

DRAFT MINUTES

DORSET LEP OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

21 FEBRUARY 2023 FROM 2.00 PM TO 4.00 PM

**BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY, TALBOT CAMPUS, FERN BARROW, POOLE BH12 5BB
 COMMITTEE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR**

Committee Attendees:

Aaron Lawes (AL) (independent member)
 Cllr Jon Andrews (JA) (Dorset Council)
 Cllr Lawrence Williams (Chair) (LW) (BCP Council)
 Cllr Paul Hilliard (PH) (BCP Council)

Also Present:

Vinita Nawathe (Dorset LEP)
 Kathryn Hill (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Cllr Dave Bolwell (DB) (Dorset Council)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	Apologies were received from Dave Bolwell. No declarations of interest were received.	
2.	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.	All agreed
3.	<p>Director's Overview</p> <p>VN gave an overview of the last year including the reduction in staffing, the reduction of the number of Committees and the management of the remaining programmes and contracts.</p> <p>VN informed that the LEP still has five projects under the Growing Places Fund, the revolving loan facility, with the returned capital available for reinvestment. The LEP commissioned a review of the Growing Places Fund, undertaken by EBS Consulting and a paper was taken to the last LEP board to give direction to the FACR Committee in working up future options for the focus and delivery of the fund.</p> <p>VN explained that the funding LEPs receive from Government has been reduced. Last year it was cut by half and this year it has been cut again. The LEP downsized its staff in 2022, so is in a better position than it would have been otherwise with the reduced funding. The plan for the next two years involves using reserves.</p>	
4.	<p>Activities Update</p> <p>RD gave a presentation informing of the work done over the last year and the areas of activity that will continue. These were under the headings of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic insight and strategy - Skills convener - Skills contract delivery - Priority Sector needs 	

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4.	<p>Activities Update Cont'd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovation and cross sector work - Partnership working <p>VN commented that we are looking at how we can improve our website in this area.</p> <p>RD talked about the economic insight and strategy work and highlighted the Dorset Business map, LMI data and LEP subscriptions to data providers.</p> <p>RD mentioned the Invest in Dorset prospectuses that have recently been produced and these are available on the LEP website.</p> <p>RD explained the role of the LEP as a skills convener and gave the example of the Skills Panel and Advisory Board. The Board discusses what skills are provided and helps to make sure business is part of any change of curriculum. She mentioned the Skills Boot Camp and that we are working in partnership with Somerset.</p> <p>Innovation was discussed with the example of LEP work on One Health nucleus and Agri-tech. This year we are looking at environmental health, for example things like avian flu. We are holding a conference at Kingston Maurward in July.</p> <p>The different partners that the LEP works with were highlighted. VN talked about the GSW. Tourism was mentioned and a recently quoted figure suggesting that 39% of tourism for the country takes part in the South West. It was noted that Dorset Tourism Association priorities included the need to attract more tourism into the county outside of the summer season.</p> <p>RD informed that Dorset LEP has been awarded a contract to operate and deliver a Digital Skills, Innovation and Learning Hub based in Boscombe. It will be an inclusive, knowledge-based Hub delivering opportunities for residents and business around technology and learning. It will include delivery of incubator and accelerator business support and advice for digital and creative tech companies. It will be the home of digital skills accessibility for Boscombe and the wider community.</p>	
5.	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>A forward plan was discussed and it was agreed that the following would be put on the agenda for the next meeting:</p> <p>Digital Skills, Innovation and Learning Hub Growing Places Fund Review Effects of Apprenticeships/Careers Hub Contract as a whole</p>	
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business was raised.</p>	