

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

8 NOVEMBER 2022 FROM 2.00 PM TO 4.00 PM

MS Teams Video Conference

Committee Attendees:

Cllr Jon Andrews (JA) (Dorset Council)
 Cllr Lawrence Williams (BCP Council)
 Cllr Paul Hilliard (PH) (BCP Council)

Also Present:

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

Apologies:

Aaron Lawes (AL) (independent member)
 Cllr Dave Bolwell (DB) (Dorset Council)

Item	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest	Action
1.	Apologies were received from Aaron Lawes. No declarations of interest were received.	
	Agree Draft Minutes	Action
2.	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.	All agreed
	Update on Activities since July	Action
3.	<p>VN explained she had recently joined Dorset LEP as the new Executive Director and everyone introduced themselves.</p> <p>VN gave an update on the changes that have happened since July. She explained that Michael Gove is the Levelling Up Minister again and that the Levelling Up White Paper still stands. She explained that the programmes which Dorset LEP were administering have come to an end and been closed, apart from a Growing Places Fund grant and a Getting Building Fund Project which have had their final draw-down of funds. The LEP Team has reduced in headcount significantly since July. With the appointment of the new Executive Director and a new Head of Business growth and Inward Investment, the headcount currently consists of the core team of 5 staff and the 5 staff working with the Careers Enterprise Company, It was noted that currently the Careers Enterprise Company contract comes to an end on 31 August.</p> <p>VN informed that there is a Board meeting coming up on 24 November which will involve a strategic discussion on priorities. She explained that by the end of the financial year, 31 March, there should be an approved plan and budget for the year ahead. VN explained that the LEP is a community interest company and that community of interest is the Dorset LEP footprint. She reminded that both local authority Leaders, and another Councillor for each Authority, are on the Board of the company. The LEP can help with economies or efficiencies to be had with different partners looking to work together.</p> <p>Action: KH to circulate the link to the page on the website for the Board members.</p>	KH

Update on Activities since July		Action
<p>VN went on to explain that Dorset LEP is part of the Great South West (GSW) Partnership which has recently received some funding. A couple of expressions of interest have gone in to Innovate UK for their launchpad cluster development scheme, highlighting the Marine and Defence clusters.</p> <p>PH asked whether VN expected to be heavily involved with other Directors in the other LEPs.</p> <p>VN explained there is a LEP Network which represents all the 38 LEPs and that Dorset, Cornwall and Isle of Scilly and Heart of the South West LEP Chief Executives all meet regularly. With the GSW, we have to make sure all three LEPs are equally involved.</p> <p>PH stated that the LEP profile has reduced in the last couple of years and asked whether the LEP will still be doing business engagement.</p> <p>VN explained that Shelley Collins-Trevett has recently joined as Head of Investment and Business Growth and is working on business engagement and that a relaunch of the Business Ambassadors is part of future plans.</p>		
Forward Programme		Action
<p>4. It was noted that there is not a forward plan for scrutiny at this point. After the Board agrees next step priorities there should be something for the Committee to get its teeth into. It was also mentioned it would be good to have a face to face meeting.</p> <p>VN said that there should be a forward plan by the next meeting on 21 February it was agreed this should be ahead of any purdah requirements for the Council elections on 8 May. VN said that if there was anything that she could help with in the meantime please do get in contact.</p>		

Next meeting: 21 February at 2.00 pm at Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow