announcement regarding the future integration of LEPs in the Levelling Up White Paper last year, Government announced LEPs would be granted £375,000 in core funding for the financial year 2022/23. To provide clarity and certainty to LEPs and local democratic institutions, officials wrote to LEP and MCA Chief Executives on 14th February 2023 to confirm core funding for the financial year 2023/24 at a reduced rate of £250,000.

LEPs have played a vital role since 2011 in bringing together businesses and local leaders to drive economic growth across England. Over three rounds of the Local Growth Fund, LEPs have allocated a total of £7.1 billion to projects promoting dynamic economic growth and a further £900 million under the Getting Building Fund. We are hugely appreciative of all the time LEP Board Members and staff have provided in advising local decision makers and supporting businesses through the challenges of the global pandemic and EU exit.

Through operating the network of Growth Hubs, LEPs have helped bridge the gap between national and local business support, convening key players and deploying funding from a wide range of sources, ensuring that businesses can get the right advice and support at the right time in their business journey, with an offer shaped to fit local needs. Many LEPs have played integral roles in the success of regional Investment Funds, delivered with the British Business Bank, which have helped many businesses access vital debt and equity finance to meet their growth ambitions. We are also hugely appreciative of the role some LEPs have played over the last year in areas such as brokering Devolution Deal negotiations and helping Local Authorities to prepare Investment Zone bids.

That said, the Government remains committed to integrating LEP functions into local democratic institutions. Since the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, we have made strong progress on extending devolution in England. As such, and as announced by the Chancellor in the Spring Statement this morning, the Government is minded to cease core funding beyond 2023-24.

We will work with local areas to determine how the functions currently undertaken by LEPs are best delivered at a local level in future, where appropriate and where they are not already delivered by a Combined Authority. In addition, to minimise any disruption for LEPs, the areas

they support, and the delivery of Government programmes, we are today launching a four-week information gathering exercise to gain a fuller understanding of the implications of this funding change. This work will be led for Government by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – working closely with colleagues in the Department for Business and Trade and His Majesty’s Treasury.

Our officials will provide you with access to a questionnaire that will be used as part of the exercise. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact lepinformation2023@levellingup.gov.uk.

Following the exercise, Government will notify LEPs and all local and combined authorities of the outcome and our final decision.

We look forward to working with you and welcome your full participation in the information gathering exercise.

With every good wish,



Dehenna Davison MP

Minister for Levelling Up, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



Kevin Hollinrake MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Business and Trade

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

The papers for agenda Item 5.2 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING

Meeting Date	23 March 2023	Item Number	5.3
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 from the Dorset Skills Advisory Panel and Board (SAPB), together with operational updates from Dorset LEP skills team in Dorset.

2. DORSET CAREERS HUB UPDATE

The Governments' agenda, as delivered by us through the work of the CEC, has seen our priorities for this year have shifted slightly to really tackle disadvantage; further promote apprenticeships and technical education; make maximum use of our Employers through our Enterprise Adviser Network; increase Teacher Encounters, to broaden the benefits of careers in the curriculum; and focus on Work Experience.

Dorset Careers Hub had a manic start to the year, with January seeing the team host or attend over 25 events, including kicking off our CPD series for Careers Leaders, travelling to a regional CEC meeting in Exeter, and our Work Experience Conference which was really well-attended.

Highlights were hosting a pilot public event - Dorset Careers Live at the Dolphin Centre in Poole, that saw a steady flow of young people and parents engage with careers advisers, colleges, apprenticeship and employability experts, in an informal environment, over 2 days. This was a great success and will be duplicated in other parts of the county, namely Weymouth, after results days in the summer.

Another success was our second Careers & Coffee morning at Thomas Hardy School that welcomed 140 parents and young people on a Saturday morning, fulfilling another key priority to engage with parents.

North Dorset Careers Day - This was a highly strategic, inaugural event for Dorset Careers Hub, to tackle the issue of rurality, as well as being truly inclusive. With over 30 exhibitors from the corporate and education sector, we welcomed over 750 young people from 7 schools, including 85 from our special schools. Simon Hoare MP came along and engaged with our exhibitors and students and 3 other Dorset Councillors.

3. SKILLS DELIVERY

- **Skills Advisory Panel & Board (SAPB)** meets to share information relating to skills initiatives and provide strategy, collaboration and strength to the skills system and delivery for Dorset. The committee meets quarterly with the last meeting on the 13 February 2023.

- **Labour Market Information (LMI)** – the LMI review of 2022 was published in February <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/dorset-labour-market-and-skills-quarter-4-2022> and provides us with the reality of the labour market in Dorset. A headline of the report is a sustained increase to the level of economic inactivity, currently 21.5% of the workforce in the county. Within the report we also talk about the growth in pay of around 7% in the private sector, and the prevalence of hybrid working and a new post-covid modern work pattern.
- **Skills Boot Camps** – a bid has been submitted to Department for Education in collaboration with Somerset County Council to deliver Wave 4 Skills Boot Camps. The procurement of wave 4 will give greater focus to business need, inviting providers to meet skills requirements. Given a positive outcome from DfE, the procurement will run in Feb – Apr period, with delivery commencing in late spring.
- **BCP Council Skills Strategy and Implementation** – the implementation of the action planning under this plan continues, working across all providers in BCP area. An action plan that links strategic aims of our local skills providers has been delivered to BCP.
- **Digital Skills, Innovation and Learning Hub** – Dorset LEP have been awarded a contract to deliver this service for BCP, focusing on Boscombe and the wider region. This opportunity will be delivered in partnership and will include provision of incubator and accelerator services for businesses. The contract was live from the 6/2/2023 with deliver planning underway.
- **DWP Restart** – recent updates of the Restart provision are highlighting case studies of participants helped into work. SW are reporting the highest level of participant to work rate of 37%. Dorset LEP continue to work closely with the Restart team. Unemployment figures have fallen by 13% in BCP, and 16% in Dorset council area in the past year.
- **Multiply** – Skills and Learning are delivering numeracy support across Dorset through a variety of methods as part of the UK SPF funding for numeracy. Procurement for delivery from Sept 2023 will commence in the spring with creative solutions to maths teaching.
- **Strategic Development Fund 2022/23** – BPC and WC award of £1.5m to enhance capital equipment for provision of sustainability related apprenticeships and qualifications. Bournemouth and Poole College launched their programme in November and Weymouth College are rolling out their programme currently.
- **FE area review** – the Department for Education is conducting a review of Further Education across the county.
- **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)** – Dorset Chamber held an update event on the 24 February to share data and offer a further opportunity to contribute to the plan. A draft plan should be issued by DCCI at the end of March 2023.
- **Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF)** – Department for Education launched their new fund on 8 March to provide skills providers with the resources to achieve key needs identified within LSIP. This fund will go live mid-April and is open to colleges, sixth forms, multi academy trusts, councils, universities and others delivering level 3 education (equivalent to A level). A bid must be led by a provider with greater than 1000 students. Only one bid per LSIP area will be allowable, however the bid can have various themes.

4. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only.

DRAFT MINUTES

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

24 JANUARY 2023 FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)
Ian Girling (IG)
Jim Andrews (JA)
Julia Howe (JH)
Luke Rake (LR)
May Palmer (MP)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Gough (PG)
Paul Read (PR)
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)

Also Present:

Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)
Anwen Jones (Cities and Local Growth Unit)
Chris Shepherd (CS) (BCP Council)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Nick Wester (NW) (Dorset Council)
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)
Vinita Nawathe (VN) (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)
Cllr John Beesley (JB)
Sophia Story (SS)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Cllr Drew Mellow, Cllr John Beesley and Sophia Story.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: no declarations of interest were declared.</p>	
2.	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>CB started by congratulating Dorset Council and BCP Council for the Levelling Up grants they received.</p> <p>CB gave an update on the GSW and the launch event that took place at the House of Lords. There was a strong attendance from Dorset and CB thanked those who took the time and were able to attend. She explained the guiding principle for the partnership is to make sure they do not duplicate any existing activities but work to amplify. The focus is on marine, high value manufacturing, tourism, food, farming & fishing, international trade, innovation and energy. There is also a plan to work together on "enablers" such as transport, infrastructure, housing, skills and social mobility. The launch event was about publicity and getting central Government to back and work with the GSW. The Partnership Board is now up and running and Board members for Dorset include representatives from both local authorities, BU (representing higher and further education) and the LEP Chair - VN attends. Programmes are now starting to be established and if you are interested or know someone who is interested in getting involved let CB or VN know. The next steps include appointing a permanent Chair, which is going out to open recruitment. IG informed that the five accredited chambers in the South West are working together closely and are really supportive of the GSW.</p> <p>The GSW is an informal partnership recognised by Government and at the first Partnership Board meeting a structure and terms of reference was agreed. VN said she can distribute the ToR that was agreed at the first meeting, including the suggested programme boards.</p> <p>CB mentioned the GSW are planning to hold some meetings in Dorset, so there will be opportunity to get information first hand and then, as a group, structure how much the LEP wants to get involved. We can get as much out of it as we put into it.</p> <p>CB informed she attended the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) meeting that morning. There was a desire in the meeting to work across all areas to impact health and wellbeing. It was agreed that the LEP needs to work out how it can support this.</p> <p>CS recognised its value but expressed concern about duplication and thought it would be a good idea to have discussions with the ICB to talk about what is already being done and to understand relationships, strategy, aims and directions. NOTE: both Councils Leaders are members of the ICB Board</p> <p>CB mentioned she had re-read the white paper on devolution which states that, by 2030 'every part of England who wants devolution will have it'. A clear opportunity of such a deal is the possibility of long term funding and the opportunity to do something at scale. The published Hampshire devolution prospectus that included BCP was raised and BCP's intentions to be part of a Hampshire deal questioned. BCP's position has been that it is talking to everyone but has not made a decision yet. It was noted that Government are</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
2.	<p>Chair's Update Cont'd</p> <p>prioritising those wanting a locally elected mayor but BCP and Dorset Council have shown no appetite to work towards a locally elected mayor.</p> <p>SF informed that he thought the only option is a pan Dorset deal and he will be pushing hard for that.</p> <p>CB reminded that the LEP's remit is to work within the Dorset footprint.</p> <p>CS said that BCP is considering the Hampshire deal but not pro-actively working towards it. In the absence of any direction from Government it is not a high priority.</p> <p>VN explained that from what is published on the Hampshire deal, 14 councils, led by different political parties, would be expected to form a combined authority with an elected mayor.</p> <p>AJ explained that Government's prioritisation for this year's wave of devolution deals are for those at level 3 with an elected mayor. Part of the policy around this is that significant funding only comes with level 3 deal. Government have said that there is no level 2.5 (NOTE: several places have indicated interest in a level 3 without a Mayor, colloquially known as level 2.5), it is either level 2 or 3. In regard to timescales, Government is looking to initiate a new wave this Spring. They are not using an Expression of Interest process at this time but are going to places to negotiate with them directly to save time. Completing a level 3 deal can take some time but even if you are not looking at a level 3, and are interested in a deal, it is worth making plans to offer up later in the year so that you maybe be at the front of the queue for a level 2.</p>	
3.	Policy	
3.1	<p>Review of Growing Places Fund</p> <p>MP said she would take the paper as read. The paper was discussed in great detail and it was agreed that the Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee would look at what the different options are if the Growing Place Fund is invested in something else, with the parameters of principles, speed, impact and who do we want to target.</p>	
3.2	<p>Enterprise Zone Update</p> <p>TF explained that some time ago it was agreed that Dorset Council would take on an Enterprise Zone Board function that was about the delivery, new plots sales, interfacing between the park and the tenants. What was not established is how best to take advantage of the LEP relationship and how that would enhance the Enterprise Zone (EZ). The substantive piece that affects this group is what has been proposed as the Enterprise Zone Committee, comprising of</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.2	<p>Enterprise Zone Update Cont'd</p> <p>two LEP members, two Dorset Council members and an independent chair. It is about the external facing piece, the relationship with Government, where we might lobby and influence and feeding that back into the EZ Board. Currently we do not have this and so are not as connected as we could and should be. The Board that currently runs the EZ has a big pile of work to do running it and needs that separate body to look strategically and externally.</p> <p>There are formal requirements of the site and reporting into BEIS. The funding was secured by the LEP and so the LEP needs to be part of the formal aspect of this.</p> <p>CS said he was very interested in this and asked what the goals are and whether there is going to be a role or is it just a committee.</p> <p>NW explained that in addition to the Committee they will be putting in place an operational structure beneath it. They will run the park and be held to account by the Committee. Operational decisions and having those wider economic connections with partners will add value to the site.</p> <p>VN informed the Board of the background to the original application to the Enterprise Zone. The EZ Committee will be a way of getting more attention to it.</p> <p>CS asked about the timeline to setting this up and, if the primary aim is to unlock additional investment for Dorset, will there be a role created.</p> <p>NW explained he is looking to bring in some support and this role will include marketing, managing the site utilities, inward investment, maximising the use of the Battlelab. This will be in the business plan and they will probably bring in a consultant to help with that. They are not looking at specific post at this point in time.</p>	
4.	Process	
4.1	<p>Executive Director's Update</p> <p>VN said the Board Skills Audit had been sent out and off the back of that, a report will be sent to the Nominations and Remuneration Committee detailing what the new composition of the board should be and the relaunch of the Dorset Ambassadors.</p> <p>VN updated that in regard to next year's plan, part of that is subject to funding and we are waiting to hear exactly what the funding will be. When VN arrived the LEP was looking at re-homing the Careers and Enterprise staff but they are a real asset. Part of the issue with the contract is the funding and that the LEP has to part fund a couple of staff. They have really good connections into schools and very good engagement with businesses too.</p> <p>CB said she was very impressed to hear how the careers team have been working and how they have enabled access to the people we serve in Dorset.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
4.	Process	
4.1	<p>Executive Director's Update Cont'd</p> <p>VN said looking at funding opportunities for the area, business support is a potential area the LEP can complement working with the local authorities and what they are doing.</p> <p>NN asked about the LEPs funding and that rather than waiting for other people to make decisions, was there any funds of our own to use.</p> <p>VN explained that we expect to hear about funding at the end of this month but there are funds of our own to a certain extent.</p> <p>VN informed there was an invitation to tender from BCP Council to run a Digital Skills and Innovation Centre, RD put forward an application on behalf of the LEP and the LEP has been awarded the contract. We are currently in a 'standstill' period at the moment, so this information is currently confidential.</p> <p>RD explained it was a team effort and the contract is to deliver a Digital Skills and Innovation Learning Hub in Boscombe, running a "skills shop" on Boscombe High Street. Initially it will be to create a concierge service, sign posting service and digital tech incubator. This will compliment a virtual skills platform and we will be working with that supplier. The contract is for three years and two months. There is lots of potential and lots of our partners will have contributions to it. It will be creating a physical partnership of delivery.</p> <p>CB congratulated the team on the brilliant news.</p>	
4.2	<p>Business Update</p> <p>RD took the paper as read but wanted to highlight the One Health Nucleus. We have held One Health conferences for the last few years and the Board agreed to create a One Health Nucleus. We will be holding two breakfast events. We have created one cluster around agri-tech but are looking at a cluster for environment science and changing environments, support resilience and disaster management. Putting out invites to specific companies. There are 200 environmental companies within Dorset.</p> <p>RD and CS both sit on the Integrated Health Steering Group and Kevin Brookes and RD will be representing the LEP at their summit in May.</p>	
4.3	<p>Skills Update</p> <p>RD took the paper as read and highlighted that the annual review up to September 2022 took place with the Careers and Enterprise Company last week. We have made great progress, tracking the national averages for Gatsby benchmarks and we have added another six schools. The team consists of staff that work for the LEP, for Dorset Council and for BCP. The nine members of staff all function as one team to deliver careers service to all schools.</p> <p>NN gave an update on the LSIP and informed they are in the middle of new evidence gathering. The LEP has been doing a lot of work around skills requirements, they are looking at recruitment needs and vacancies and have</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
4.3	<p>Skills Update</p> <p>asked businesses what they need in work, not just recruitment needs. They are tracking where the responses are from and NN encouraged everyone to complete the survey.</p> <p>LR congratulated RD and the team for the fantastic job they are doing. He mentioned there are new legal duties being imposed on schools to work with providers of apprenticeships and training. This should bring together those providers of technical training.</p> <p>CB mentioned the one thing the Integrated Care Partnership Board (ICP) is missing is a higher/further education representative. She advised the SAPB is well placed to provide a representative to the ICP and she was hopeful that they will make contact with LR, as the Chair, to reduce duplication and make sure there is a connection with each workstream the ICP is working on.</p>	
5.	For Noting	
5.1	<p>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee</p> <p>The budget was noted and no questions were raised. AD confirmed the budget was fine and the Committee had gone over it in detail.</p> <p>The question of doing something with the current funds was raised and VN explained it depended on how quickly the Board wanted to run out of funds. The CIC has always had non trading status but we could change that and wake up the dormant company or investigate what we can do within the current structure with the Accountable Body.</p>	
6.	Minutes from the Last Meeting	
	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.	
7.	Any Other Business	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 23 March at 10.00 am, face to face meeting at the Arts University Bournemouth