

**DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING**
**24 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 1.00 PM TO 4.30 PM - BATTLELAB, DORSET INNOVATION PARK, WOOL, DT2 8GB**
**AGENDA**

Time	Item	Subject/Title	Presenter
1.30	1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Bufton
1.35	2.	Chair's Update (verbal)	Cecilia Bufton
	<b>3</b>	<b>CIC Business</b>	
1.45	3.1	Nominations And Remuneration Committee - verbal	Cecilia Bufton
1.55	3.2	FACR Committee	Nick Gaines
2.10	3.3	LEP Functions Integration	Cecilia Bufton
2.30	3.4	Dorset LEP Skills Update	Rebecca Davies
2.40	3.5	Dorset LEP Business Update	Rebecca Davies
	<b>4</b>	<b>Policy</b>	
2.50	4.1	Strategic Economic Planning – Consultation Draft	Vinita Nawathe
3.10	4.2	Portland Port – Developments And Opportunities	Ian McQuaide
3.40	4.3	Discussion	All
	<b>5</b>	<b>Minutes from the Last Meeting</b>	
4.10		Approve Minutes and actions from November Board Meeting and matters arising	Cecilia Bufton
<b>4.20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

**Note: Date of Next Meeting – 28 November 2024 at 10.00 am**

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

The papers for agenda Item 3.3 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING

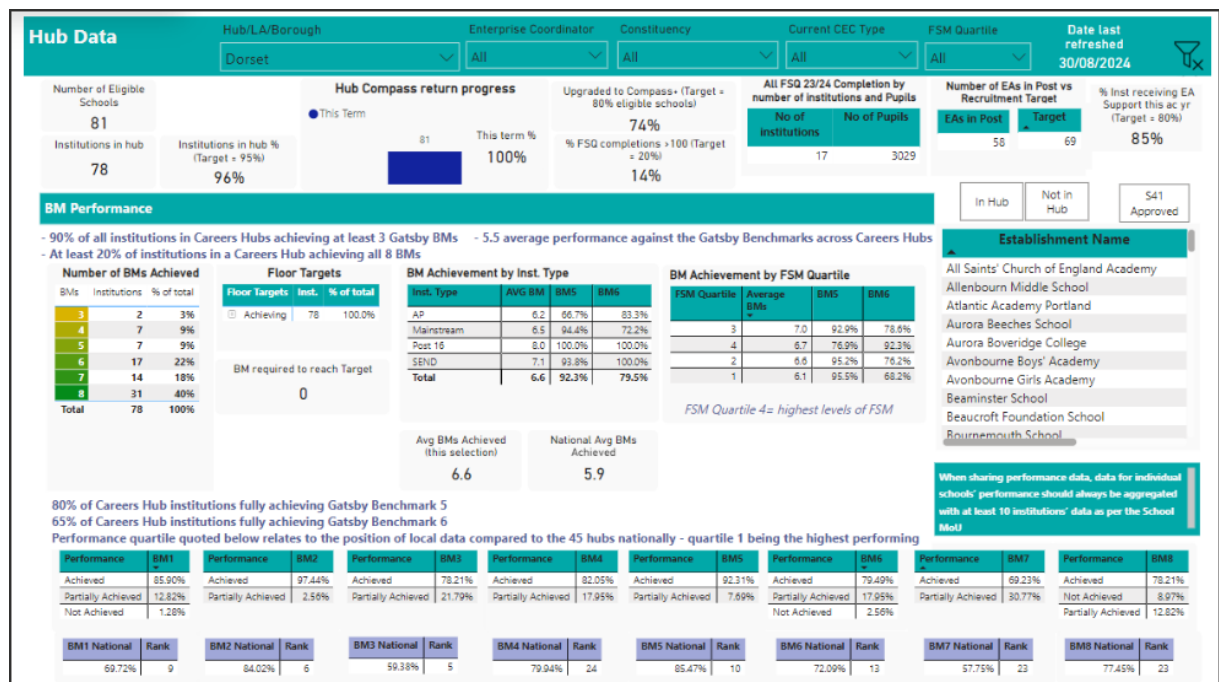
<b>Meeting Date</b>	24 September 2024	<b>Item Number</b>	3.4
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>Confidential</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commercially Sensitive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unclassified</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paper Title</b>	Dorset LEP Skills Update		
<b>Recommendation</b>	None – 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

This paper provides an update from the Dorset Skills Board (DSB) together with operational updates on the contracted LEP skills delivery.

### 2. DORSET CAREERS HUB CONTRACT UPDATE

Dorset Careers Hub annual review for 23/24 highlighted the hub to be in the top 10 in the country. With 100% achievement of compass returns, 4 benchmarks in the top 10 and 4 others very high, we should celebrate the delivery of this collaborative Dorset LEP, Dorset Council and BCP team. The hub achieved an average of 6.6 benchmarks out of 8, against a national average of 5.9/8.



Alongside the benchmarks, the CEC noted,

*"In addition to the great data I reflected on how well the team are working together and how Helen and Jan are a formidable double act; sharing both roles really well. Other projects such as primary, teacher encounters and the ETF/TF JP Morgan funding have*

*been very successful and I also reflected on how good Dorset careers hub's social media is."*

The primary school project across Dorset Council schools (wave 2) has been completed, and the wave 3 project for targeted BCP schools is on track to complete in March 25. Dorset Marvels has secured funding from Dorset Council UK SPF for Dorset Marvels II, with delivery through to March 25.

Looking ahead to 24/25, the delivery strategy is written and agreed following a number of collaborative and focused sessions with the CEC and partners. The budget is set for the non-pay element of the strategy, and the staff resource is in place across the three organisations. Events are already being organised, with those in the autumn term mostly online, and face to face events in the new year.

Following the Board's agreement, we are planning for delivery through to 31/8/25, however there will be some changes to navigate to achieve this.

### **3. DIGITAL SKILLS HUB CONTRACT UPDATE**

Digital Skills Hub is delivering to target and in line with the contract. Achievements since the last Board meeting include:

Second cohort of Business Accelerator businesses – commenced Sept 24

Basic to intermediate digital skills courses – courses full through to December

Business focused social media campaign – great engagement and collaborations with businesses through the Visa funded activity.

Business advisor drop in sessions weekly – creative marketing and delivery is achieving positive numbers attending for advice.

Masterclass series – free course available for SME businesses

English for Speakers of other languages with digital skills / employability – courses continue to run for asylum seekers and refugees. We also delivered two x 8 week series ESOL with life skills for teenager refugees.

The next KPI update will be 30 Sept, with invoicing due the same day. The project is delivering to budget as set in the contract with BCP.

There is risk to the successful delivery of the project post 31 March 2025.

### **4. DORSET SKILLS BOARD**

The Board met in August and the following is shared as a highlight report:

Nicola Newman, Chair, and Rod Davis reported updates on the policy changes and creation of Skills England.. This is due to go live in July 2025. **However**, a lack of clarity remains about how the local skills piece will mesh with the regional / national agenda. Phil Sayles recognised the importance of the devolution conversation in future skills policy. There were ongoing discussions about the application of the Apprenticeship Levy in future.

The Local Skills Improvement Plan first year update went live in August 2024. Rosie Knapper shared the data updates relating to the LSIP, which reflects the positive work being achieved.

The board had an update on the work of the Integrated Care Partnership from Lesley Haig, and specifically the skills elements relating to health workers. Work is ongoing with

Dorset Careers Hub in schools, via the LSIP and across providers in Dorset. Helen Stevenson provided an update on the Careers Hub for the board.

Members also shared updates, which allow us all to see collaborative opportunities, understand information and strategy of others and build strength for all in the skills system. In particular the following were noted:

- Health Sciences University now officially named and have acquired the University College of Osteopathy in London.
- The recent Reconnect event in BCP run by Women in Tech was flagged by Penny Sydall. A Digital Leadership programme is now up and running with Cosmic. The Digital Champion programme is now embedded. They are planning an MP briefing in the autumn around the digital skills gap. They will be producing regular reports of their work as part of the Digital Skills Partnership
- Skills and Learning are into the last half year of the Multiply funding (UKSPF). An emerging gap had been recognised in BCP in alternative provision for excluded children.
- DWP noted the 50+ roadshows that are going live to support older workers.

For full information please see [Dorset Skills Board Minutes - Aug 24.pdf \(dorsetlep.co.uk\)](#)

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

None – for information only.

## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	24-09-24	<b>Item Number</b>	3.5
<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 Delivery 24/25**

The following programmes are live:

#### **Bid Writing Support (to encompass 3 elements)**

**Horizon Scanning Service** - to help businesses identify potential funding sources via private investors, angel investor groups, SWIF, government grants e.g. Innovate UK, DCMS etc.

**Bid Writing Support** - to provide support to businesses who have identified a grant they wish to apply for. This will be utilised for Marine and Maritime Launchpad Round 2 and so far five businesses have requested this.

**Bid Writing Masterclasses** – to deliver masterclasses to provide hints, tips and strategy of writing compelling bids for Innovate UK and other Government funding. 2 of these were specifically for Marine and Maritime Launchpad Round 2.

#### **Business Growth Groups**

A peer support programme to help 40 businesses identify, plan, and implement business growth and productivity actions. 4 sessions per group, 15 hours of support per business. This programme has a focus on Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing, Marine & Maritime, Digital Creative and Visitor Economy established Dorset businesses with growth potential. Open for applications now with groups starting Sept 24.

#### **Funding and Investment Readiness**

A programme of support to help businesses to ensure they have everything in place to successfully apply for investment from private and government sources investors, angel investor groups, SWIF, Innovate UK, grants etc including finance information, pitch decks etc. Two sessions to focus on start-up funding and two sessions on growth / scale-up funding with one

business from each session hand-selected for additional one-to-one financial support. This will result in 40 interventions and will run Jan to March 25.

### **Funding Accelerator**

A part-funded programme of support to help 10 businesses to demystify the investment process, break down barriers and create a level playing field. This programme provides businesses with the tools and techniques they need to encourage investors to back the business. The programme includes three "sprint" sessions, one-to-one support and pitch practice and feedback. 12+ hours of support for each business.

### **Digital Technology for Productivity Programme**

A programme of specialist-led digital tech, productivity and innovation advice and support for 25 businesses (12 hours). This programme is aimed at SME manufacturers in Dorset and will provide organisations with an internationally recognised benchmark assessment which includes a suite of frameworks and tools to help start, scale and sustain manufacturing transformation.

### **Supply Chain development**

A programme of events to help Dorset companies identify new opportunities within their Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing, Digital Creative and Marine & Maritime business that would benefit the Defence & Security Supply Chain across the SW region and beyond. Events to cover awareness of the sector, opportunities, introductions, networking and funding for Defence & Security sector resulting in 100 interventions.

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 1524 followers as of 11<sup>th</sup> Sept (up from 1498 in July).

### **Considerations for 25/26 and beyond**

#### **Business Support**

SMEs are vital to Dorset's economy, driving employment, innovation, and growth. However, these businesses face challenges that can hinder their development. High-quality, accessible and consistent business support is crucial in helping Dorset and BCP SMEs overcome these challenges by providing the tools, resources, and guidance necessary for success.

**Enhancing SME Productivity:** Business support services, such as advisory, training, and access to funding and technology, help SMEs improve efficiency and productivity. By adopting better management practices and utilising digital tools, SMEs can reduce costs and enhance their productivity which benefits both the individual businesses and the broader economy.

**Fostering Innovation:** SMEs are often at the forefront of innovation but require substantial investment in R&D and access to technology and partnerships. Strong business support facilitates these needs through expertise, funding, innovation hubs, and networking opportunities.

**Benefits to Dorset:** Successful SMEs contribute to job creation, increased local spending, and overall economic prosperity. They often reinvest in their communities, further boosting growth and attracting talent and investment to the area.

**Challenges of a Disjointed Business Support Ecosystem:** A fragmented and confusing business support ecosystem can hinder SMEs by causing missed opportunities and unequal access to resources across the two Local Authority areas. This disjointed approach can frustrate businesses, dilute the effectiveness of support, and exacerbate disparities across Dorset.



**Consistent Business Support Across Dorset and BCP:** To ensure balanced economic growth it is essential that all SMEs in Dorset and BCP have fair and consistent access to the same high-quality business support. Equal access promotes inclusivity, reduces economic inequalities and helps unlock the full potential of the SME sector leading to an increase in innovation, productivity and growth across Dorset. A consistent approach also streamlines processes, reduces confusion and maximises resource efficiency as well as strengthening the Dorset brand.

### **Inward Investment**

Dorset needs an adequately funded, resourced and supported inward investment strategy to attract businesses, create jobs, stimulate economic growth and improve its standing within the GSW and the UK. Inward investment brings significant benefits, including increased employment opportunities, enhanced local infrastructure, and increased capital and innovation into the area.

### **Resources Required and Management**

Developing an effective inward investment strategy requires a range of resources, including financial investment, a skilled and sufficiently resourced team and access to relevant digital tools. Financial resources are necessary to fund marketing campaigns, participate in trade missions and offer incentives in the form of a soft-landing package to investors. A skilled, sufficiently resourced and dedicated team is crucial for identifying opportunities, engaging with investors and negotiating deals. Additionally, access to data analytics tools and CRM systems can help manage investor relationships and track the progress of initiatives.

To manage these resources effectively, the strategy should include a clear governance structure, with dedicated leadership to oversee the process and ensure accountability. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the strategy's impact should be conducted to adjust tactics as needed and ensure that resources are being used efficiently.

### **Developing the Strategy and Securing Buy-In**

A detailed analysis of the county's strengths and competitive advantages is a piece of work that is already underway. This process should identify key sectors with growth potential, such as technology, green energy, or advanced manufacturing and create a targeted approach to attract investors in these areas.

Securing buy-in from the entire county is critical. The team and key stakeholders must work together to create a unified message and coordinated efforts. Public consultations, partnerships with local businesses, and regular communication can help build consensus and ensure that the strategy aligns with the broader economic goals of Dorset.

By ensuring that Dorset's inward investment strategy is well-resourced and effectively managed, Dorset can maximise its potential to attract high-quality investments, driving long-term economic prosperity for the county and wider region.

### **Other Activity**

**Inward Investment** – [www.investindorset.com](http://www.investindorset.com) is being updated regularly with additional content including business case studies.

Working with DBT partners, BCP Council 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.

Dorset LEP lead on the review and updates to DBT Propositions to ensure representation for Dorset.

**Innovate UK Marine and Maritime Launchpad** – Dorset LEP are working closely with Innovate UK, Maritime UK SW and GSW teams to launch Round 2 of this high-profile funding opportunity - £7.5m pot for projects related to Clean Maritime, Digital Oceans and Marine Autonomy. Dorset LEP are the only organisation that have held events specific to Dorset businesses to highlight the opportunity with relevant businesses. Round 2 is now live (2<sup>nd</sup> Sept) and bid writing support is being offered to all relevant Dorset businesses.

**British Business Bank** – Dorset LEP are hosting a sold-out Meet the Funder event in Oct 24. This is being sponsored by British Business Bank and will include speakers from Dorset Business Angels, Barclays Eagle Labs and British Business Bank.

**South West Investment Fund** – DLEP continue to promote this £200 million fund for the South West region. Meetings have been held with the fund managers FSE Group to identify opportunities for increased referrals from Dorset and a promotion webinar was held in partnership with FSE Group and Focused for Business in June.

**Digital Skills Hub** – we continue to provide support for the business elements of the hub in particular Business Mondays, masterclasses and accelerator programme.

**Fintech West South Coast** – Dorset LEP has partnered with BCP Council and Fintech West to launch the “South Coast Hub” of Fintech West in Dorset. A fourth event is planned for Autumn.

**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 sits on the Comms and Engagement Working Group.

**GSW** – we continue to work closely with the GSW team on several initiatives including the upcoming Made Smarter Programme (25/26) and Marine & Maritime Launchpad.

**UK SPF** – BCP Council and Dorset Council UK SPF Programmes continue and are very popular; Dorset LEP regularly refer to these schemes and businesses are referred onto DLEP funded programmes.

**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.

**Clusters / Programmes** – Dorset LEP continue to play an active role in several clusters / programmes including South West Regional Defence & Security Cluster, Maritime UK South West, South West Agri-Tech, South West Aquaculture Network.

**Dorset Ambassadors** – The most recent sold-out event was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September at AUB with the next one booked in Spring 2025 at Hall & Woodhouse Brewery.

**South West Agritech Showcase** – planning is underway for the 2025 event.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only

## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	24-09-24	<b>Item Number</b>	4.1
<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>	Strategic Economic Planning – Consultation Draft		
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Board to note the slides and process and to approve the consultation draft which will follow.		
<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 provide an update to the Board on the latest work on the economic strategy document.

### 2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Attached are the slides presented at the Dorset Ambassadors' meeting that took place on 17 September which will form the Executive Summary of the strategy.

A revised draft will follow, taking on board the input from the day, which the Board will be asked to approve as the Consultation draft to be circulated more widely.

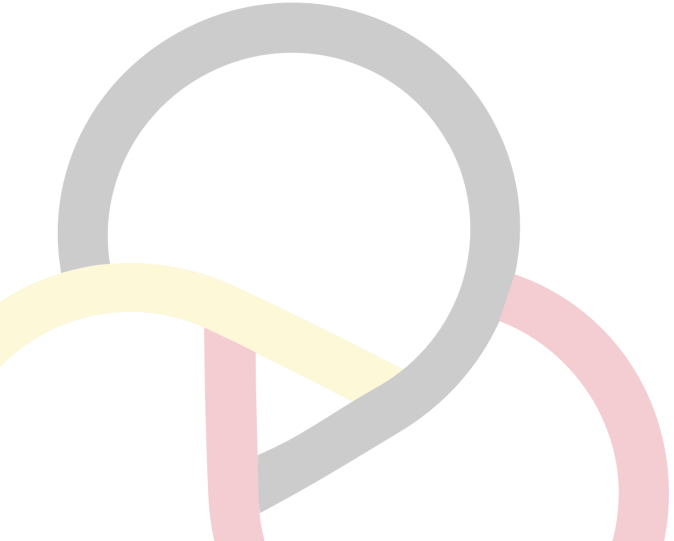
### 3. RECOMMENDATION

The Board to note the slides and process and to approve the consultation draft which will follow.

# Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Strategy Development – Dorset Ambassadors 17<sup>th</sup> September

# Structure of this session

- Introduction to the strategy
- Key findings from the evidence base work
- Emerging vision and priorities
- Exercise
- What next





# Introduction to the strategy

- Why?
  - Shared sense of direction
  - Identify and communicate priorities
  - Government ask
- Why now?
  - Time for a refresh
  - Government ask
- Geography covered?
  - Dorset Council
  - BCP Council
  - But also wider
- Collective voice
  - Strategy for the area, not one single organisation
- Process to date
  - Evidence base review
  - Review of existing plans
  - Discussions with LEP board and partners
  - Alignment with GSW
  - Further engagement through the autumn



# Key findings from the evidence base

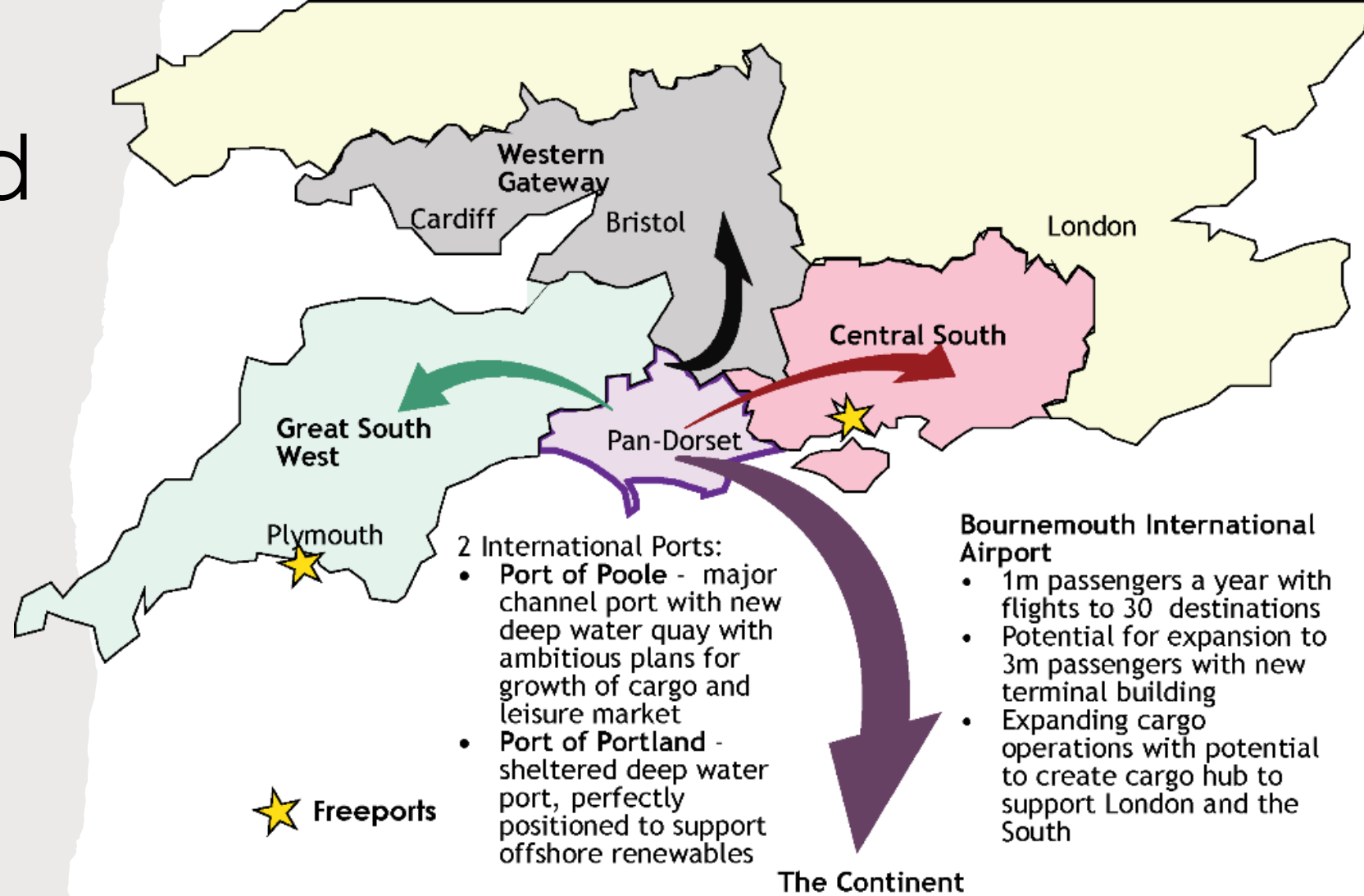
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# Strengths and opportunities

A prime location on south coast with...

- A unique blend of urban, coastal and rural opportunities
- A microcosm of international corporations, scale-ups and SMEs
- High value sectors with clear comparative advantage, underpinned by an everyday economy





# Inter- dependent sectors

## High Value

Why  
important

Higher than average  
productivity/better paid jobs  
Have most potential to  
compete nationally and  
internationally

## Everyday

Make up >50% of  
employment  
Essential to the  
functioning of all  
economies  
Need to improve  
productivity

Which  
sectors

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advanced engineering and manufacturing<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine and maritime</li><li>• Defence and security</li><li>• Aerospace</li></ul></li><li>• Financial services (including Fintech)</li><li>• Creative and digital</li><li>• Health sciences</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport and logistics</li><li>• Retail</li><li>• Public services</li><li>• Health and social care</li><li>• Tourism, leisure and hospitality</li><li>• Farming and food production</li></ul> |
|--|--|



## Strengths and opportunities Cont...

- **Three universities** producing 7,500 graduates each year, but low levels of graduate retention
- **Two FE colleges** which play a vital role in our community and meet the needs of the local economy
- Both HE/FE partners provide a wider civic role and bring specialist expertise

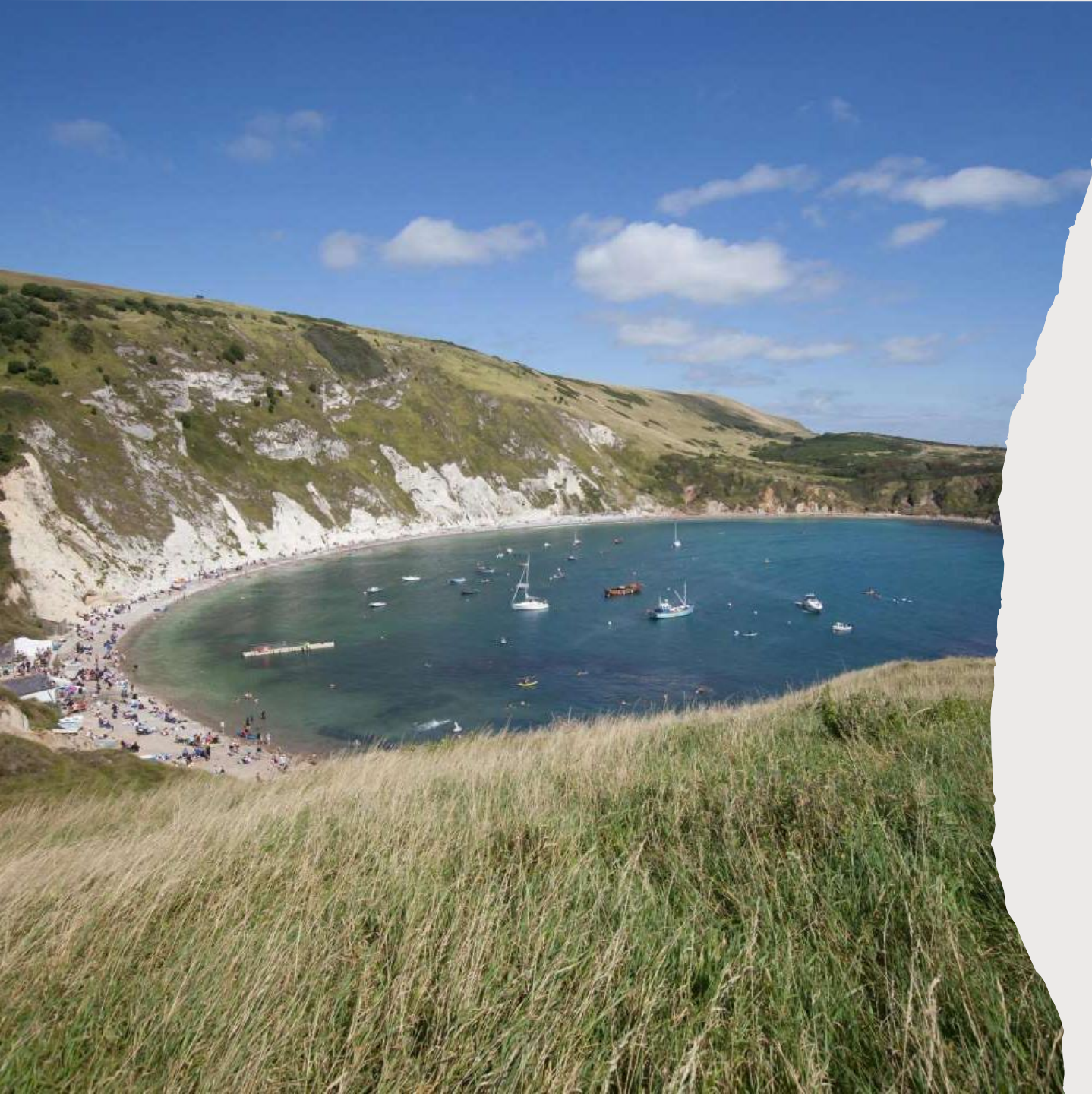




# Green shoots of recovery in our towns

- Bournemouth Town Deal
- Poole Regeneration programme (including Holes Bay)
- Weymouth Levelling Up
- BCP Seafront Levelling up
- Six Business Improvement Districts
- Accommodation BID





## Biodiversity, landscape and natural assets

- Recognised for its **biodiversity**
- **Cultural** and **environmental** assets drive our tourism sector and support health and well-being
- Farms/fisheries make a vital contribution to **UK food security**
- **Untapped energy resources** including wind (including offshore), solar, hydrogen and small scale modular nuclear reactors

**Two colleges:**  
Bournemouth and Poole, and  
Weymouth and Kingston  
Maurward

**3 universities** with 7,500  
graduates each year

52% of the land  
area is designated  
as a **national  
landscape**

**AFC Bournemouth**  
Premier League  
football club

£19.9m Levelling up funding to  
be invested in the BCP seafront  
to support the **seafront strategy**

**Lansdowne Central Business  
District** - providing office  
space and homes

Regeneration of **Poole town  
Centre** as a sustainable  
health and vibrant place

**Holes Bay** - a 16ha former power  
station for 830 new homes and  
employment land

£22m **Town Deal** to create  
a 'Better Boscombe'

**Wessex Fields** - 7.1ha strategic  
employment site linked to the Royal  
Bournemouth Hospital for a  
med-tech science park

**Bournemouth International  
Centre** - investment in the  
BIC so that it stands  
amongst the very best event  
venues in the world

**Talbot village Innovation Quarter** -  
4.7ha linked to BU and AUB for  
health, innovation and incubation  
space

**Smart City** - the UK's first open  
innovation system using full 5G  
and data platform

**5 national portfolio**  
organisations and  
wealth of cultural  
assets

**Bournemouth International Airport  
and Aviation Business Park** -  
Opportunity to create the UK's  
newest cargo hub to serve London  
and the South East

Centre of excellence in Aerospace  
Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul

Shared **cultural ambitions**  
to nurture and retain  
creative talent, promote  
tourism and support a  
year round high quality  
inclusive arts, heritage  
and cultural offer

**Aquaculture** off  
the coast of Dorset  
and Poole

**Port of Poole** - with a  
new deepwater facility  
and masterplan, the  
Port has ambitions to  
become the UK's No. 1  
marine leisure  
destination as well as a  
leading green port

Grow ing **cruise**  
destination

**Port of Portland** - Sheltered  
deep water port, perfectly  
positioned to support  
offshore renewables

**Portwind Offshore Wind Farm** -  
a 2GW project which would  
power 3m households

**Hydrogen Storage** in salt  
caverns on the Isle of Portland

14 Blue flag  
beaches

Lyme Regis

Sherbourne

Blandford Forum

Dorchester

Weymouth

Poole

Bournemouth

Christchurch

Onshore **renewable  
energy** across the  
area

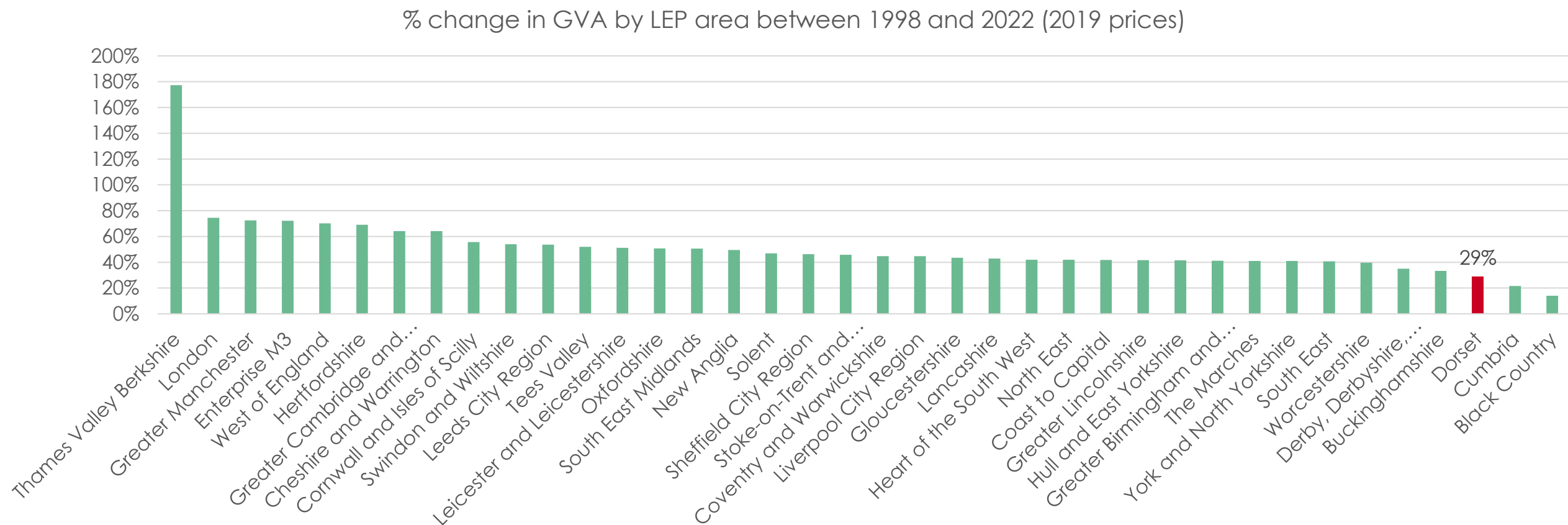
**Jurassic Coast** UNESCO  
World Heritage Site  
95 miles of coast  
representing 185m  
years of history

£19.5m Levelling-Up  
funding to support  
**waterside regeneration in  
Weymouth**

**Dorset Innovation Park  
Enterprise Zone** - An advanced  
engineering cluster of excellence  
with strengths in marine, defence  
and energy and home to **Battlelab**  
- a state of the art defence  
innovation and collaboration space  
Potential for **small modular  
nuclear reactors**

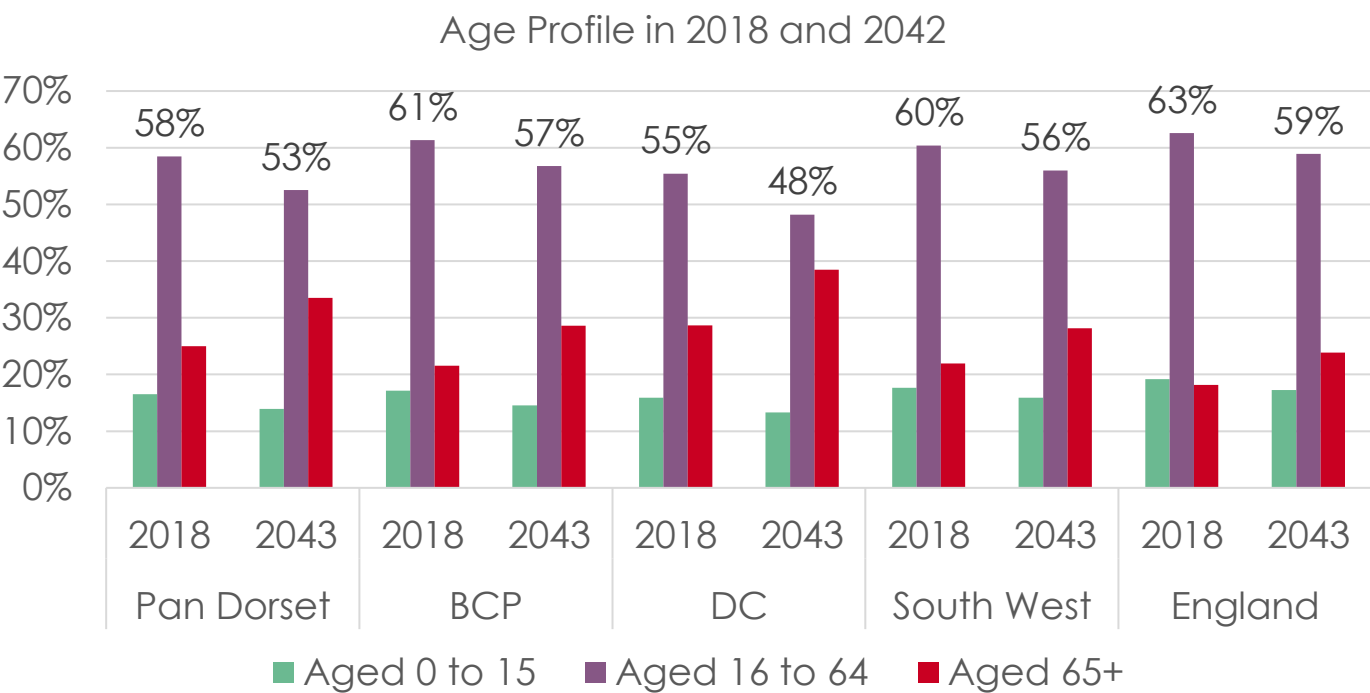
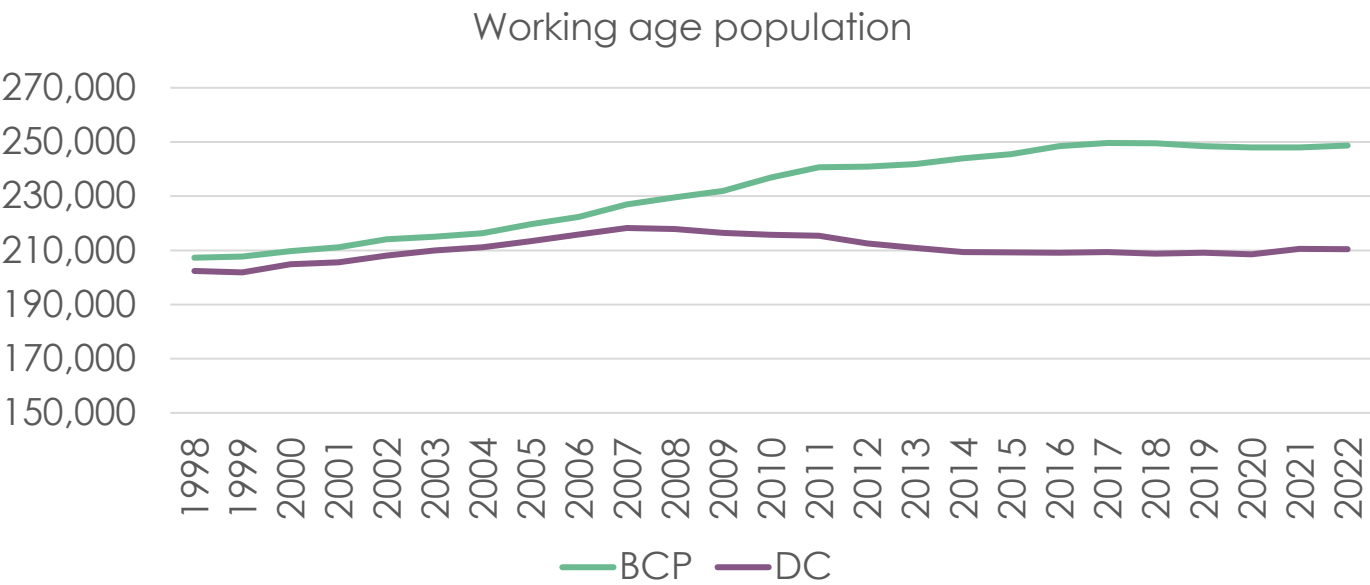
But...

Our output growth has been slower than most other places



# What is driving this?

- Productivity is £4.63/hour less than the UK average and is growing more slowly than other areas
- A **plateauing working age population**
- **Ageing at a faster rate** than the rest of the UK, 20 years ahead of the national trend







# Labour market challenges

- **Strong demand** for labour – increasing since the pandemic, with recruitment challenges
- **Replacement demand** will become increasingly important, as our existing workforce is older than average
- Despite our tight labour market, there are **approximately 25,500 workless people in the area who would like to work:**
  - 10,300 unemployed
  - 84,600 economically inactive aged 16-64 (of which approx. 15,200 'want to work')
- Long term **sickness and early retirement** are now the most significant reasons for economic inactivity
- Lower proportion of people with high level qualifications



An illustration of a small, orange house with a brown roof and two windows, sitting on a light green pedestal. Several hands of different skin tones are reaching up towards the house. The background is a teal sky with three light blue clouds. The overall theme is housing challenges.

# Housing challenges

- **High house prices** relative to incomes are constraining the labour market
- A **shortage of affordable homes** and high house prices **can affect productivity** by limiting the ability of workers to move
- Land constraints a factor here

# Wider infrastructure challenges

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- **Transport connectivity** remains a challenge
- **Digital connectivity** is a particular challenge in the DC area
- **Grid connectivity** (supply and demand)
- **Climate and Ecological emergencies**



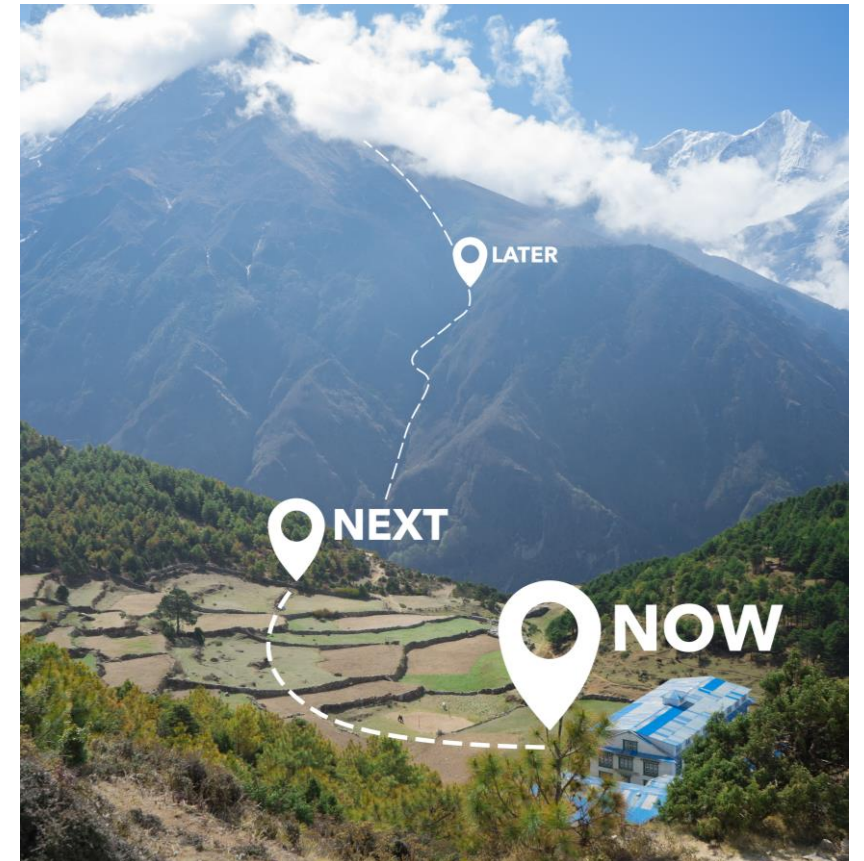
# Where do we want to be?

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By 2035, the pan Dorset economy will be one of the best places in the world in which to live, work, invest and play by bringing together people, nature, coast and towns in sustainable, safe and healthy communities. Brimming with optimism and fueled by dynamic, productive businesses it will be an exemplar of a modern economy.

Our quality of life, exciting job opportunities and culture will attract and retain young people and families and at the same time our integrated health system will ensure everyone who wants to work is able to do so.

Finally, as one of the most bio-diverse places in England, we will be an exemplar of a sustainable economy, effectively balancing the needs of today with those of tomorrow and capitalising on our world-class natural resources.



# How will we get there?

Our approach recognises

- The urgent need **to address skills shortages.**
  - The need (in the medium to long term) to **retain and attract young people** to live and work in the area
  - The opportunity to **grow our world class, high value sectors** at the frontier of our economy
  - That we must also improve the **productivity of businesses in the foundation or everyday economy**
- which account for over 50% of employment
- That to operate effectively, our economy needs **functional transport and digital infrastructure, an energy grid** that has capacity for new connections and **places for people to work.**
  - That our **natural capital supports our economy**, providing essential ecosystem services as well as making the area an attractive place for people to visit and live



## Area of Outstanding Natural Business

### Frontier businesses

#### Cutting Edge Industries

Stimulate, promote and support our high value clusters by:

- Stimulating inward investment and exporting
- Strengthening R&D, science and innovation investment
- Promoting strong links between businesses, research assets and supply chains
- Attracting and retaining graduates and technical skills

### Everyday businesses

#### Growth and Opportunities

Improve the productivity, resilience and sustainability of our everyday businesses by:

- Improving technology adoption and innovation
- Improving access to finance
- Supporting start-ups and scale-ups
- Decarbonising business

### Empowered people

Empower our residents to access employment and better opportunities throughout our economy by:

- Improving education and skills
- Enabling access to opportunity
- Tackling health related barriers to work and underlying causes of ill-health

### Working Places

#### Essential Foundations

Provide the infrastructure to support growth by:

- Improving transport and digital connectivity
- Improving grid capacity to unlock homes and employment sites
- Increasing the availability of employment sites

### Vibrant Places

Champion the creation of vibrant places where people and businesses want to be by:

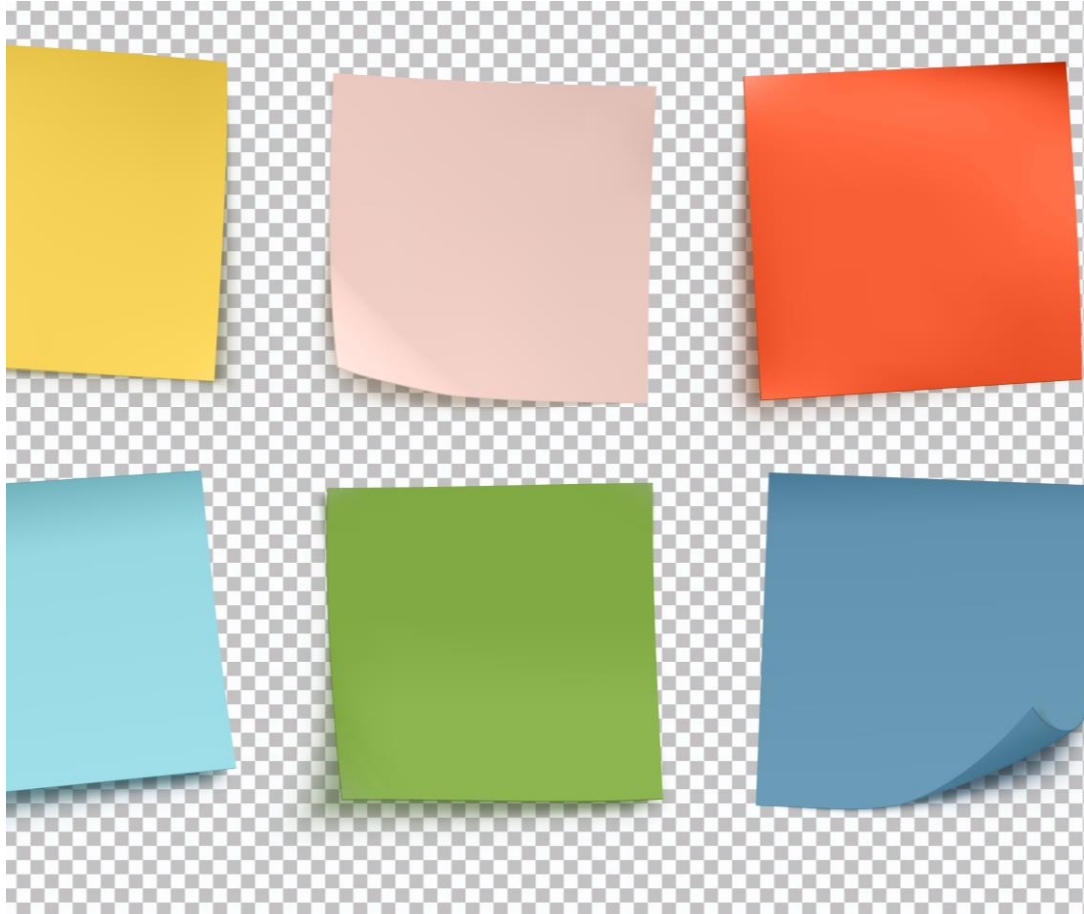
- Increasing the supply of homes and improving energy efficiency
- Investing in town centres
- Supporting culture
- Tackling deprivation and supporting communities

### Natural Places

Maximise the potential of our natural resources by:

- Developing low carbon energy opportunities
- Encouraging a one health approach
- Improving food security
- Providing green infrastructure to support health and well-being

# Exercise – we want to know what you think!



- We have set up around the room some 'posters' which summarise key elements of the strategy including:
  - Station 1: Where we are now?
    - Strengths/weaknesses
    - Sectors
    - Opportunity map
  - Station 2: Strategic direction
    - Vision
    - Priorities
  - Station 3: Emerging actions
- Take a look and use a post-it to give us your opinion!

# Next steps

- Use your inputs to finalise our consultation draft
- Aim to publish consultation draft in the coming weeks
- Further opportunities for comment before finalisation later this autumn



## DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

<b>Meeting Date</b>	24-09-24	<b>Item Number</b>	4.2
<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>	Portland Port Developments and opportunities		
<b>Recommendation</b>	The board are asked to consider the implications and opportunities for the area.		
<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 hear an update on developments and opportunities currently in train at Portland Port

### 2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Ian McQuaid will give an overview of current and potential future developments at the port.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

The board are asked to consider the implications and opportunities for the area.



## DRAFT MINUTES

### DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

18 JULY 2024 AT 10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM

### VIRTUAL MEETING

### MINUTES

#### Board Attendees:

Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)  
Ian Girling (IG)  
Jim Andrews (JA)  
Cllr Millie Earl (ME)  
Nicola Newman (NN)  
Paul Read (PR)  
Cllr Richard Biggs (RB)  
Cllr Simon Clifford (SC)

#### Also Present:

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

#### Apologies:

Neil Skelland (NS)  
Nick Gaines (NG)  
Paul Gough (PG)  
Phil Sayles (PS)  
Cllr Vikki Slade (VS)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Neil Skelland, Nick Gaines, Paul Gough, Phil Sayles and Cllr Vikki Slade</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: no declarations of interest were declared.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Chair's Update</b></p> <p>CB informed the Board that Aaron Lawes and Luke Rake have submitted their resignations from the Board.</p> <p>JA informed the Board that he is leaving BU and so Professor Keith Phalp will be taking over his position on the Board from 1 September.</p> <p>CB informed the Board that Paul Read was coming to the end of his second term as a Board Member, so will be leaving the Board at the end of July.</p> <p>CB thanked those Board members for all their work for the LEP during their time as Board members.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Policy</b>	
3.1	<p><b>Impacts of the General Election on Dorset</b></p> <p>VN ran through her presentation on the impact of the general election and the King's speech.</p> <p>AJ confirmed that the steer they have received so far is that this Government wants to move away from individual deals. It will be on a qualifying basis, so if you are already xy and z you will qualify for this. She said they are still waiting to get clarification. The local authorities have received a letter from Angela Raynor which talks about devolution. This is a big priority.</p> <p>VN confirmed that the letter from Angela Raynor informs that devolution will not be done on a small individual local authority basis but, for example, on a county level.</p> <p>NN said hopefully the new skills policy will get up and running quickly. Reflecting local need has been an obvious benefit of the Local Skills Improvement Plan, so we need to hold on to that.</p> <p>IG informed that he has had good engagement with the new Dorset MPs already. MP engagement with the previous MPs was a real struggle but the new MPs are engaging already. He said there has not been a big reaction to the King's speech from business and he thinks business is just ready for a change. The new employment rights bill is being treated with some caution and the changes to rights from day one of employment. He will be issuing advice and supporting businesses. Recruitment still a top issue for businesses.</p> <p>ME echoed that sentiment and noted the changes around zero hour contracts and employment rights. We have a big tourism industry that the county economy relies on. How this will affect this industry which is already struggling this year due to the weather. From a local government perspective, the King's Speech was positive but in regard to devolution, how we will go from nothing to having everything in place by end of September is a challenge. The fact that the Labour Government have said they are looking at improving the relationship, with multi-year settlements, is encouraging.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.1	<p><b>Impacts of the General Election on Dorset Cont'd</b></p> <p>ME went on to highlight the mention of compulsory purchase orders, which can be positive – such as the purchase of Holes Bay, the largest brown field site in the South West. The problem is that acquiring a site is only part of the solution, further funds are needed to develop that brown field site. With the support of Government, BCP will be able to bring development forward at more of a pace. Information regarding planning and infrastructure are awaited.</p> <p>AD said that the multi-year settlement is very welcome but there is no indication as to whether they will be getting any more money or whether the cap on council tax will be removed. If that was removed there is an opportunity for local authorities to raise more money though that.</p> <p>RB informed that he was part of a discussion on raising council tax and they acknowledged that it would be hugely unpopular with tax payers, who are already heavily burdened. He thought it would be a very difficult thing to do. He was concerned that they don't rush into anything re. devolution. They would want to do something with BCP Council. He mentioned elected mayors and if you have not got an elected mayor, you will miss out.</p> <p>AJ reassured there are a lot of devolution discussions that still need to be sorted out from the last Government and the priority is to get those sorted. The new Bill will need to be worked up and put through Government. It's a good idea to start having conversations about the devolved powers our Councils may want, to get on the front foot, but there's no need to get it all done by September. We will get more information that will help these conversations. There is an emphasis on mayors from this Government, as with the last, but what does this look like for more rural area where people have just not wanted mayors? Will there be incentives for places to put mayors in place. All of these things still need to be worked out at a policy level.</p> <p>SC commented that it has always been clear over the last few years about devolution and he did not know what has taken so long. He said he was keeping an eye on what will happen with adult social care fair pay.</p> <p>VN said that the two LAs have been sitting around the table together for quite a long time. They have an evidence base for a functional economic area. There is a case for a unit on a county basis in terms of planning and the things you need to do together. They already have a lot of plans and strategies in place that they are doing together. There are other examples around the country to look at and she pointed the Board to York and Yorkshire which is very similar to what Dorset has. The point is to decide what is wanted for the area and what is the best for the area.</p> <p>CB added there is an opportunity to work together on a county deal and work on what we already have here.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> CB asked the Board if anyone thinks of anything we should be doing together relevant to the changed policy landscape to let VN know and let's make sure we do it.</p>	All

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.2	<p><b>LEP Integration Task and Finish Group Update</b></p> <p>CB updated that the paper sets out options 1 and 2 and these were reported back to the Task and Finish Group at the meeting on 11 July. She recognised that devolution will have an impact on how we take these options forward</p> <p>NW ran through the paper and work that was done on looking at options 1 and 2 in the first instance and to look at what an option 3 might be in regard to the work around devolution. If the local authorities are going to deliver on anything else, some of the funding would have to be transferred to them to enable them to deliver the other contracts. With the Growth Hub, if they didn't get that funding they would have to look at either ceasing that activity or if it could be absorbed into other functions. If LEP staff are to be made redundant, the funding for that would need to be ring fenced and protected. There are two legacy contracts, the CEC contract which the LEP have direct with them for the Careers Hub service. The local authorities are looking to have conversations with the CEC about the novation of that contract to another deliverer. The Boscombe Skills Hub contract is a BCP contract with the LEP directly and BCP would be required to agree the future delivery of that with a third party or another option.</p> <p>Option 2 would be the same with the exception of those contracts. The CIC would need to continue to deliver the CEC and Boscombe Skills Hub contracts and funding would need to continue to do that. Council teams considered that option 2 would be their least favourable option. There is still some work to do on those legacy contracts.</p> <p>VN stated that from her perspective, form follows function. What are you trying to do comes first and then how you make it work follows from that. The interesting part of the role she took on was taking it from something that was in its last phase, anticipating a change of government and policy, getting it to the next place and what is good for the area. What is the best place to get us to? There is still the question of devolution and functions integrated into local democratic functions. With a focus on economic growth, option 3 – developing a jointly owned "Invest in Dorset" function, it is not something we have yet looked at. What are we trying to do and then what happens next should come from that.</p> <p>CB thanked the officer team for the work that has taken place. She informed that we are not the only LEP still standing. Many LEPs are still operating and being funded through to 2026. They have changed their name and are continuing to operate. We decided not to change our name. What is the vehicle that we need to ensure business engagement in local decision making and to deliver business support - whatever devolution is for the area?</p> <p>RB said he would like to see a clear project plan and what are the key activities that need to take place and decisions made at the various Board meetings to wrap this up in 7 months.</p> <p>CB said now the election has taken place and we have a new government, we need to flesh out devolution and working with the teams to be able to say this is what we are planning to deliver and how we are going to do this.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.2	<p><b>LEP Integration Task and Finish Group Update Cont'd</b></p> <p>VN informed that we have to set this out by October and make a decision about her team, as if we are making people redundant the consultation period needs to start on 21 October.</p> <p>AD wanted to be absolutely clear, the September meeting is the decision point. At that meeting we need to decide on the future. He remarked that all the time we are spending on this we are not talking about devolution.</p> <p>CB remarked that the work has got to be done in the context of devolution and yes, September is the deadline.</p> <p>VN said that the Task and Finish Group will bring a recommendation to the September Board meeting for discussion and decision.</p> <p>ME commented that the Task and Finish Group is made up of local authority members and officers and is there anything that the business Board Members would like to say at this point in regards feedback or any thoughts. If so, please send back to Task and Finish Group.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> VN to set up a separate meeting with the business Board Members to brief them on the work of the Task and Finish Group.</p>	VN
3.3	<p><b>Pan-Dorset Growth Strategy</b></p> <p>VN explained this work is being done on behalf of the local authorities as part of the core funding received. It can be used to help put together a strategic plan and opportunities for the area, especially given the new Governments talk of an industrial strategy informed by local strategies.</p> <p>AJ said that they do not have any detail on the industrial strategy yet. They do not know what geographies the local industrial strategies will cover but any evidence gathering for this strategy will be helpful to inform your local industrial strategy.</p> <p>VN informed that she has received some feedback but not a lot of feedback from the Board. It is the intention to get a wider stakeholder involvement. The plan is to talk about it at the Dorset Ambassadors meeting in September.</p> <p>CB informed that the feedback she has received from the NHS and the Police, who she sent it to, has been very interesting. She explained that the document is about providing the evidence of where we are now and that we are required, and have a deadline, to publish this document. It is to be the evidence that can be used when bidding for funding. She said it is very important to have the evidence to support things which other areas do and that's why they are successful.</p> <p>AJ left the meeting at 11.13 am.</p> <p>IG commented that there is so much going on at the moment and businesses have limited amounts of time. A consultation is important but thought the best way to do it would be to get people in a room.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.3	<p><b>Pan-Dorset Growth Strategy Cont'd</b></p> <p>VN said she would like to get council officers from different departments together, expanding input beyond the narrow focus of economic development, to look more broadly at factors that create the conditions for prosperity – such as transport, housing, health and infrastructure.</p> <p>SC remarked that the sector missing from this, is the voluntary and community support sector, who do a lot of work.</p> <p>CB agreed that there is a place for the work that they do to be reflected in the document and said that any ideas on how to do that would be helpful.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>CIC</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Annual Report</b></p> <p>VN informed that we have published our Annual Report on our website if you would like to go and have a look at it. It is a good evidence base on all the work that we have done. <a href="https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/annual-report">https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/annual-report</a></p>	
4.2	<p><b>One Health Conference Report</b></p> <p>CB updated the Board on the recent One Health conference. This brings us the potential opportunity for some significant investment. We have submitted an expression of interest that might bring in some funding over three years to work in this area. One Health is about the interconnectivity between human, plant and animal health and looking at responsible innovation. We have created a useful framework that will help us develop something that is unique for Dorset, working across the South West from Southampton to Bristol and down the peninsula</p> <p>We identified over 500 companies working in this space and have a work plan that is steering us and have up a business reference group. We also want to add to the work that we are doing a more in depth look at the Environment Act. If we can do this right we will attract a lot of business interest in the approach. It is beyond just the medical sciences. What we really need and what they are calling for, is an accelerator somewhere in Bournemouth.</p> <p>The Science Park in Southampton is full with businesses that started off in the accelerator. Once businesses have gone past that initial innovation and want to accelerate, we need to make sure there is somewhere for them to do this in Dorset. It brings together the universities that we have and the range of business that we have in human, plant, animal and environmental health.</p> <p>CB informed that the comments she received from attendees was that it was the most exciting conference they have been to. It has so much potential for the part of the country where we are. We have a chance to do something that is different and unique.</p> <p>VN informed that there is a short video on the conference on our website and also a link in the newsletter, so please do have a look.</p>	



Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
4.3	<p><b>Dorset LEP Skills Update</b></p> <p>AD left the meeting at 11.32 am.</p> <p>RD ran through her paper. It was mentioned that, as Directors of the company, the board are responsible for ensuring these programmes are delivering. RD informed that the Career's Hub contract ending in August, which we operate in conjunction with both councils, has completed nearly all the KPIs on this.</p> <p>RD explained that Compas Completion is a process for the schools to go through to report back to Government on the work they have done on the careers' agenda, work based work programmes and apprenticeships. The Dorset Careers Hub supports each of the Careers Leads in the schools on the delivery of those programmes. The team within the LEP and two staff within each local authority deliver for those aged 12 years and above. In 2023/24 we have also run a project in primary schools.</p> <p>We have also delivered the Teacher Encounters project which has taken 27 teachers out to different organisations. For example, AFC Bournemouth, where they looked at the whole business to understand each of the roles within that business and the apprenticeships and training available. We have bid again for next year and we have a list of teachers who want to be involved in this project. It is helping teachers to understand what jobs look like so they can better inform their students on the next steps.</p> <p>IG mentioned that he had tried doing this years ago through the Young Chamber Programme and although businesses were willing to bring teachers in for half day, they experienced problems with Schools letting them out.</p> <p>RD said that we had expected that to be a problem but this year we have not experienced that. We did offer some payment to cover supply teachers but the majority of schools did not take that up.</p> <p>RD went on to update on the Digital Skills Hub. We are very pleased with the performance there and have had great feedback from different clients. One client has been back many times to see different people, taken himself from a place of addiction and poor mental health, and he has now secured an engineering job in Poole. We are seeing these sorts of stories each week. One of the challenges in Boscombe is how we continue to support the population in Boscombe on their journeys to work this beyond the Towns Fund money. A wellness centre will be opening up later this summer, using NHS money. It is a partnership piece that is happening here and we are one of the spokes in that.</p> <p>CS stated that what comes next falls into that conversation on security of funding over a period of time. We need clarity of approach on what we want to do.</p> <p>PR joined the meeting at 11.41 am.</p> <p>RD mentioned we also have a contract with the Chamber on work experience.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
4.3	<p><b>Dorset LEP Skills Update Cont'd</b></p> <p>IG said he has always believed it is really important but the challenge he has had is paying for it. There is a need for this type of work, as so many young people are having to find their own work experience and if your parents don't have those connections students aren't able to have work experience.</p> <p>RD went on to talk about the Skills Board and at the recent meeting they discussed the LMI up to the end of March. The updated information is on line. The number of job vacancies has fallen slightly but for Dorset that didn't happen until this year. We have c7,000 jobs a month, lower unemployment than the rest of the UK and have lower inactivity levels. Around 50% of those that are inactive are either long or short term sick.</p> <p>NN informed that the Skills Board works well and is an active group of service providers and we need to bear that in mind post March as where that sits and how that works.</p> <p>RD mentioned that because it is a Dorset wide board, it reflects our young people. Apprenticeship providers work right across the county and seeing the Dorset wide picture is really useful to help us resolve some of the skills gaps in the county.</p>	
4.4	<p><b>Dorset LEP Business Update</b></p> <p>RD introduced this paper and stated the main priority of this contract is delivery for business. The programmes that were particularly successful last year we have carried into this year. She informed that various businesses have secured more Innovate UK money and more opportunities coming for businesses to see. She said the Maritime Launch Pad Round 2 has gone live and formal bids can be submitted from 4 September to end October. We have been working with marine and maritime organisations to help them to bid into this. We are really driving this forward.</p> <p>We have a couple of tenders currently out for a Digital Productivity Programme and Supply Chain Development. We hope to get them out by late summer ending February 2025.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>For Noting</b>	
5.1	<p><b>Great South West</b></p> <p>CB thanked the Chamber and BU for their support in arranging the Great South West event and to IG for hosting.</p> <p>IG said about 70 businesses attended and he was really pleased with how it went.</p> <p>CB informed that the Great South West Board meeting took place on Monday and they are also doing an evidence base piece of work for the place. We are feeding into that. She reiterated that we have need this evidence to apply for any funding and bids into Government.</p>	



Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
5.1	<p><b>Great South West Cont'd</b></p> <p>She informed that the election has changed the political map for the South West and this will affect the make-up of the APPG, changing from 31 Conservative and 2 Labour MPs to 7 Conservatives, 11 Labour and 15 Liberal Democrats.</p> <p>There are several Programme Boards looking at Defence, Energy, Food Security and Internationalisation. There is an opportunity to work together on scale and get some interest on our place and compete with the northern regions.</p> <p>SC asked that the volunteer sector not be forgotten.</p> <p>IG left the meeting at 12.00 pm.</p> <p>PR updated that a big early ask from the National Housing Confederation is that Government brings forward the announcement on new money for housing. All roads lead to housing, for instance, reflecting on the conversations around skills. He said he recently read a report that stated the cost of poor housing to NHS was around £1.4 bn and it has an effect on economic growth for an area. Dorset has a unique position with our offsite manufacturing capability and we are known nationally for it. Selina White recently presented at UK REIF on behalf of the Great South West, on Dorset and housing. We must continue to make the case for how important housing is for health and economic growth.</p> <p>CB mentioned the round table work being led by Matt Prosser on behalf of Dorset County, with representatives from health, policing, local authorities, voluntary organisations, businesses and others. The group is working to identify housing need and priorities, opportunities for using publicly owned land, opportunities for "unblocking" developments that have achieved planning permission, using modern materials and working to new environmental standards. Funding will be needed to take some of this forward.</p> <p>NN stated the word accommodation should be used rather than housing. It is homes that are needed, not necessarily houses.</p> <p>PR said the key point that came from the Homes and Economy Conference, is that economic growth is predicated on the availability of affordable homes for workers. Our current model is not working so we have to do something different and Dorset is well placed as an exemplar for that. We need a new model and new funding streams.</p>	
<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>	
	There was no other business raised.	