

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING
28 SEPTEMBER 2021 FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.00 PM
KINGSTON MAURWARD COLLEGE AND ZOOM
AGENDA

Time	Page No	Item	Subject/Title	Presenter	Recommendation
1.30		1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Buffon	
		2.	Guest Presentation		
1.35	4	2.1	onBuy	Cas Paton	None - for information only
2.15	5	3.	Minutes of last meeting and Matter Arising	Cecilia Buffon	
2.25	13	4.	Interim Director's Update	Corrina Osborne	None – for information only
2.30		5.	Chairs Update (verbal)	Cecilia Buffon	None – for information only
		6.	Governance		
2.40	17	6.1	Performance and Investment Committee	Nicola Newman	Confidential/Commercially Sensitive
2:50	18	6.2	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Corrina Osborne	None – for information only
2:55	20	6.3	Nominations and Remuneration Committee	Jim Andrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board are recommended to approve appointing the two female Board member pipeline candidates if they accept the offer of a one year co-opted position. The Board are recommended to approve undertaking a Board review once the outcome of the LEP review is known. The Board are recommended to endorse establishing a Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership as a Strategic

					Infrastructure Committee subgroup, with the provided Terms of Reference and Board member Nick Gaines as Chair.
		7.	Strategy		
3.10		7.1	Skills Advisory Panel and Board	Emma Hunt	None – for information only
3.30	28	7.2	Enterprise Zone Committee	John Sutcliffe	None – for information only
3.40	32	7.3	Business Growth and Inward Investment Update	John Sutcliffe	It is recommended the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the review growth hubs and business support alongside the wider national business support offering • notes the continued success of the Peer Networks programme • notes the latest successes through the Bid Writing Support Service
		8.	Advisory Groups		
3.50	36	8.1	Advisory Group Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dorset Tourism Association 		Papers to note
3.55		9.	Any Other Business		

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 25 November at 10.00 am

LEP BOARD MEMBER KNOWN CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Board Member	Project Name
Diane Grannell, Bournemouth and Poole College	Getting Building Fund - Network Infrastructure
Drew Mellor, 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
Jim Stewart, Poole Harbour Commissioners	Getting Building Fund - Border Control Post
John Beesley, BCP Council	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Luke Rake, Kingston Maurward College	Getting Building Fund - University Centre and Rural Business Hub
	Growing Places Fund - The Barn
Spencer Flower, Dorset Council	Getting Building Fund - Fibre Hub Connectivity in Rural Dorset
	Local Growth Fund - Gillingham Growth
	Growing Places Fund - Ultrafast Broadband
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub
Tony Ferrari, Dorset Council	Local Growth Fund - Gillingham Growth
	Getting Building Fund - Fibre Hub Connectivity in Rural Dorset
	GPF – Growing Places Fund - Ultrafast Broadband
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Enterprise Advisor Network
	Careers and Enterprise Company - Careers Hub

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	28.09.21	Item Number	2.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Scaling Up Business in Dorset: The OnBuy Experience		
Recommendation	For information		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

Cas Paton from OnBuy will attend the September Dorset LEP Board meeting to share the experience of OnBuy in growing a business in Dorset. This paper provides the Board with some background information on the company ahead of the meeting.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Cas Paton is the founder and managing director of OnBuy.com which is based in Bournemouth. Established in 2014 and launched in 2016, it is now regarded as the world's fastest-growing eMarketplace, OnBuy currently lists more than 36 million products from more than 7,000 sellers across thousands of categories for buyers to browse, compare and purchase.

OnBuy was launched with the mission of disrupting the eCommerce space and take on industry giants such as Amazon and eBay by 'levelling the playing field' for sellers looking to move to the online selling space.

OnBuy has grown to £200 million annualised Gross Market Value (GMV) with only £8 million in total investment prior to July 2021. They successfully raised £35m of additional investment through a series A+ fundraising round which will now fuel further growth for the firm which has its sights firmly on reaching £1 billion in GMV by 2023. The business has already grown its workforce to over 70 full-time staff members, with plans to create another 100 jobs over the next two years.

In addition to external investment, a fully funded £2M allocation was set aside for existing retailers currently using the platform. This funding will enable OnBuy to further develop its product offering for both sellers and consumers and importantly, pursue global expansion. Prior to this investment round, OnBuy raised £5m in funding led by Fuel Ventures following an exceptional period of growth through the first half of 2020. This investment allowed OnBuy to expand its leadership team and enter a fruitful phase of development and further growth.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None -for information only.

DRAFT MINUTES

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

22 JULY 2021 FROM 10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM

ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Andrew Wickham (AW)
Arabella Lewis-Smith (AL)
Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)
Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)
Ian Girling (IG)
Jim Andrews (JA)
John Sutcliffe (JSu)
Luke Rake (LR) Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Read (PR)
Sara Uzzell (SU)
Sophia Story (SS)

Also Present:

Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)
Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)
Daniela Doncakova (DD) (Dorset LEP)
Elizabeth Spence (ES) (BEIS)
Finn Morgan (FM) (Dorset LEP)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Diane Grannell (DG)
Emma Hunt (EH)
Jim Stewart (JS)
Cllr John Beesley (JB)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)

Presenting:

Jon Rattenbury - South West Energy Hub

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Diane Grannell, Emma Hunt, Jim Stewart, Cllr John Beesley, Nick Gaines, Cllr Spencer Flower, Cllr Tony Ferrari.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: In addition to the conflicts noted in the Conflict of Interest document, IG declared an interest in Weymouth College, as he is now a Board member of the College.</p>	
2.	<p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.</p> <p>CB formally gave thanks again to Lorna Carver for all the work she has done since joining Dorset LEP and wished her well in her new role. She explained that Lorna asked her to pass on her thanks to the Board for the gifts and kind words. CB went on to welcome Corrina Osborne into her role as Interim Director.</p>	
3.	Strategy	
3.1	<p>Interim Director's Update (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO informed the Board that the LEP Review was still ongoing and it was hoped an announcement would be forthcoming this week but this may be delayed. ES updated that the review is still ongoing and options are to be considered over the summer. CO explained that Dorset LEP was still feeding into that process through the three of the four working groups via the LEP Network.</p> <p>CB provided an update on some of the Great South West activity over the last few weeks. She stated that since the Board last met the Great South West activity has continued through an All Party Parliamentary Group, championing tourism. She highlighted the importance of continuing to provide the data around that and that there is an increased demand at a time of staff shortages. CB updated that there have been ongoing discussions with Luke Hall MP about recognition of the Great South West and that it seems the recognition has stalled, linked to the levelling up white paper. There have also been discussions about the establishment of a south west investment fund, similar to that of the Midlands Engine.</p> <p>LR informed that the Tourism Minister, Nigel Huddleston MP, visited Dorset recently at the invite of Chris Loder MP. SU said that she had met him in Dorchester during his visit.</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendation in the paper:</p> <p>It is recommended the Board notes the ongoing LEP review work, the securing of funding and strategy work since the last meeting.</p>	All noted
3.2	<p>Strategy update (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO stated that in context of the ongoing national LEP review, it was timely to review the achievements of the LEP via the Boards decision making. She stated there is much to be proud of. In terms of delivery we have transformed £119m of investment into a £1.55 billion investment programme in Dorset.</p> <p>CO highlighted that Dorset has a nationally recognised careers hub and produce skills plans for the place and data that underpins local skills decision</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.	Strategy Cont'd	
3.2	<p>Strategy update Cont'd (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>making. She stated our business engagement activities supported around 2,000 businesses and serves critical functions such as bid writing and EU transitions advice and has nationally recognised peer network programme.</p> <p>CO reminded the Board that they had created strategies for the place, bringing stakeholders together in alignment to create a shared ambition and helping showcase Dorset on a national front which is a huge achievement.</p> <p>CO stated that there is a strong business plan which covers all of this activity and the Dorset LEP team continue to deliver against this.</p> <p>CO reminded the Board that in order to create a pipeline of business proposals, they were asked to select two priority areas and the results of their selections were in the paper.</p>	
3.3	<p>Dorset Low Carbon Energy Investment Plan (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>Jon Rattenbury joined the meeting at 10.33 am</p> <p>CO introduced the paper stating that energy infrastructure underpins all activity. Energy issues in Dorset had been known for some time, however, there was not an evidence base to show this picture across the whole region. CO informed the Board that a need was identified by the Strategic infrastructure Committee to create an evidence base and possible opportunities, capitalising on the unique aspects of the place to move towards low carbon energy provision.</p> <p>JSu stated the document produced is a critical body of work that outlines a range of low carbon possibilities with different scenarios modelled for each and it therefore does not present the answers but rather is the impetus for beginning the discussion around low carbon energy in Dorset.</p> <p>AW said he was happy to trial hydrogen buses and asked how engaged SSC were in the creation of the document. JSu stated they had been consulted as part of the stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>PR explained that in social housing sector they are talking around the subject, not having a lot of experience in the sector. He thought the paper was very good. He explained he attended a meeting of all housing associations in the south west and that they are looking to the LEPs and how to tap into them.</p> <p>JA agreed it was a really good document that sets out a clear range of future options. He mentioned the university are working on future technologies and innovation in this area and said he was happy to have a conversation off-line to discuss the work BU are doing as Dorset could be used as a test bed for this technology.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
3.	Strategy Cont'd	
3.3	<p>Dorset Low Carbon Energy Investment Plan Cont'd (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>PR also mentioned skills, and he would like to try to understand what the skills basis is, so the colleges can come along at the same time.</p> <p>The Board approved the recommendation in the paper:</p> <p>It is recommended the Board approves the Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Opportunities document.</p>	The Board approved
4.	Guest Presentation	
4.1	<p>SW Energy Hub support offer for Dorset</p> <p>CO introduced Jon Rattenbury (JR) from the South West Energy Hub.</p> <p>JR introduced himself as Head of the South West Energy Hub. He explained that across the world there is currently a lot of focus on climate change and that 74% of local authorities have claimed a climate emergency. He advised that it is important to understand the energy landscape and its role in the place, including how to move from enabling to project formation to the development stage and different ways of funding these activities. He explained the South West Energy Hub was funded by BEIS and is one of five Energy Hubs across England. They work locally with LEPs, local authorities and local government departments and have very close relationships with BEIS and central government. They have six core objectives and the important one is about collaboration, supporting and sharing best practice. He ran through their services and programmes and their nine strategic priorities and areas for future potential support with Dorset.</p> <p>Drew Mellor left at 11.10 am</p> <p>He ran through some of the projects they have supported in the region and those in Dorset.</p> <p>CB asked whether there was a reason they were not working on as much in Dorset.</p> <p>JR explained that they did have good contacts in Dorset but that plans have been developing over the last couple of years and there have been lots of changes. He mentioned the low carbon energy opportunities document is pivotal as local authorities are supportive of this and therefore there is a shared ambition.</p> <p>JSu thanked JR for his help so far and that he was looking forward to growing this relationship going forward.</p> <p>JR informed that they are organising a workshop regarding the technical assistance for social housing decarbonising agenda.</p> <p>JR left the meeting at 11.22 am</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
5.	Strategic Committees Update	
5.1	<p>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>FM took the paper as read and highlighted that Dorset Gateway's Business Relationship Officer (Trade and Investment) has been working alongside the Department for International Trade (DIT) to connect local businesses SME Internationalisation Fund.</p> <p>Action: FM to send IG more information on the Internationalisation Fund.</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendations in the paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the continued success of the Peer Networks programme • notes the confirmed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 2020/21 figures for Dorset • promotes the SME Internationalisation Fund amongst SME businesses 	<p>FM</p> <p>The Board noted</p>
5.2	<p>Skills Advisory Panel and Board</p> <p>RD stated she took the paper as read and just wanted to highlight the labour market information. She informed the Board that Dorset are 77% employed, with 7,000 vacancies and Dorset LEP are working closely with stakeholders on the information. This includes DWP to get people back into work.</p>	
5.3	<p>Strategic Infrastructure Committee</p> <p>CO stated the Committee is working very effectively in coordinating and facilitating stakeholders to collaborate on key strategic infrastructure strands. She updated the Board that there are regular presentations on key areas – this month was housing and it sparked much discussion and future collaboration. CO updated the Board that the Committee agreed that the focus on energy was critical to underpin other infrastructure activity and that they felt that a greater focus was needed on 2-3 strands of infrastructure in order to have the maximum impact and their recommendations will come to the Board after the next meeting.</p> <p>She highlighted that the Committee explored the concept of producing an infrastructure prospectus that would draw together the different strands of infrastructure in a single place as some other areas of the country have done which ensure visibility for investors to reassure a joined up approach to the place and to attract further investment. She stated that the Committee could see value in this but did not feel this was a priority at this time and that energy should be a primary focus.</p> <p>CB stated she felt there was much value in a document that would pull together the various infrastructure strands, even on a high level. JSu offered to provide CB a one page high level outline of this.</p> <p>Action: JSu to provide CB with a one page document showing how the infrastructure strands are interlinked by email.</p>	<p>CO/JSu</p>

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
5.	Strategic Committees Update Cont'd	
5.3	<p>Strategic Infrastructure Committee Cont'd</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendations in the paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended the Board notes the importance of the on-going work around energy and its significance to Dorset. • It is recommended the Board notes the value in producing an infrastructure prospectus in the future. • It is recommended that in order to have maximum impact, the Board supports the proposal for the Strategic Infrastructure Committee to become more focused in its remit. • It is recommended the Board notes that the Committee is working effectively in coordinating and facilitating stakeholders to collaborate on key strategic infrastructure strands. 	The Board notes
5.4	<p>Enterprise Zone Committee</p> <p>DD gave an update on the Enterprise Zone. She explained there had been three additional meetings on top of the standard Committee meetings to discuss the investment plan opportunities, visits and academic footprint. JSu provided an update on the Battlelab.</p>	
6.	Governance	
6.1	<p>Communications Update</p> <p>The Board noted the paper which included the positive coverage over the reporting period.</p>	
6.2	<p>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO advised that there are a range of papers for Board approval under this item.</p> <p>The Board noted and approved the recommendations in the paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended the Board notes the 2020/21 End of Year Accounts. • It is recommended the Board notes the Finance Report 2021/22. • In the context of the LEP Review it is recommended the Board focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ continued delivery of our existing programmes and progress against our approved Delivery Plan as a priority ▪ developing a strong project pipeline ▪ making no major changes to company priorities/activity and aligned resources. • It is recommended the Board approves resourcing the development of a business case pipeline. 	The Board noted and approved

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
6.	Governance Cont'd	
6.3	<p>Performance and Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>DD took her paper as being read and a discussion of the contents took place.</p> <p>JSu left the meeting at 11.58 am</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendations in the paper.</p>	
6.4	<p>Nominations and Remuneration Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>JA introduced the paper and spoke about the proposal of PR's re-appointment to the Board for a further term. As the meeting was no longer quorate it was decided that this item should be decided through written procedures.</p> <p>Action: CO to send this agenda item to the Board as written procedures.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the pipeline of Board members and attracting women to the Board.</p> <p>JA said that the discussion was really helpful and was one of the things the Nominations and Remuneration Committee was looking at. He mentioned that BU had a Board apprenticeship process, to help people who do not have quite as yet have the right experience or confidence to take on a Board role. The Board apprenticeship process is designed to help people to come through and advised we explore something similar.</p> <p>Action: The Nominations and Remuneration Committee to explore the Board apprenticeship programme for women.</p> <p>IG mentioned the issue of the menopause for women and the Chamber events this week on this.</p> <p>FM mentioned that Women Leaders lunch that the LEP held in recent years was a good opportunity to discuss the LEP's agenda and to get that diversity.</p>	<p>CO</p> <p>JA</p>
8.	Any Other Business	
8.1	<p>CB suggested that for the next Board meeting, Board Members should present their Committee papers, as this is common practice in other Boards.</p>	
8.2	<p>CB said that she would like to have the next LEP Board meeting as a face to face meeting, especially as she has not met everyone in person yet. She suggested that it could be a mix of face to face and virtual meeting for those who did not wish to attend in person.</p> <p>LR volunteered to host the September Board meeting, as Kingston Maurward's large meeting room has plenty of space and the technology for the virtual meeting.</p> <p>Action: LR to host the LEP Board meeting on 28 September at 1.30 pm at Kingston Maurward.</p>	<p>LR</p>
8.3	<p>CB informed the Board that the LIS Steering Group was going to be moved to every other month, so the group would meet only in between board meetings.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
8.	Any Other Business Cont'd	
8.4	CB informed the Board that some papers were sent out this week to Ministers from the LEP Network and that these will be circulated with the minutes.	
8.5	CB mentioned it would be a nice idea to organise an event for LEP staff and Board members to get together.	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 28 September at 1.30 pm

DRAFT

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	28.09.21	Item Number	4
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Interim Directors 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 the Board with key strategic information and updates not covered elsewhere in the Board paper pack. This includes an update on the LEP review, Great South West activity and an update on the Business Case Pipeline. Also included is information on regional score cards and growth priorities, some sector and infrastructure highlights and communications update.

In terms of corporate level information, Appendix 1 contains a high-level strategy activity summary and Appendix 2 the Corporate Risk Register.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
LEP Review

The Chancellor launched a Spending Review which will conclude 27 October 2021 alongside an Autumn budget. This announcement also confirmed that this will be a three-year review, which will set UK government departments' resource and capital budgets for 2022-23 to 2024-25. The Levelling Up White Paper and outcome of the LEP Review are anticipated around the same time.

The Board have been kept up to date by email on the progress of the ongoing LEP review, including that we have had 50% of our core funding released. The usual mid-term review is on the 24 September and this exercise provides a further opportunity for us to demonstrate the unique and valuable role we continue to play and the considerable value for money we deliver.

The focus of our coordinated communications with the LEP Network is communicating to government decision-makers just how much LEPs can continue to do in order to help them deliver key policies and make a real difference at local, regional and national levels and that we are the catalyst they need to be successful. We were pleased that the [Dorset LEP 2021 video](#) was also used as part of the LEP Network campaign.

The Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee will discuss any impacts of the LEP Review and make any necessary recommendations to the Board. We have also paused the Director recruitment campaign until the outcome of the review is known.

Central Government Updates

The achievements of Dorset LEP were noted in the House of Commons on 8 September where the Prime Minister specifically quoted our Local Growth Fund investments. MP Richard Drax suggested the Prime Minister visit Weymouth to experience the need for government investment in infrastructure first-hand to which the Prime Minister responded he would do his utmost to oblige us and we are supporting this activity.

Mid-September also saw a Cabinet reshuffle with the below key changes:

- Secretary of State for MHCLG: Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP being replaced by Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
- Secretary of State, for DfE: Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP being replaced by Nadhim Zahawi MP
- Chief Secretary to the Treasury: Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP being replaced by Simon Clarke MP
- Secretary of State for BEIS remains Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP.
- Neil O'Brien MP formerly leading the Levelling Up agenda in Cabinet Office joins MHCLG reporting to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.
- George Freeman MP joins BEIS as a junior Minister responsible for Research and Innovation.
- Helen Whately MP joins HMT as Exchequer Secretary with responsibility for Productivity, Growth and Place Based Economic Strategy.

We are yet to hear whether Paul Scully MP (BEIS Minister for Small Business) remains in post, but we do know that Luke Hall MP formerly Minister for Local Growth in MHCLG has left the government. Via the LEP Network we have written to all new appointees.

Great South West letter to Prime Minister

As part of the Great South West we sent an open letter to the Prime Minister which asks for support in giving this group the recognition and support that its unity and ambition require. It articulates the shared ambition to be the UK's only exporter of green energy and UK's greenest economy – the first to net zero delivering some £45 billion of economic benefit and establish this region as the UK's leader for the green and blue economy.

To deliver on this potential we have asked for formal recognition of the Great South West as the 'UK's Natural Powerhouse' and for £2million over three years in order to progress at pace. We have also sought support for an enhanced import and export hub, recognition of a South West Tourism Zone and agreement to create a rural productivity deal. This letter has been covered by news outlets such as Business Live and Business South West.

Business Case Pipeline Update

The business case pipeline call has generated more 1,700 page views and almost 900 impressions on LinkedIn and Twitter and we have hosted both an online information session and outline business case masterclass as well as 1-2-1s with organisations who have requested this. Through this exercise we have seen companies make contact with Dorset LEP who we have not yet engaged with and we are attracting mostly private sector interest which is a positive marked difference from previous pipeline calls.

Recommendations from the shortlisting panels and all applications will be sent to Board members in late October to shortlist applications to work through to Full Business Case stage.

Confederation British Industries (CBI) Regional score cards and growth priorities

Over the last year the CBI has been working to influence the government's levelling up and English devolution agenda; which is not only important to the recovery from COVID-19 but is likely to determine future regional investment allowing places to revive and thrive in the future. You can download the south west regional score card [here](#) and the Dorset specific information is on pages 11 and 12.

They have produced regional score cards in order to support policy makers and businesses to understand the unique strengths of regions and areas of focus for

interventions. From the scorecards and insights from local businesses a set of growth priorities has emerged; the priorities show the South West to be one of England's most vibrant and diverse regions with strengths in cyber and defence, high value manufacturing and aerospace, creative and digital tourism and hospitality fintech and maritime industries.

It was noted that further work remains to be done if the South West is to reach its potential e.g. investment in digital and physical infrastructure alongside action to tackle the skills gap and that effective partnership working between public and private sectors will be essential. Recommendations include:

- Identify and close skills gaps within the local workforce and work collaboratively to develop the high-level skills required to meet future demand in growth sectors such as advanced engineering, digital and green technologies.
- Improve digital infrastructure to facilitate new ways of working by meeting the target to deliver full fibre to 92% of homes and business in the South West by 2025.
- Inspire world-class innovative businesses to invest in the South West by improving access to targeted business support and finance. Focus should be on low-carbon solutions and R&D, utilising our universities to support research and commercialisation, allowing businesses to respond to growth opportunities.

Sectors Highlights

Agritech: A draft positioning paper is being created which articulates the case for the South West's position as the UK's growing powerhouse in AgriTech, supported by the work of a collaboration of cross-sector partners under the banner of South West AgriTech. South West AgriTech comprises of 6 LEPs and a growing network of members. It is anticipated the paper will be finalised in late September and circulated the Department for International Trade to put alongside regional HPO awards to further strengthen the promotion (inward investment/export) of the South West offer to overseas investors/businesses through their extensive global network of trade officers. The Positioning Paper may also be used to support strategic conversations about regional unique selling points for the Great South West and Western Gateway.

One Health: Led by Board member Luke Rake, we will be submitting a funding proposal for the development of the One Health Nucleus. The purpose of the business case and is to procure a One Health focused Knowledge Exchange (the One Health Nucleus) which will support high-growth companies to establish clean growth commercial solutions to global One Health problems. The aim of this is generating a minimum £100M in new revenue funding for the UK economy by (stretch-target same by 2030) 2040/41 and 40 new One Health focused businesses based in Dorset and close borders by 2038. An Outline Business Case is under development and will be completed by the end of October 2021.

Tourism: Through the Great South West Tourism Partnership we have supported the completion of the framework for recovery and longer-term vision for the region with the 'Towards 2030, Re-imagining the Visitor Economy in the South West Prospectus'. The Plan is in the final production stages and will be published in the autumn.

Infrastructure Highlights

South West Infrastructure Partnership: We have joined this independent platform which enables debate with key stakeholder and decision makers across the South West and nationally. This forum provides informed, strategic and objective advice in respect of transport, energy, digital connectivity, showcases areas of best practice from across the country and will provide the opportunity to respond collectively to issues regarding critical infrastructure. It also is a forum that will enable us to consider the likely range of infrastructure demands across the South West over the next thirty years and how to meet

them, address the various challenges of decarbonisation and ensure equitable infrastructure investment for the South West from national policy and funding.

Energy: The government have also announced a £265m [renewable energy fund](#), a [Hydrogen Strategy](#) and a £240m Net Zero Hydrogen Fund is being designed, which aims to support the commercial deployment of new low carbon hydrogen production plants across the UK. Our Low Carbon Energy Opportunities document showcases the unique environment Dorset has for these opportunities and we will support seeking investment.

The proposal to take work forward via a Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership is outlined in the Board paper pack. The [Zero Carbon Dorset project](#) is currently compiling 'Dorset 2030' which is a community led report defining a vision for a zero-carbon county.

Transport: The [South West Main Line Strategic Study](#) is now available online. This study has focussed on main line services operating between Woking and London Waterloo with the aim of setting a strategy for how to accommodate future demand on a section of railway that was already full pre-Covid. Phase Two has commenced and will look at the infrastructure from Woking out towards Bournemouth, Salisbury, Alton and Portsmouth which we are working on with Network Rail. The Dorset Connectivity Strategic Study is also underway and a Wessex focussed rail freight study has begun.

We attended the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) South West Sub National Board which included a discussion on Electric Vehicles and supporting infrastructure and a position paper will be drafted outlining ADEPT's stance on the Transport Decarbonisation Plan which we will contribute to. It may be of interest that Weymouth has been [named](#) as the most EV friendly place for a staycation.

In November the government is aiming to publish local authority technical guidance on Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points and an Infrastructure Strategy is also due in autumn which will set out the vision for charge point infrastructure along with the expectations for the roles and responsibilities for national and local government and industry stakeholders. The Local EV Infrastructure Fund (£90m) will be a future funding pot for charge point provision through local authorities linked to the strategy. The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles acknowledge the issue of local grid constraints and local connection capacity costs and is working closely with Ofgem as to how they regulate this.

Communications Update

Since the last Board meeting we have doubled the media coverage from the previous period; the most popular news item was the Agri-tech Innovation Centre. As anticipated, we have found video content five times more effective than written and image-led posts on LinkedIn and therefore we will generate more of this content going forward.

Forthcoming communications over the autumn include coordinated campaigns with the LEP Network regarding the LEP review, final push for the business case pipeline call, Back to Business campaign and Careers in Hospitality campaign. There will also be activity around the collective success of completed capital investment projects, the opening of the AUB innovation Suite and Fibre Hub Connectivity in Rural Dorset.

As business and skills activity has grown exponentially over the last year and now have their own regular newsletters we will move our corporate newsletter to being issued on a quarterly basis. This attracts a different audience and will enable us to focus on corporate key messaging, high-level overall delivery successes, thought pieces and forthcoming activity.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only.

The papers for agenda Item 6.1 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	28.09.21	Item Number	6.2
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 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

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Chaired by Councillor Lawrence Williams, met in August and the agenda included the items the Committee sought further information on:

- How Dorset LEP engages the business community through its communications.
- How Dorset LEP shares best practice with other LEPS.
- What activity Dorset LEP has supported in terms of energy and digital (SMART).

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the highlights of this meeting.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

How Dorset LEP engages the business community through its communications

The Committee were informed via a paper that Dorset LEP works in partnership with businesses, local government, education institutions and other industry and community organisations to drive economic growth, attract funding and investment, increase productivity and develop local industrial strategies for Dorset. Constructively engaging with the business community is therefore critical to all of our activity. The framework we use for engagement activity and mechanisms were outlined.

The Committee emphasised the importance of further sharing via communications the work that the LEP does for the region, our role in signposting and further engaging with the Chambers of Commerce and Business Improvement District.

The fragmented nature of the business landscape in Dorset was recognised as a challenge. It was agreed that more events would provide further engagement with the business community and it was recommended that an annual conference is held as well as sector-focused events which are open to all and hosting small, targeted events across the county.

How Dorset LEP shares best practice with other LEPS

The Committee were informed that our [Local Assurance Framework](#) demonstrates our commitment to sharing best practice and that we have not only a culture of continuous improvement but also participates in sharing best practice with other LEPS as standard. Several examples to illustrate this were provided including formal, informal and ad hoc peer review.

The Committee were informed that any benchmarking of LEPs occurs through the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and an update on the LEP review was provided.

Activity Dorset LEP has supported in terms of energy and digital (SMART)

The Committee were advised as to our strategic ambitions around energy, articulated in the Local Industrial Strategy and the Dorset Investment Prospectus, states that the region remains an untapped resource for clean energy generation and as a result in 2021 we created the Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Opportunities document which details opportunities around energy networks, building energy efficiency, decarbonising heat and decarbonising transport. This showcases the opportunities for inward investment and is aligned with the Government agenda thereby placing Dorset in a strong position to receive low-carbon energy investment. Our close work with the South West Energy Hub was also discussed.

The Committee were advised of the central theme of the Investment Prospectus around digital connectivity, recognising that technology and data can drive connectivity and sustainable regeneration and economic development across Dorset, improving the lives of local residents and generating value for people, businesses and places.

Support for this activity was outlined including the Digital Skills Partnership for Dorset and examples of capital investment including Ultrafast Broadband Project, Lansdowne Business District, Defence Innovation Centre (BattleLab) and Fibre Hub Connectivity in Rural Dorset Project.

The Committee highlighted the importance of energy and digital connectivity to the future of Dorset as it underpins all activity. It was agreed that having local MPs unite on this issue and take forward with central government would make a positive impact.

Future Work Programme

The Committee requested at the next meeting that an update on future capital funding distribution via LEPs is given and to have an MP share their view in the meeting itself on how the LEP and MPs can work more closely together.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only. The papers and minutes of the meeting can be found here: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/overview-and-scrutiny-committee>.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	28.09.21	Item Number	6.3
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Nomination & Remuneration Committee Meeting Update		
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board are recommended to approve appointing the two female Board member pipeline candidates if they accept the offer of a one year co-opted position. • The Board are recommended to approve undertaking a Board review once the outcome of the LEP review is known. • The Board are recommended to endorse establishing a Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership as a Strategic Infrastructure Committee subgroup, with the provided Terms of Reference and Board member Nick Gaines as Chair. 		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee have discussed Director recruitment, gender balance on the Board, a Board review in context of the LEP review and the proposal to create a Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership proposal.

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the highlights of the Committees activity and to provide recommendations to the Board for approval.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
Director Recruitment

The Committee received a paper outlined proposed arrangements regarding Dorset LEP Director recruitment for approval. The Committee discussed all aspects, agreed the principles and processes and the Board were informed of the arrangements by email on 27 August 2021. Timings and recruitment will be confirmed when the outcome of the LEP Review.

Gender Balance on the Board

The Committee discussed the importance in being proactive in creating a greater gender balance on the Board. Two female Board members will be leaving their posts and therefore their positions on the Board by January 2022 and Dorset LEP must ensure it remains compliant with at least a third of the Board being female.

The Chair will approach two female pipeline Board members to be co-opted onto the Board for a one-year period. The Board are recommended to approve appointing these candidates if they accept the offer of this position as they have already undertaken the full Board recruitment process.

Board Review

Once the outcome of the LEP review is known, it is recommended a Board review is undertaken and the Board are asked to approve this recommendation.

Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership proposal

The Committee were informed that following the Board's approval of the recommendation of the Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Opportunities document, the Energy Working Group met to determine the most appropriate and effective way for Dorset LEP to support partners in moving this forward. They agreed that establishing a subgroup of the Dorset LEP Strategic Infrastructure Committee would be most valuable and proposed this is the Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership.

A draft Terms of Reference (Appendix One) was approved by the Committee who agreed the recommendation to appoint Board member Nick Gaines as Chair. It is recommended the Board endorses this decision.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- The Board are recommended to approve appointing the two female Board member pipeline candidates if they accept the offer of a one-year co-opted position.
- The Board are recommended to approve undertaking a Board review once the outcome of the LEP review is known.
- The Board are recommended to endorse establishing a Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership as a Strategic Infrastructure Committee subgroup, with the provided Terms of Reference and Board member Nick Gaines as Chair.

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership

Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership

September 2021

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To capitalise on the opportunities presented in the evidence-based Dorset Low Carbon Energy Opportunities document, noting this document encompasses published Local Authority plans.
- 1.2. Bringing together key partners the Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership (referred to hereafter as 'Committee') will take forward action areas identified including funding opportunities.
- 1.3. The Committee has the ability when required to create time limited working groups to investigate specific topics to report back to the Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership Committee.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. Coordinate, guide and support the implementation of the Dorset Low Carbon Energy Opportunities document in conjunction with key partners. This includes improving energy efficiency in housing, transport, industry etc in addition to energy generation.
- 2.2. Act as a collaborative forum bringing together key partners to share low carbon energy strategic priorities and objectives and identify future needs to support economic growth in Dorset.
- 2.3. Convene to identify existing plans to shape and deliver Dorset Low Carbon Energy Opportunities in support of local plans and long term strategic objectives for Dorset and how these can be further joined up / opportunities for greater collaboration. Set the workplan of the group and review and monitor overall progress of the Dorset Low Carbon Energy Opportunities.
- 2.4. Provide an overview of the low carbon energy network in Dorset and the wider region.
- 2.5. Identify and collate priorities for low carbon energy investment for improvements in Dorset.
- 2.6. Develop and communicate a low carbon energy blueprint for provision that will support economic growth in Dorset.
- 2.7. Inform discussion and influence decision making in low carbon energy provision and investment in Dorset at a local, regional and national level.
- 2.8. Provide a platform from which to springboard applications and bids for low carbon investment in Dorset.
- 2.9. Work with partners to understand where there are challenges and problems in delivery and identify strategies to addresses these issues. This includes regularly openly engaging Dorset energy-focused community groups and relevant third sector organisations.
- 2.10. Act as a forum to share best practice relating to low carbon energy development and delivery.
- 2.11. Identify potential external policy changes that will impact on Dorset responding where appropriate.

- 2.12. Advise the Strategic Infrastructure Committees on opportunities for low carbon energy development, policy matters and funding opportunities. To advise on known research and development innovation relevant to the Committee, and stimulate further innovation through engagement with University and Industry partners.
- 2.13. Work with others to lobby local MPs and central government on Dorset's low carbon energy needs and opportunities in order to influence the national agenda.

3. Status

- 3.1. The Committee is established as Sub-Committee to the Strategic Infrastructure Committee.
- 3.2. The Committee shall be fully accountable to the Strategic Infrastructure Committee.

4. Membership

4.1. Representation

- 4.1.1. All business of the Committee will be conducted in accordance with the Nolan Principles of Public Life (Appendix 1).
- 4.1.2. The Committee will have a membership of up to 15. Membership will be on a flexible basis with those most relevant to the topic being requested to attend. All meetings will be scheduled a year in advance.
- 4.1.3. Committee members will act in the interests of the Committee and Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 4.1.4. Members will have sufficient seniority to be able to make a strategic contribution and influence unlocking of resources in their respective organisations.
- 4.1.5. The role of members is to represent the views and interest of their organisation, whilst always ensuring that decisions are taken in the best interests of Dorset's business community as a whole.
- 4.1.6. Initial membership to include:
 - 4 Officers per Local Authority
 - 2 Board Members
 - 2 members of the South West Energy Hub
 - 1 representative per each sustainable energy agency (eg Regen, Energy Saving Trust, Wessex Energy Advice Centre)
 - 1 representative from Knowledge Transfer Network
 - 1 representative from Low Carbon Dorset
 - 1 representative per Dorset University
 - 1 representative per Dorset Further Education College.
- 4.1.7. The Committee will invite other parties to meetings as appropriate to provide specific expertise and advice.

- 4.1.8. Members are responsible for reporting progress to their own organisations as they deem necessary.

4.2. Chair

- 4.2.1. The Committee Chair shall be a member of the Dorset LEP Board.
- 4.2.2. The Deputy Chair will be a representative from the South West Energy Hub.
- 4.2.3. Duties of the Chair will include:
- Leading the smooth and effective operation of the Committee;
 - To ensure the Secretariat is operating effectively and within its mandate, that budgets are appropriately applied and that proper policies and processes are in place and observed;
 - To ensure timely advice and reporting to the Dorset LEP Board relating to the work of the Committee and any key issues that arise;
 - To undertake activity as required according to the delivery plan and strategy.

4.3. Attendance

- 4.3.1. Committee members are expected to attend not less than three quarters of meetings over a twelve month period.
- 4.3.2. As members represent their organisation, if a member cannot attend and sends a delegate, the representative in attendance has the authority to speak on behalf of their organisation.

4.4. Conflict of Interest

- 4.4.1. The Committee shall ensure that all conflicts of interest are fully disclosed.
- 4.4.2. The Secretariat shall maintain a Register of Members' Interests. Members shall supply information to the Secretariat for inclusion in the register, or a nil return, on joining the Committee, in response to any request for an update and on becoming aware of any new interest. The Secretariat will circulate a request for information about interests annually.
- 4.4.3. Should a member's interests change, s/he shall inform the Secretariat at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.4.4. Should an issue be discussed by the Committee which presents a conflict of interest to a member, the member shall declare the conflict of interest, regardless of whether s/he has previously declared the interest in the Register of Members' Interests. Such declarations shall be minuted.
- 4.4.5. Members shall not vote or participate in discussions on any issues on which they have registered an interest.

5. Meetings

5.1. Frequency

- 5.1.1. Committee meetings will usually be held four times per year in a schedule that allows feeding into the Board meetings. However whilst the group is being established, meetings will be monthly for approximately the first three months.
- 5.1.2. A calendar of future meetings will be set for a year at a time although the minimum notice required for a meeting is two weeks, to ensure that all members are afforded the opportunity to attend.

5.2. Papers

- 5.2.1. The agenda and papers for meetings shall be approved by the Chair and issued at least 5 working days in advance of the meeting by the Secretariat.

5.3. Quorum

- 5.3.1. There should be a quorum of 75%.

5.4. Decision Making

- 5.4.1. The Committee shall operate on the basis of consensus.
- 5.4.2. In the event that a consensus cannot be achieved on a matter requiring decision, that decision shall be taken by vote and carried if it is supported by over 50% of those present.
- 5.4.3. In the event of a tied decision, the Chair of the meeting will cast the deciding vote.
- 5.4.4. If a decision needs to be made outside of the meeting, decision can be sought via Written Procedure (Appendix 2). In such cases, the Secretariat shall write to each Committee member requesting agreement to a specified course of action. Committee members shall be given no fewer than five working days to respond to the Secretariat.
- 5.4.5. For a decision to be taken by Written Procedure, the number of members participating and the composition of those members must be as required for a quorate meeting. Over 50% of members responding to the request must indicate agreement to the proposal.
- 5.4.6. All decisions made by Written Procedure shall be ratified at the next scheduled meeting.

5.5. Minutes

- 5.5.1. Meeting minutes shall be disseminated to members no later than ten working days following the meeting. Minutes shall remain in draft until approval by the Committee at the next meeting.
- 5.5.2. Minutes shall be made publicly available on the Dorset LEP website. Minutes will be redacted where they contain personal information about individuals or commercially sensitive data or for good legal reason.

6. Performance Review

- 6.1. The Committee shall arrange for periodic reviews of its own performance and review its Terms of Reference annually to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and to recommend any changes it considers necessary.

Appendix 1: Nolan Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix 2: Written Procedures

1. A copy of the written resolution must be sent to every member of the committee together with a statement informing the member how to signify their agreement to the resolution and the date by which the resolution must be passed if it is not to lapse.
2. A member of the committee signifies their agreement to a proposed written resolution when the Company receives from him or her an authenticated Document identifying the resolution to which it relates and indicating his or her agreement to the resolution.
3. If the Document is sent to the Company in Hard Copy Form, it is authenticated if it bears the member's signature.
4. If the Document is sent to the Company by Electronic Means, it is authenticated if it bears the member's signature or if it is from an email Address notified by the member to the committee for the purposes of receiving Documents or information by Electronic Means.
5. A written resolution is passed when the required majority of eligible members have signified their agreement to it.
6. A proposed written resolution lapses if it is not passed within 28 days beginning with the circulation date.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	28.09.21	Item Number	7.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Programmes Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update		
Recommendation	For Information		
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 between July and Sept 2021.

2. SUMMARY
Skills Team Operational Update

Dorset LEP have been working to ensure Dorset residents have opportunities to participate in recovery initiatives, as they become available.

- **SAP Programme** – working to the Department for Education guidelines which are due to be shared in September, Dorset LEP will be reviewing our Local Skills Report with the SAPB and preparing to report on the Dorset Skills Action Plan. Future plans to be confirmed by DfE are likely to include a Local Skills Improvement Plan aligned to a strategic development fund (subject to budget availability).
- **Skills Boot Camps** - [The Skills Bootcamp](#) continue to roll out, with some start delays to early 2022 in the local area. Eligible candidates should be over 19 years old, either be in work or unemployed for less than 12 months and be local residents.
- **LMI training** – we have continued to deliver LMI CPD training most recently for the Skills & Learning Adult Community Education team informing their “Fresh start” course designed for adults experiencing long-term unemployment with complex or multiple needs and barriers. The CPD session, aimed at tutors and curriculum managers, offered ways to identify declining and emerging job roles, sectors, and skills in demand using the SAP developed local LMI. The training also offered insights on other tools to identify matching opportunities based on the individual's transferable skills.
- **Restart Programme** – Seetec who are delivering the Restart programme for long term unemployed (1yr+) in the South West have now delivered the first 10 weeks of the programme. Numbers of self-referrals are reported to be 'positive', however there are currently no stats available to confirm numbers receiving training, personal guidance and direction to employment. Restart providers and DWP are hoping to find a solution to share data.
- **Skills Brokerage** – embedded within Dorset Gateway, the government's Growth Hub for Dorset, we have secured funding to help business with skills opportunities. This includes apprenticeships, traineeships and kickstart scheme help. The service is able to signpost and help business understand the measures available to secure

appropriately trained staff and offer employment training opportunities to new employees.

Dorset LEP Careers Hub Update

The Dorset Careers Hub contract is in place for 2021/22 and Dorset LEP have recruited a Strategic hub lead and Engagement Enterprise Coordinator having bid for and won additional funding. We are also in the process of securing an administrator as part of the additional funding.

Dorset Careers Hub achieved above the national average for engagement in 2020/21, with 93% of schools actively engaged with the programme. The feedback from the CEC has been extremely positive, however we are looking to build on the continued success in 2021/22.

The Labour Market Information update

After our [Quarter 2 labour market and skills insight report and dashboards](#) received over 500 visits in August, and the social media coverage was viewed by over 2000 people, we are in the process of preparing our next quarterly reports and materials which are due to be published by mid-October on our [LMI page](#). In the meantime, we have updated our online resources with the latest data including August showing the following key insights:

a) Unemployment, furlough, out-of-work benefits continuous decline

There is a decline in the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits, which was more notable amongst younger people.

In July, there were 19,695 people in Dorset (accounting for 4.4% (5.5% UK) of residents - 1 percentage point down from July 2020) claiming job or income support. That represents 5,140 fewer people than in July 2020, yet still 9,610 more than pre-pandemic levels. In comparison the decline amongst young people is more noted with 3,135 18-24 year olds (5.4% with (7.2% UK) - 3 percentage point down from July 2020) which was 1,560 fewer than July last year and still c1,400 more than pre-pandemic.

With the closure of the furlough scheme now imminent (at the end of September) the latest HMRC data shows *19,600 people in Dorset were still furloughed in July – 6% of the eligible employments*. Looking back at July of 2020 there were almost 88,000 more people furloughed in Dorset.

[Visit Dorset LEP's Employment in Dorset Dashboard.](#)

b) Labour market demand overtaking supply with widely reported staff shortages

The significant surge in vacancy growth seen earlier in 2021 continued throughout July and August. The number of jobs advertised since the start of the year (52,582) was 50% higher than the same period of 2020 and exceeded those in 2019 by 22%. While these positive developments prevented the substantial rise in unemployment after a period of turbulence, there have been alarming number of media and anecdotal reports referencing "labour shortages" including [local reports](#) of venues forced to close due to staff shortages and exponential increase in recruitment agency activities. The Bank of England analysis reports particular issues in hospitality and logistics, IT, engineering, construction, professional services, nursing, agriculture and food production. The report notes that while some labour shortages were structural and had existed prior to the Covid 19 outbreak, for example in engineering and technology, recent hiring difficulties can be partially attributed to a variety of COVID-related factors, such as:

- Large number of reopening businesses trying to hire staff at the same time
- Nervousness among candidates about changing jobs, including due to concerns about furlough eligibility
- Staff being unable to return to the UK from overseas due to travel restrictions
- General shortage of non-UK workers - particularly for low-skilled jobs - which could be related to EU withdrawal and COVID restrictions.
[Visit Dorset LEP's Vacancies and Opportunities in Dorset Dashboard.](#)

c) Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

DfE has released latest [local authority level NEET and participation data](#) for March 2021.

- There were 14,760 16-17 year olds **known** to the LAs in Dorset (7,480 of them in BCP and 7,280 in Dorset Council), which represents 91.6% of the young people in this age group and is slightly lower than the England average of 93.2%. There were slightly fewer young people in full time education and training in Dorset (84.6%) compared to nationally (87.4%).
- There were 800 16-17 year olds that were considered **NEET or not known** to the LAs in Dorset (410 in BCP and 390 in Dorset Council), which represents 5.4% of the cohort in line with the England average of 5.5%.

3) RECOMMENDATION

For Information

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Dates	28 September 2021	Item Number	7.2
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Enterprise Zone Committee Meeting 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

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the last Enterprise Zone meeting held on 19 July which was Chaired by Board member John Sutcliffe.

The minutes of the meetings can be found here:

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/enterprise-zone-committee>.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

I. Enterprise Zone Investment Plan

Following the July Enterprise Zone Committee meeting, Dorset Council is looking to establish a 5G educational facility on the site focused on defence and security; Dorset Council and Dorset LEP recognise skills shortage within the 5G sector and identify that 5G is a focal point for the Enterprise Zone.

The development of education supported by academic organisations would be highly beneficial. John Sutcliffe has met with Debra Smart from Dorset Council to discuss a 5G educational facility and a wider agenda for defence and security.

In order to aid private sector collaboration, Dorset Council will host a stakeholder event on site for the tenants with support from Cushman & Wakefield to present the key findings from the review. This engagement opportunity at a political and local level will be presented at the next Committee meeting in November.

The infrastructure plan for the Enterprise Zone is mature and as the requirements become more refined, it has become clear that Amenity Hub would add great benefits to the site. As the infrastructure plan develops the business plan rates will be updated to reflect new investors.

II. Engagement

Dorset Council will provide an updated engagement plan at the next Committee meeting.

III. Defence BattleLab

Following successful completion of phase one which covered the build of the workshop space and installation of the 5G equipment, the second phase which covers the build of the office space is ongoing with the first two floors completed.

The completion of phase two has been delayed by a month and is now expected to be fully operational by the end of November. The delay was due to the delivery of supplies for the internal fit out of the building.

Despite the delay the launch event week (commencing 8 November) is still anticipated to go ahead with the building expected to be weather-tight by the end of October and enough of the internal space fit out completed to allow the event to go ahead as planned.

The MoD will hold various smaller scale events throughout the week starting on the 8 November leading up to the main launch day event with ministerial attendance planned for Friday the 12 November.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	28.09.21	Item Number	7.3
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Business Growth and Inward Investment update		
Recommendation	It is recommended the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the review growth hubs and business support alongside the wider national business support offering • notes the continued success of the Peer Networks programme • notes the latest successes through the Bid Writing Support Service 		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

To brief the Board on activities and developments relating to business growth and inward investment within Dorset LEP and current activity within the key sectors across Dorset.

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.

This paper aligns with Dorset LEP's governance structure and will reflect those areas that are overseen by the Business Growth and Inward Investment (BG&I) Committee.

Inward investment is achieved through the delivery of the Memorandum of Understanding for foreign direct investment in partnership with the Department for International Trade (Investment Services Team).

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
2.1 Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the BG&I Committee on 27 September will be reviewing the aims and objectives of the group in light of the changing business environment. The Chair of the Committee will provide a verbal update at this LEP Board meeting in terms of any proposed changes.

2.2 Helping Dorset businesses to increase their resilience against the impact of economic shocks
Back to Business: BCP Council's Bounce Back Challenge Fund

Back to Business is open to all small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) trading on or before 31st March 2020, that have a registered or trading address in the BCP Council area. This new programme funded by BCP Council as part of their BCP Futures Campaign, is aimed at helping businesses in the BCP area recover stronger from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project officially started at the beginning of September and will conclude by 31 March 2022. In total, we are aiming to engage between 100 and 150 businesses in this new programme of support which includes an opportunity for participating businesses to apply for up to £2,000 of funded support.

More information can be found at: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/back-to-business>

Peer Networks Programme

The Peer Networks Programme for 2021/22 continues to be delivered across Dorset as part of the national Peer Networks programme. There are currently 80 businesses across 8 cohorts participating in the programme with seven more cohorts due to start in September and October.

Whilst recruitment has been more challenging this year, Dorset remains amongst a small number of top performing regions. For the second year running, we have been invited by the central Peer Networks team to present to the wider growth hub network about our approach and on 06 October, we will be presenting at the Delivery Partner Management Best Practice Session arranged by BEIS.

As a reminder, the Programme is free for owners, directors and senior managers whose business employs between 5 and 250, has been in operation for more than 12 months and has a minimum turnover of £100,000. More information about the programme can be found on Dorset LEP's website:

www.dorsetlep.co.uk/peernetworks

Support for small businesses

We have continued to promote the opportunity for Dorset's retail and service businesses in six town areas across Dorset to register for free with e-commerce platform, **ShoppAppy**. The e-commerce platform offers retailers and service providers the opportunity to make sales as part of a local digital community whilst encouraging customers to rediscover and re-connect with their high-streets.

As part of our COVID-19 additional support response, Dorset LEP (through Dorset Gateway) have offered businesses in Bournemouth, Bridport, Gillingham, Poole, Sherborne, Sturminster Newton and Wimborne the opportunity to trade online for free, with a year's access to the ShopAppy 'virtual high street'. To date 302 businesses have enquired about the platform and 80 businesses are currently live on the platform. Wimborne continues to be the area most active on the platform with 42 businesses registered and with 30% of the town's population having some awareness of the platform based on user metrics gathered by ShopAppy. A launch event was held in July in Wimborne to further promote the platform and the businesses using it. Further events are planned for the likes of Bridport and more rural towns before Christmas.

2.3 Focusing resources on our existing strengths and high-growth sectors

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN) AGM and Conference

The South West Aquaculture Network is holding its first AGM and conference on Thursday 28th October 2021 at Kingston Maurward College. The south west, and Dorset in particular, has long been recognised as having great potential for development of sustainable aquaculture across the many different sub-sectors of the industry. With support from business, NGOs, policy makers and regional councils, the SWAN aims to develop strong blue economic growth for coastal communities across the region. As well as a full day's agenda and panel discussion session there will be a Market Place with Market Stalls for organisations and businesses to network. To register and find out more visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-west-aquaculture-network-agm-conference-2021-tickets-168407171383>

2.4 Ensuring innovation is a key foundation of productivity in Dorset

Promoting Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

AS reported at the last Board meeting, Dorset LEP was approached by the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) earlier this year who asked if we could promote and encourage businesses to consider Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP). Over the last couple of months, colleagues from the Dorset Gateway team have been working with the KTN and both Bournemouth University (BU) and the Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) about ways of supporting the creation of more KTP opportunities in Dorset.

As an initial step, we will be hosting an event, 'Funding to Power Innovation: the benefits of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, on 21 September at AUB. This event is aimed at providing SMEs with information about KTPs, their benefits and how they work. The event will be supported by the KTN, with academics from BU's Business School facilitating discussions to identify where there are opportunities to apply for a KTP. Following the event, businesses will have the chance to access support with writing an application from our bid writing specialist.

Bid Writing Support Service (BWSS)

Building on the success of last year's performance, our BWSS is continuing to work with local SMEs with the aim of helping them to secure innovation and research-based funding. Having already helped Dorset businesses and project secure £1.5m of competitive grant funding through the likes of Innovate UK, up until 31 March 2021, we are pleased to report two further successes in the last couple of months. The first came via a female-led enterprise which successfully secured £25,000 of Innovate UK Grant funding through the Creative Industries Fund. The second, and most recent win (£48,700), was via the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) and come about following attendance of the Advancing Dorset in Defence, Security and Innovation event that we ran at the end of May this year.

We are also awaiting the results for a Young Innovators bid and a number of bids that went into the last or will go into the next SMART Grant rounds. These bids total in excess of £800,000.

2.5 Promoting Dorset as a key inward investment area for innovative, ambitious and fast growing businesses

Supporting the Dorset LEP's Pipeline Call

Through the Bid Writing Support Service, we have also started providing support for Dorset LEP's recently announced Pipeline Projects call. This programme is all about preparing for future projects that could be funded through any future place-based funding from the government. Whilst there are currently no funds available, this is a competitive process with two core themes; Ageing Society and Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure. The call is seeking viable projects which have a capital expenditure of between £2M and £10M.

To support this, Dorset LEP has been running Outline Business Case Masterclasses to help support businesses interested in applying. The initial prize is support from Dorset LEP's Bid Writing Support Service specialist who will assist with the writing of four Full Business Cases before the beginning of the new financial year. The deadline for applications is 05 October.

National Propositions: update

As reported previously, to date, Dorset has submitted 19 contributions in response to calls by Department for International Trade (DIT) for their national sector propositions. Each National Proposition focuses on a particular sector and represents a detailed description of the UK strengths in that sector. The UK National Propositions are held online in the [GREAT Asset Library](#) and are accessible by DIT Posts abroad, DIT sector teams and also local partners such as LEPs and councils.

Inclusion in the final documents isn't guaranteed, and is determined by the sector teams in DIT. Most recently, Dorset has been included in the recently launched UK National Proposition in Maritime. If you would like to receive a copy, please email fmorgan@bournemouth.ac.uk

Following our previous published contribution to the UK National Defence Proposition, Dorset LEP has been invited to join an exclusive, new Cyber Security Investment Forum by colleagues at the DIT. This follows on from a recent meeting between the Director for Dorset LEP with the South West Regional Lead for Cyber Security Growth & Innovation at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The first meeting of the Forum takes place at the end of September 2021.

2.6 Helping Dorset's businesses to access opportunities for growth through exporting goods and services overseas

Department for International Trade's (DIT) Export Growth Programme

Dorset Gateway's Business Relationship Officer (Trade and Investment) has been working alongside the Department for International Trade (DIT) to connect local businesses with **Export academy** and **SME Internationalisation Fund**.

To date, 23 Dorset SME's have applied for and been accepted onto the **SME Internationalisation Fund**, which offers match-funded grants of between £1,000 and £9,000 to help support future export activity. This is an increase of seven businesses since the previous Board update in May. Our target is to help up to 95 Dorset SME's successfully apply for this fund between now and the end of December 2021.

40 businesses within the Dorset LEP region have now registered for the **Export Academy** which is a free programme from DIT to help businesses start or grow their international sales. The **Export Academy** gives small and micro-businesses the know-how to sell to customers around the world with confidence. It's applicable to a wide range of businesses – who could be selling children's clothes to Spain online, or providing PR services to a new client in the US. Whether they want to start exporting, or are aiming to enter new markets, the programme will help them overcome many of the common challenges that small businesses can face.

The programme includes webinars, round tables and mentoring sessions totalling 10 workshops (these have currently been virtual).

To find out more, visit: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/business-support-international-trade#InternationalisationFund>

3. RECOMMENDATION

- To note the review growth hubs and business support alongside the wider national business support offering
- To note the continued success of the Peer Networks programme
- To note the latest successes through the Bid Writing Support Service

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Dates	28 September 2021	Item Number	8.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset Tourism Association 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

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board on recent Dorset Tourism Association (DTA) activity/discussions.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Over the past eighteen months, the DTA have been meeting every two months to discuss the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the tourism industry in the region. The key points for information are:

- Following the DTA AGM on 21st September 2021, Richard Smith will remain as Chairman of the DTA for a further year.
- The Tourism industry is now fully open. Anecdotal feedback is that Dorset had a good summer in 2021. The area successfully hosted a very large number of tourists and a variety of substantial public events without seeing a corresponding major spike in covid infection rates. The success of these events can be attributed to the robust planning and hard work undertaken by businesses and local authorities to ensure that these events could take place safely.
- Members have noted that some of the measures introduced during the pandemic, such as pre-booking entry to visitor attractions, or limiting numbers at venues, could continue as the new 'normal' practice post-pandemic.
- Some of those visiting Dorset this summer were a 'new audience'; people who would normally have travelled abroad had 'staycations' instead. There is limited data available on this new visitor profile and funding may be needed to investigate this further, and to find ways of attracting these visitors back to Dorset again.
- Due to the 'staycation' effect, there was an increase in accommodation provision across Dorset this year, but this could result in an oversupplied market for next year.
- Demand for 2022 is as yet unclear and remains unpredictable.
- Members have ongoing concerns regarding staffing, which continue to be addressed via the Great South West (GSW) partnership; key gaps remain in catering, cleaning and digital.

- The industry remains concerned about the drop off in government support at the end of furlough and of the business rate/VAT holidays. The industry missed a large part of the key earning season in Easter and the support drop off will put businesses at risk during the normally cash negative period over the winter. These concerns too are being raised via the GSW.
- DTA board members took part in the Destination Management Organisation (DMO) review, which is a national study to look at how tourism is delivered across England. The review has been published and DTA members discussed the findings of the review at the Board meeting on 21st September 2021. It was noted that Dorset has worked hard to become a coherent entity and so members would be reluctant to see Dorset being divided again under the plans for the future of DMOs. DTA are preparing feedback in response to the review document.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only