

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

13 JULY 2022 (2.30PM - 3.30PM) MS Teams Video Conference

Committee Attendees:

Aaron Lawes (AL) (independent member)
 Cllr Dave Bolwell (DB) (Dorset Council)
 Cllr Lawrance Williams (BCP Council)
 Cllr Paul Hilliard (PH) (BCP Council)

Also Present:

Dr Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)
 Daniela Doncakova (DD) (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Cllr Jon Andrews (JA) (Dorset Council)

Item	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest	Action
1.	Apologies were received from Cllr Jon Andrews. No declarations of interest were received.	
Item	Agree Draft Minutes	Action
2.	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.	All agreed
Item	Actions from last meeting	Action
3.	All actions were completed. The Committee discussed whether it would be beneficial to invite MPs to attend future meetings where agendas are relevant to them. CO advised the Committee that since the last meeting, Sara Uzzell and May Palmer have resigned down from the Committee due to change in roles as Board members.	
Item	Review of 2021/22 Activity	Action
4.	CO ran through a presentation highlighting the activity and achievements of the LEP through the 2021/22 delivery year. CO stated that in terms of governance, throughout the year Dorset LEP committees continued to meet and we continued to actively participate in groups such as the Great South West, South West Energy Hub, Maritime UK, engage in All Party Parliamentary Groups and so forth. She advised as to changes in staffing and Board members and strong performances in the Mid-Year and Annual reviews with Government. CO informed the Committee that in terms of delivery, Dorset LEP released or participated in pertinent strategic documents over the last year which included the Investment Prospectus, Local Carbon Energy Opportunities, Reimagining the Visitor Economy, Dorset Connectivity, Agritech Positioning Paper, Skills Report. CO also provide an overview of delivery with activity under Business support including peer networks, bid writing, support, supply chain work, EU transition	

Item	Review of 2021/22 Activity	Action
4.	<p>activity, HPOs, and sector work. Activity under skills included the Dorset Careers Hub, midlife MOT, skills bootcamps, T level and apprenticeships support. Activity under capital programme delivery including the Getting Building Fund, Local Growth Fund, Growing Places Fun and the Enterprise Zone.</p> <p>The Committee was impressed with the breath of activities, achievements and the return on investment by Dorset LEP and LW asked for more detail on the Dorset Green H2 (Canford Renewable Energy) waste sector project. DD explained that this project included creating renewable hydrogen as a fuel source through a solar farm and that this was contracted in December 2021.</p> <p>AL asked if there would be any changes to the business support offered in 2022/23 and CO explained that the budget to all LEPs for Growth Hub activity had been halved.</p> <p>DB asked what would happen to the Growing Places Fund scheme given the national changes to LEPs. CO advised that the Growing Places Fund scheme will remain with Dorset LEP for 2022/23.</p> <p>PH asked for more information on the future allocation of large capital funding programmes and CO explained that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Levelling Up Fund will be provided to and managed by Local Authorities. She added that both Councils have had their allocations confirmed and are working on investment plans.</p> <p>AL asked what the focus for Dorset LEP would be in terms of business support and skills for the next year and CO provided a snapshot of activity and recommended she circulate the link to the Delivery Plan online which had just been published for the Committee to review in more detail.</p> <p>Action: CO to circulate link to the 2022/23 Delivery Plan with the minutes.</p>	CO
Item	LEP Review Outcome	Action
5.	<p>CO provided the context as to the LEP review which included the delays around having this released. She outlined the key details of the letters sent to LEPs including the principles of integration pathways, the future role of LEPs and changes to funding. CO informed the Committee as to the implications of this on Dorset LEP.</p> <p>CO concluded the agenda item by stating the company is focused on future delivery as there is important activity to push forward at pace. She advised the Committee that Dorset LEP has a strong business-led Board of individuals passionate about making a difference and a 12-month delivery plan was approved and is now available online.</p> <p>She informed the Committee the delivery plan is focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing economic leadership with sound evidence and analytics and maintaining a clear focus on strategic economic priorities for Dorset. • business growth and maintaining Dorset LEP as the lead organisation for overseeing effective and impactful business growth in Dorset and ensuring Dorset maximises investment for business growth in the next 3 years. • skills and the labour market – maintaining Dorset LEP as the lead organisation for relevant and timely labour market intelligence. 	

Item	Review Terms of Reference	Action
6.	<p>CO informed the Committee that Terms of Reference are reviewed annually and therefore this item is on the agenda.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the changes to the LEP and the need to ensure the Committee remains proportionate.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Committee would continue to meet three times a year, that meeting dates would be set a year in advance and that the Terms of Reference quorate and number of meetings to be attended elements would be updated to reflect the current meeting schedule and membership.</p> <p>Action: CO to update the Terms of Reference and arrange meeting invitations.</p> <p>CO asked the Committee what topic they would like to see covered at the next meeting. The Committee agreed that the next meeting should include an update on activities that have been taking place since this meeting in order to determine what information the Committee would like at a future meeting.</p>	CO
Item	Any Other Business	Action
7.	<p>CO advised that this was her last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting and thanked the Committee members for dedicating their time to the Committee and their insightful questions.</p> <p>The Committee thanked CO for all her work and contributions.</p>	