

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

22 SEPTEMBER 2020

1.30 PM TO 3.30 PM BY ZOOM

AGENDA

Time	Page No	Item	Subject/Title	Presenter	Recommendation
1.30		1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Jim Stewart	
1.35	3	2.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising and Forward Plan	Jim Stewart	
1.45	13	3.	Chair's Update	Jim Stewart	For information
		4.	Governance		
2.00	15	4.1	Communications Update	Amy Blackwell	<p>We are keen to feature more cases studies of Dorset's businesses able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adjust, adapt and recover from the pandemic • continue/recruit new apprentices. <p>Please contact us to share stories from your organisations, help us connect with businesses through the sub-committees, engage with our social media and/or direct people to dorsetlep@bournemouth.ac.uk.</p>
2.15	21	4.2	Delivery Update	Martina Hanulova	
2.45	22	4.3	<p>Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update:</p> <p>4.3.1 Chair Remuneration & Recruitment</p>	Jim Andrews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Dorset LEP Board approve remunerating the role of the Dorset LEP Chair. It is recommended the Chair position is paid at £20,000 per annum. 2. The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommends the Board approves the proposed process

			4.3.2 Board Review		and principles regarding Chair recruitment as outlined in this paper. The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Board approves the proposal to recruit an external company to undertake a Board Review in October 2020.
			4.3.3 Update on Committee Recruitment Campaign		For information
3.00	33	4.4	Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee	Lorna Carver	To inform and update the board on the financial position
3.10	34	4.5	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Corrina Osborne	For information
		5.	Strategy		
3.15	35	5.1	Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee	Finn Morgan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the doubling of business support funding secured by Dorset LEP. That board members promote the various new programmes of support that have been developed. To note the work and efforts of the partners that have helped to develop enquiries relating to the Dorset's Sustainable Aquaculture HPO.
3.20	41	5.2	Skills Advisory Panel and Board		For information
		6.	Advisory Groups		
3.25	45	6.1	Advisory Group Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Tourism Association 		Papers to note
		7.	Any Other Business		

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 26 November 2020 at 10.00 am

DRAFT MINUTES

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

23 JULY 2020 FROM 10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM

VIDEO CONFERENCING MEETING

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Andrew Wickham (AW)
Arabella Lewis-Smith (AL)
Cllr Gary Suttle (GS)
Jim Stewart (JS) (Chair)
John Sutcliffe (JSu)
Luke Rake (LR)
Cllr Mark Howell (MH)
Nick Brook (NB)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Read (PR)
Sara Uzzell (SU)
Sophia Story (SS)
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)
Cllr Vikki Slade (VS)

Also Present:

Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)
Bill Cotton (BC) (BCP Council)
Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)
David Walsh (DW) (Dorset Council)
Graham Farrant (GF) (BCP Council)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Lorna Carver (LC) (Dorset LEP)
Martina Hanulova (MHa) (Dorset LEP)
Matt Prosser (MP) (Dorset Council)
Elizabeth Spence (ES) (BEIS)

Apologies:

Diane Grannell (DG)
Emma Hunt (EH)
Ian Girling (IG)
Jim Andrews (JA)
Phil Richardson (PRi)
Richard Smith (RS)

Presenters:

Mike Spicer – PolicyDepartment Ltd (MS)
Sandra Rothwell – Rothwell to the Point (SR)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Diane Grannell, Emma Hunt, Ian Girling, Jim Andrews, Phil Richardson, Richard Smith.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: LR, VS, MH, AW, SF, GS, JS and SS all declared an interest in item 5.3. VS and MH, declared a standing declaration in all matters relating to BCP Council. SF and GS declared a standing declaration in all matters relating to Dorset Council.</p>	
2.	<p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3	<p>Director’s Update</p> <p>LC provided highlights of the paper. This included the information that BEIS requested all LEPs review Local Growth Fund projects with the purpose of highlighting the impact Covid-19 may have on the delivery of capital programmes. As we already work closely with our delivery partners on a regular basis to ensure good project management, the Dorset LEP had much of this information and were able to offer reassurance as to the minimal affect Covid-19 has had on deliverability of our projects.</p> <p>The Board were informed by LC that LEPs were invited by Government to submit a pipeline of projects - should new funding become available – this included accelerating existing Growth Deal projects and of exceptional new, shovel-ready capital projects which can be fully delivered within 18 months. Dorset LEP worked closely with our anchor institutions, including both Councils and submitted 54 projects.</p> <p>As part of this update, LC informed the Board that as part of the Chancellors budget announcement in March, a package of additional support for growth hubs was to be provided. Dorset Gateway through this process has secured an additional £257,000 of funding which will be used to help fund activities that will support businesses in responding to the impact of Covid-19, preparing for trading outside of the EU, and accessing professional advice and support that will drive business innovation and growth.</p> <p>LC shared that following on from Dorset’s success as one of the country’s top performing Careers Hubs, we have been successful in securing funding from the Careers & Enterprise Company to continue our existing activity as well as additional funding for another staff post to manage the extension and expansion of the Dorset Careers Hub. This will expand the work already started to support a wider range of schools to achieve national benchmarks and will see 32 additional institutions (taking our total to 72) invited to join the Careers Hub, including secondary schools, middle schools, FE colleges, and learning centres.</p> <p>LC informed that the Board that the Chair of the Dorset LEP has Co-Chaired two well attended ministerial engagement events with businesses across the South West. This provided an opportunity to better understand the view of the business community and for sharing information.</p>	

5.	Governance	
5.1	<p>Communications Update</p> <p>CO gave highlights on the Dorset LEP communications activity from the paper submitted to the Board. The update included that the investments the Board have made such as Bournemouth & Poole College and the Smart Place Pilot have resulted in positive coverage in the local media and helped gain new followers on social media. CO outlined that communications has played a vital role in ensuring businesses have access to our business support information and the Dorset LEP dedicated Covid-19 support information pages on our website are listed within the most popular pages visited.</p> <p>Action: As lockdown restrictions ease the communication team may reach out to more of the Board to attend events/take part in photo opportunities. The Board were asked to advise CO, KH or the Communications team if there are any particular projects they wish to support with a communications role.</p>	All
5.2	<p>Final Accounts for 2019/20 (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>LC presented the end of year accounts to the Board for approval to close. AD informed the Board that Dorset Council are working to further improve the presentation of the accounts in order to make them more user friendly.</p> <p>Action: The Board approved the 2019/20 final accounts.</p>	All approved
5.3	<p>Financial Update to the Board (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>LC updated the Board on the financial position of the Dorset LEP accounts between April and June 2020, including the overall actual income and expenditure as well as the forecast for the full year and included all programmes and activity.</p> <p>LC also shared a slide detailing all funding that had been secured for the region through the Dorset LEP, including match funding and highlighted how much this activity through the investment decisions of the Board have positively impacted Dorset.</p> <p>Action: If any Board member has any questions on the finances to please contact LC.</p> <p>Action: LC to circulate one pager showing all the funding secured to date</p> <p>MHa presented her paper to the Board which is an overview of Dorset LEP programme delivery with recommendations.</p> <p>We await further details of the potential Getting Building Fund</p> <p>Action: The Board approved the recommendation to accept the processes outlined in the paper and the list of projects identified, subject to successful completion of due diligence process as identified in the Dorset LEP Assurance Framework.</p> <p>MHa informed the Board as per the paper, should further funding become available, e.g. savings made on the current programme, a further list of projects could be funded.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>LC</p> <p>All approved</p>

5.	Governance Cont'd	
	<p>Performance and Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive) Cont'd</p> <p>explore with energy companies grid capacity and future power supply needs for the Park.</p> <p>Action: The Board accepted the recommendation from the Performance and Investment Committee and will explore with Dorset Council an action plan outlining the direction of travel for the Park to maximise on the opportunities of the site.</p>	All agreed
5.5	<p>Nominations and Remuneration Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>JS left the meeting at 12.12 pm for the discussion of this paper.</p> <p>Action: Nominations and Remuneration Committee to submit a paper to the September Board meeting.</p> <p>1246 NB left the meeting 1253 VS left the meeting</p>	
6.	Strategy	
6.1	<p>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee</p> <p>The Board noted this paper.</p>	
6.2	<p>Skills Update</p> <p>The Board noted this paper.</p>	
6.3	<p>Enterprise Zone Update</p> <p>The Board noted this paper.</p>	
6.4	<p>Blue Abyss update (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>This item was discussed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Dorset LEP continue to support the project in principle and await any updates on significant progress regarding this project.</p> <p>1259 NG left the meeting</p>	
7.	Papers for Information	
7.1	<p>Advisory Group Updates</p> <p>The Board noted the papers.</p>	
8.	Any Other Business	
	<p>MH stated that it would be useful for the Dorset LEP to consider sponsoring a library of photos for Dorset to be used on a range of materials; JS agreed to discuss further with LC.</p>	

DRAFT MINUTES

8.	Any Other Business Cont'd	
	<p>MH stated that it would be useful for the Dorset LEP to consider sponsoring a library of photos for Dorset to be used on a range of materials; JS agreed to discuss further with LC.</p> <p>Action: JS and LC to discuss whether the Dorset LEP could potentially sponsor a library of Dorset photos.</p>	JS/LC

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 22 September 2020 at 1.30 pm

DRAFT

FORWARD PLAN

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meetings

2020

Date and Time	Location	Items for Agenda
28 January 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Tank Museum, Bovington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery Update • Governance Update • Committee Updates • Communications Update • Launch LIS and review first draft of implementation plan
26 March 10.00 am to 12.30 pm	Zoom Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery Update • Governance Update • Committee Updates • Communications Update • Delivery Plan Update
26 May 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Zoom Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery Update • Governance Update • Committee Updates • Communications Update • Presentation from Blue Abyss
23 July 10.00 am to 12.30 pm	Zoom Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery Update • Governance Update • Committee Updates • Communications Update • Investment Prospectus
22 September 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Zoom Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and Investment Committee Update • Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update • Communications Update • Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update • Skills Advisory Panel and Board • Advisory Group Updates
26 November 10.00 am to 12.30 pm	Tank Museum, Bovington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee • Performance and Investment Committee Update • Communications Update • Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee • Skills Advisory Panel and Board • Advisory Group Updates • Investment Prospectus

FORWARD PLAN

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meetings

2021

Date and Time	Location	Items for Agenda
26 January 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and Investment Committee Update • Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update • Communications Update • Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update • Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update • Advisory Group Updates • Investment Prospectus
25 March 10.00 am to 12.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update • Performance and Investment Committee Update • Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update • Communications Update • Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update • Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update • Advisory Group Updates
25 May 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and Investment Committee Update • Communications Update • Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update • Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update • Advisory Group Updates
22 July 10.00 am to 12.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee Update • Performance and Investment Committee Update • Nominations and Remuneration Committee Update • Communications Update • Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update • Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update • Advisory Group Updates
28 September 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and Investment Committee Update • Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update • Communications Update • Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Update • Skills Advisory Panel and Board • Advisory Group Updates

Date and Time	Location	Items for Agenda
25 November 10.00 am to 12.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee• Performance and Investment Committee Update• Communications Update• Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee• Skills Advisory Panel and Board• Advisory Group Updates

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22 September 2020	Item Number	3
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Chair's update		
Recommendation	For information		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

An update to the Board of pertinent work; including activity with Members of Parliament, regional engagement, risk, Investment Prospectus update and the mid-year review.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
I. Activity with Members of Parliament

- Relationships with MPs
- MP meetings

II. Regional Engagement

- Devolution white paper
- Great south west regional bodies
- LEP network

III. Risk
Project Delivery by Local Authorities

The Local Authorities have eleven live projects under the Growth Deal Fund totalling £18.6m and two in due diligence. They also have a combined total of four live projects under the Growing Places Fund with a value of almost £2.6m.

We are working closely with both Councils to minimise all risks. It is imperative that all delivery is completed by 31st March 2021.

Board Membership Balance

We are currently compliant in having a third of our Board female, but in order to achieve the ambition of 50% female by 2023 careful consideration needs to be given to any changes in membership.

A round of Board recruitment and Committee recruitment will commence this autumn to ensure a strong pipeline of members are in place, to increase diversity and ensure all targets are met.

IV. Investment Plan Update

A very successful session and follow up workshops were held to cement a consensus Vision for Dorset and indicative programmes of work. The draft vision and programmes were cross referenced against the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and Covid-19 Economic Impact Analysis and these all align. They were also tested against the government led context and the private sector investment potential and came out positively.

As an outcome this exercise concluded that developing a 'programme' approach to the Investment Prospectus allows us to be more specific about levels of investment and economic impact in Dorset and this will support an overall cost/benefit analysis of the total plan. However, it is noted that public and private investors will all need to understand the return on investment, expressed as a budget.

A summary of the vision activity, draft programmes of work and links to the Investment Prospectus were circulated to the LIS Steering Group and feedback collated w/c 7th September and the final list of programmes are:

- The Dorset lifestyle
- Inspired thinking
- Naturally creative
- Enabling business
- A role model for recovery.

Across September and October, final programme areas will be 'tested' on the Investment Prospectus proforma with a wider group of stakeholders to obtain feedback and identify potential areas of investment. Consultation will also take place with national investors and developers to assess views of, and appetite, in investing in Dorset and the LIS Steering Group will be updated in forthcoming meetings.

V. MID YEAR REVIEW

BEIS will be undertaking a mid-year review with all LEPs in late September to review matters such as actions from the Annual Performance Review, governance and compliance, growth programme delivery, Getting Building Fund arrangements and Dorset LEP recovery and growth strategy planning.

3. RECOMMENDATION

For information

The papers for agenda Item 4.1 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22 September 2020	Item Number	5.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	PR & Communications Activity – July and August 2020		
Recommendation	<p>We are keen to feature more cases studies of Dorset's businesses able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adjust, adapt and recover from the pandemic • continue /recruit new apprentices. <p>Please contact us to share stories from your organisations, help us connect with businesses through the sub-committees, engage with our social media and/or direct people to dorsetlep@bournemouth.ac.uk.</p>		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

To update the board on strategic PR and communications activity during July and August.

2. SUMMARY
Investment announcements

The highlight of this period was the much anticipated announcement of the national Getting Building Fund and Dorset LEP's £11.8m allocation. Dorset's investment plans were well-received by the media featuring as the top story on the regional echo websites and with headlines such as "LEP takes steps to stimulate economic recovery" from Insider magazine. We look forward to the interest continuing as we share project details over the coming weeks.

In addition, major Growth Deal investment announcements during this period have also yielded positive regional and local media coverage, with the most significant engagement and media enquiries generated by the new MoD Defence Innovation Centre at Dorset Innovation Park and the RBCH Histopathology Lab projects.

Business and Skills Support

The team has continued to actively support and promote Dorset Gateway and skills activities with including the launch of the Smith & Williamson Business Resilience Programme and Dorset Careers Live events, generating positive impact via our social media channels.

Tourism focus

Working closely with Dorset LEP advisory panel, Dorset Tourism Association, a press release and [24 post strong Twitter thread](#) was created to promote the safe re-opening of Dorset's tourism and hospitality sector. This enabled Dorset LEP to support a wide range of sectors and businesses, with more smaller businesses engaging and sharing their plans. From this activity, we were also able to facilitate the re-purposing of a Hall & Woodhouse video by HMG Cabinet Office as part of their national campaign.

The importance and reach of this activity is reinforced by the types of businesses seeking pledges from the Crowdfund Dorset Business initiative.

3. COVERAGE AND ANALYTICS

Interest from the media remains strong with the 12 announcements put out during this period generating 37 pieces of media coverage across the region. We have formed a stronger media relationship with Public Sector Executive, the leading independent news brand for the UK public sector, which in August 2020 published our prominent feature on Dorset's high growth sectors, as well as our Defence Innovation Centre and RBCH Histopathology Lab investment press releases. Several of our announcements have also been featured in newsletters and magazines by Dorset Chamber, Dorset Council and BCP Council, extending our reach to a wider audience.

Dorset LEP website - key statistics

	July/August	May/June	March/April	January/February	November/December
Number of sessions	12,180	10,408	11,010	8,114	5,019
Number of page views	30,025	26,861	26,360	21,970	25,036
Users	8,663	7,445	8,051	5,366	5,019
New users	8,177	6,918	7,723	4,927	4,591

Most popular pages visited in May & June (page views):

- Dorset LEP homepage (2,692)
- COVID-19 page (1,521)
- COVID-19 Grants, loans and support schemes (1,158)
- MoD Defence Innovation Hub (1,007)
- COVID-19 Government Support (952)

Dorset LEP Newsletters

Date sent	Successful deliveries	Unique opens	% clicks per unique open	Top three unique links clicked (% unique clicks)
07 July	496	182	24.7%	Tourism crucial to Dorset economic recovery news story (24%) Dorset scales-up Careers Hub news story (17%) Labour market and skills research (14%)

[£5.7 million investment for new MOD innovation hub](#) (25 Aug)

[Peer Networks: Invitation to tender](#) (25 Aug)

[Dorset Mariculture Strategy Launches](#) (20 Aug)

[Dorset LEP allocate over £2 million of funding to the NHS](#) (19 Aug)

[Dorset LEP secures £11.8m 'Getting Building Fund'](#) (4 Aug)

[Dorset Careers Live off to a flying start!](#) (23 Jul)

[Dorset LEP and Smith & Williamson launch Business Resilience Programme](#) (22 Jul)

[Business leaders upbeat on challenges ahead](#) (13 Jul)

[Join our growing team!](#) (13 Jul)

[New £1.7 million agri-tech innovation centre at Dorset Innovation Park](#) (10 Jul)

[Dorset Careers Live - An Introduction to Allied Healthcare Professions](#) (2 Jul)

[Tourism crucial to Dorset's economic recovery](#) (1 Jul)

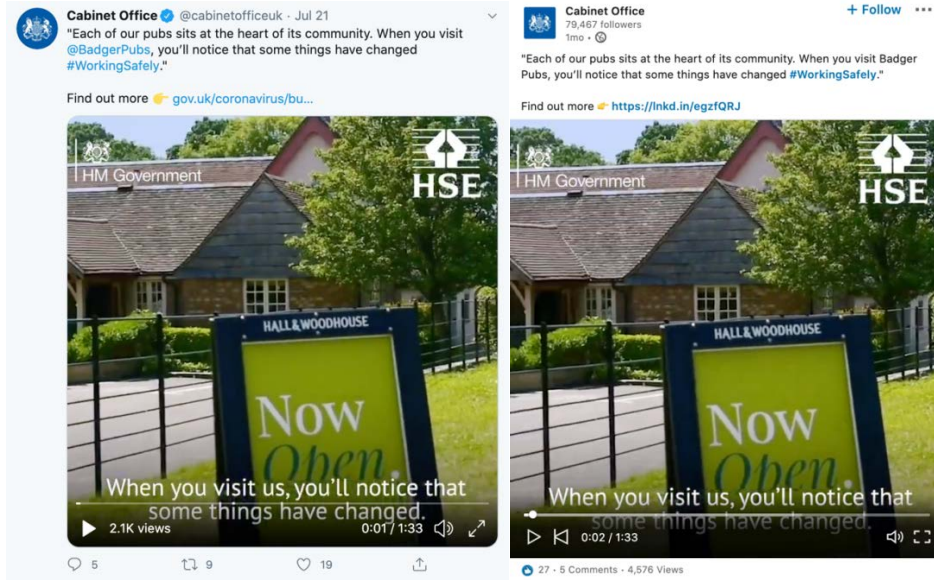
Media /stakeholder coverage

Date	Outlet	Tone	Title and link
02/07/2020	Dorset Chamber	Positive	Tourism crucial to Dorset's economic recovery
03/07/2020	Dorset Echo Bournemouth	Positive	Dorset tourism businesses reopen after lockdown
04/07/2020	Echo Bournemouth	Positive	Super Saturday in Dorset: Tourism and hospitality to reopen 'Thousands of Dorset jobs are at risk' when coronavirus support ends
07/07/2020	Echo	Neutral	New £1.7 million agri-tech innovation centre at Dorset Innovation Park
09/07/2020	Dorset Council	Positive	Park
13/07/2020	Mags4Dorset	Positive	Business leaders in Dorset are upbeat
13/07/2020	Dorset Chamber South West	Positive	Business leaders upbeat on challenges ahead draperVENT research centre to open at Dorset Innovation Park, Wool
14/07/2020	Farmer	Positive	DORSET COUNCIL ISSUES WARNING OVER PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN GILLINGHAM
21/07/2020	Gillingham News	Positive	GILLINGHAM FACES FRESH TRAFFIC DELAYS AS NEW ROADWORKS BEGIN ON AUGUST 3
24/07/2020	Gillingham News	Neutral	
28/07/2020	Dorset Chamber	Positive	Dorset LEP and Smith and Williamson's business resilience

			programme
29/07/2020	Dorset Echo	Neutral	Hopes fade for Western Route as no chance of any decision until at least 2025
30/07/2020	Dorset Echo	Negative	Councillor calls for investment to boost growth of economy
03/08/2020	Dorset Chamber	Positive	New call for businesses to put safety first
04/08/2020	Mags4Dorset Bournemouth	Positive	Businesses urged to make workplaces Covid safe
05/08/2020	Echo	Positive	Government backing building schemes to create jobs in Dorset
05/08/2020	Bournemouth Echo	Positive	Dorset Chamber boss will speak to any boss about making workplace Covid-secure
05/08/2020	Insider Media Ltd	Positive	LEP TAKES STEPS TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY
05/08/2020	Bournemouth Echo	Positive	Dorset Chamber boss will speak to any boss about making workplace Covid-secure
05/08/2020	Mags4Dorset	Positive	Government funding will secure jobs
05/08/2020	Dorset Chamber Bournemouth	Positive	Dorset LEP secures £11.8m 'Getting Building Fund'
07/08/2020	Echo	Positive	Poole firm pilots online platform for organising childcare
11/08/2020	Gillingham News Hellenic Shipping News	Positive	WORK ON SHAFTESBURY ROAD AND NEW ROAD JUNCTION TO START SOON IN GILLINGHAM
14/08/2020	Worldwide Public Sector Executive	Positive	Government funds 'shovel ready' maritime projects in England
18/08/2020	Magazine	Positive	High Growth Sectors article
19/08/2020	Gillingham News	Positive	DORSET LEP HAND £2.28 MILLION TO NHS TO BOOST PATIENT DIAGNOSIS
19/08/2020	Public Sector Executive	Positive	Dorset LEP allocates £2.28m to improve local NHS services
19/08/2020	Dorset Chamber	Positive	Dorset LEP allocate over £2 Million of funding to the NHS
20/08/2020	Indy Online Bournemouth	Positive	FLOATING SEA WIND FARM MOVES CLOSER
24/08/2020	Echo	Positive	Major funding support for new Royal Bournemouth Hospital lab
25/08/2020	Insider Media Ltd	Positive	NEW GRANTS TO SUPPORT DORSET SMES
25/08/2020	Public Sector Executive	Positive	£5.7m MoD Innovation Hub set to "drive future success"
25/08/2020	Dorset Chamber Bournemouth	Positive	£5.7 million investment for new MOD innovation hub in the heart of Dorset
26/08/2020	Echo	Positive	Army BattleLab at Dorset Innovation Park
26/08/2020	Insider Media Ltd	Positive	INVESTMENT BOOST FOR JOB-CREATING MOD HUB
26/08/2020	Army Technology	Positive	UK to build defence innovation centre in Dorset
27/08/2020	Defence Connect	Positive	British Army 'battle lab' to lead technology innovation for battlefield edge

Social media highlights

We were pleased to facilitate the successful re-purposing of a Hall & Woodhouse video being featured in the a HMG Cabinet Office national social media campaign on the safe reopening of businesses after COVID-19 lockdown.



Top tweet July/August, Dorset LEP and Dorset Gateway:

Top Tweet earned 4,227 impressions

Our tourism and hospitality industries are going the extra mile to open safely. This is crucial for the survival of local businesses and the recovery of Dorset's economy.
#DorsetBusiness #C19Resilience Read more: bit.ly/2BZqvCA
pic.twitter.com/Lg280z8TT2



11 retweets 21 likes

Impressions: 4,384
Total engagements: 81

Top Tweet earned 2,251 impressions

The **@NationalCareers #VirtualJobsFair** for the **#SouthWest** kicks off on Monday 20th 11am-12pm on the hashtag **#JobsHour!** We're in! Are you? Job seekers be at the ready & employers be prepared to post your opportunities with the hashtags **#VirtualJobsFair #JobsHour & #SouthWestJobs**
pic.twitter.com/Kbwh37NhiS



1 retweet 4 shares 6 likes

Impressions: 2,370
Total engagements: 24

Dorset LEP Twitter

	AUG 20	JUL 20	JUN 20	MAY 20	APR 20	MAR 20
Tweets	18	53	25	45	27	65
Tweet impressions	38.9K	43.6K	34.4K	70K	46.8K	78.2K
Profile visits	517	630	440	511	802	1,161
New followers	22	21	39	21	16	29
Mentions	49	64	113	63	70	94

Dorset Gateway Twitter

	AUG 20	JUL 20	JUN 20	MAY 20	APR 20	MAR 20
Tweets	6	38	33	49	57	40
Tweet impressions	4,669	18.1K	24.9K	35.9K	42.4k	22k
Profile visits	44	379	145	210	280	262
New followers	16	14	24	37	17	20
Mentions	23	37	43	44	34	28

Dorset LEP LinkedIn

The Dorset LEP LinkedIn page received 256 visitors throughout May and June. During July and August, the page received 467 visitors.

Dorset Gateway LinkedIn

From Dorset Gateway LinkedIn page received 135 visitors throughout May and June. During July and August, the page received 178 visitors.

1. Thursday 10 Sept – Trading out of COVID-19
2. Wednesday 23 Sept – Customers and suppliers
3. Thursday 8 Oct – Cash continues to be king
4. Wednesday 14 Oct – Staffing options
5. Wednesday 21 Oct – Growth strategies

4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 September	Business Resilience webinar 1: Trading out of COVID-19
22 September	Dorset LEP AGM
23 September	Business Resilience webinar 2: Customers and Suppliers
8 October	<i>Dorset Careers Hub Extension event (tbc)</i>
8 October	Business Resilience webinar 3: Cash continues to be king
14 October	Business Resilience webinar 4: Staffing options
21 October	Business Resilience webinar 5: Growth strategies

5. RECOMMENDATION

We are keen to feature more cases studies of Dorset's businesses able to

- a) adjust, adapt and recover from the pandemic
- b) continue /recruit new apprentices.

Please contact us to share your stories, help us connect with businesses through the sub-committees, engage with our social media and/or direct people to dorsetlep@bournemouth.ac.uk.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.09.20	Item Number	5.2.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Chair Remuneration & Recruitment		
Recommendation	This paper has two recommendations: 1. The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Dorset LEP Board approve remunerating the role of the Dorset LEP Chair. It is recommended the Chair position is paid at £20,000 per annum. 2. The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommends the Board approves the proposed process and principles regarding Chair recruitment as outlined in this paper.		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper outlines the expectations of the Dorset LEP Chair role and the rationale to remunerate this position in order for the Board to accept the recommendation posed by the Nomination & Remuneration Committee. This is that the role of the Dorset LEP Chair should be remunerated at £20,000 per annum.

The rationale for remunerating the Chair position includes the considerable time commitment required, the professionalisation of the role, the public profile aspect required, and as a wider commitment to equality. The paper also includes examples of other LEPs which remunerate the Chair position.

This paper also outlines the governance around LEP Chair recruitment and the indicative recruitment process including operational responsibility, approval of the recruitment pack, approach to advertising and executive search, the longlisting and shortlisting principles, stakeholder groups and interview panel, recommendation of a preferred applicant, timescales and measures in the event of an delayed or unsuccessful recruitment.

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Board approves the process and principles of Chair recruitment as outlined in this paper.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
I. REMUNERATION
A. Context: The Role of the LEP Chair

The LEP Chair role requires driving forward a vibrant and dynamic economic agenda, which puts the needs of business, residents and communities front and centre. The leadership that the LEP Chair role provides is central to the success of the Dorset LEP and in the current climate even more so as it is expected to provide critical economic leadership as we respond to the impact of COVID-19.

To achieve this, the LEP Chair post must be occupied by an influential and persuasive senior business leader, who can act as a champion for Dorset's economic success. The Chair must bring direction, energy and passion to the role and build on the Dorset LEP's reputation as the strategic regional leader in economic development. They must have sufficient standing to be able to convene the local business community and public sector stakeholders, the insight to oversee the development of an economic strategy and the relationship skills to work effectively with Government.

Given the role involves overseeing public funds and responsibilities, the Chair is expected to display the highest levels of integrity and honesty, in line with the Nolan Principles, and the LEP Chair position carries an expectation of providing time not just to attend board meetings, but also to help promote the aims of the Dorset LEP in the wider sector and be involved in various sub-committees.

Key Responsibilities

The key responsibilities of the Dorset LEP Chair are to:

- Inspire confidence in the business community, government, Local Authorities, investors and all other key partners and stakeholders, that the Dorset LEP understands the needs and opportunities of business and can effectively articulate these into strategic economic policy and delivery
- Provide an authentic and respected voice of business on behalf of the LEP Board, Members and Executive Team on matters of economic strategy and growth to government, partners and to the media
- Chair the LEP Board so that all Board members can fully and effectively contribute, and the Board can reach balanced and informed positions on key issues
- Work closely with the senior executive, so that there is a unified and coherent approach to all matters, that fully utilises the available expertise
- Represent the Dorset LEP and the wider business community on other groups and Boards as appropriate
- Promote Dorset as an outstanding location to invest and grow and to directly encourage and stimulate investment in the region
- Support the executive in ensuring the organisation is run effectively so that it can continue to deliver its strategic objectives to support the Dorset LEP area.

Chair Requirements

To be considered for the post, an applicant must have:

- Significant experience in a senior appointment in the private sector
- Track record in delivering the objectives of complex organisations and Boards
- The ability to think strategically and see the 'big picture'
- Well-developed chairmanship skills
- Good communication skills
- Experience of public speaking and media relations
- Experience of working in multi-faceted partnerships
- Political awareness and acumen
- Understanding of the economic challenges facing Dorset and how private- sector-led growth can contribute to meeting them
- Experience of working with senior public sector representatives including politicians and government ministers.

Indicative Activities Undertaken by the Dorset LEP Chair

This is a list of activities undertaken by the DLEP Chair in 2020. It is included to give an indication of the scope and scale of the Chair's involvement in LEP activity. It demonstrates the amount of time and the sphere of influence and engagement of the outgoing Chair.

- Up to 30 hours per week including various internal Dorset LEP meetings and chairing various LEP committees

- Supra chair of LEP Network Great South West region
- LEP network (the coordinating/membership body for the 38 LEPs) meetings in London
- Meetings with other LEPs
- Chair of Business and Transport Forum of Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body
- Board member of Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body
- Regular liaison with Dorset MPs
- Meetings with Ministers
- Board Member of Maritime UK South West
- Vice Chair of Great South West (GSW) including meetings with SW Local Authorities
- Meetings with GSW All Party Parliamentary Group
- Meetings with civil servants and Cabinet Office representatives
- Appraisal meetings with BEIS
- Meetings with Local Authority leaders and CEOs
- Liaison with Business Representative Organisations
- Meetings and Media, Press and PR with Dorset businesses
- Attendance and presentations at various functions and conferences

B. Context: Chair Remuneration

A 2012 [study](#) conducted by Odgers Berndtson of 33 existing LEP Chairs found that the time commitment of this role took 2-3 days per week; this means already active LEP Chairs are in the challenging position of trying to juggle their executive 'day job' with LEP responsibilities.

The senior business figureheads who may wish to hold the position of Chair are committed professionals, and it is important that they feel able to dedicate their valuable time to Board activities. It is for this reason remuneration for undertaking the role of LEP Chair is increasing across the sector. The rationale for this includes:

- Recognising the considerable time commitment required
- Recognising the professionalisation of the role
- Ensuring it attracts and retains those with the appropriate skills and knowledge
- Reflecting that this is a significant Non-Executive Director position in terms of public profile, with responsibility and accountability to the Dorset Community
- Demonstrating a wider commitment to equality to ensure that the post attracts a wide interest during recruitment (ie not only those with means and therefore require no remuneration).
- Recognising the commitment of a full national recruitment process and costs associated with this via the cabinet office public appointment process.

The Government's position is that LEPs are to decide whether their Chair position is paid. An increasing number of LEPs remunerate the Chair role with anything from £20,000 - £60,000. LEPs which remunerate the Chair role include, Cornwall & Isle of Scilly, Cheshire & Warrington, Enterprise M3, Heart of the South West, Leeds City Region, North East, South East, Stoke & Staffordshire, Thames Valley Berkshire and West Yorkshire to name a few.

II. RECRUITMENT

A. Chair Recruitment Governance

The Dorset LEP operates under the [National Local Growth Assurance Framework](#) and the [Local Assurance Framework](#) and has [Articles of Association](#), all of which refer to the recruitment of Board members including the Chair Role. [The Nomination & Remuneration Committee](#) oversee all Board recruitment as per its Terms of Reference. Appendix One outlines the detail related to recruitment of these roles in each of these governance documents.

B. Indicative Recruitment Process

Operational Responsibility

GatenbySanderson are known to the LEP network and have demonstrated experience in working with LEPs previously. Given the pace at which recruitment needs to take place before the current Chair's term expires, this supplier's expertise and experience in recruiting for this type of role in other LEP areas and their understanding of the market GatenbySanderson have been selected in line with our procurement processes to support the Chair recruitment process.

As part of this process they will undertake the headhunting aspect required they offer the operational and administrative capacity needed to run this recruitment exercise and also to provide a level of independent support and challenge in the process.

Chair Recruitment Pack

The Nomination & Remuneration committee, in conjunction with GatenbySanderson will prepare the draft Chair recruitment pack and circulate to Board members for feedback. Key questions will also be posed to Board members to help garner their feedback on the characteristics they believe the Chair should hold and to comment on the indicative recruitment process. All members of the Board will have the opportunity to speak with GatenbySanderson, or the Chair of the Nominations and remuneration Committee regarding any matter of Chair Recruitment ahead of decision-making at the September Board meeting.

GatenbySanderson will collate feedback and add their own expert opinion and circulate a final draft of all documentation for Board approval at the September Board meeting.

Advertising & Executive Search

To ensure the opportunity is advertised to a diverse range of potential applicants, multiple mechanisms will be used. The advertising campaign will include the Dorset LEP webpage and social media sites (including LinkedIn), Cabinet Office Appointments website, Dorset Chamber of Commerce, LEP network as well as the Sunday Times online, relevant Non-Executive Director job boards (including WomenonBoards), GatenbySanderson and their social media outlets.

Alongside the advertisements, GatenbySanderson will conduct an executive search. If any member wishes to highlight a potential candidate, they should let GatenbySanderson know their details to be included in the search.

Should any members of the Dorset LEP Board wish to apply for the role, they should contact Jim Andrews in confidence to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. Anyone applying for the role should not participate in discussions regarding the recruitment process.

Longlisting & Shortlisting

GatenbySanderson will produce a longlist for the interview panel (see section 3.5) to consider based on their fulfilment of the given criteria. The interview panel will then agree a shortlist and the candidates will be invited to join the process.

Stakeholder Groups & Interview Panel

Two stakeholder groups will be held in advance of the interview panel to ensure board members and business are engaged, fulfilling the governance and best practice of Chair recruitment. The purpose of the stakeholder groups is to act in an advisory capacity to the interview panel. The stakeholder groups will be comprised of a maximum of four Board members and two private sector members and a gender balance will be sought. Nick Gaines and Dianne Granell will Chair one stakeholder group each and they will be

supported by GatenbySanderson and senior members of the Dorset LEP staff. Feedback from the stakeholder groups will be produced by GatenbySanderson and sent to the interview panel.

The interview panel will provide the overall decision making as to the suitable candidate recommended to the Board. The Dorset LEP Director will attend in an advisory capacity along with GatenbySanderson. The membership of this interview panel will include all members of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee, the Leaders of each Local Authorities in their capacity as Company Directors and an independent individual who has familiarity with LEPs. The interview panel will be balanced in terms of gender and chaired by Jim Andrews.

Recommendation of Preferred Applicant

The interview panel will make a recommendation to the Board as to the preferred candidate and the Board will be asked to approve this. Once this has been agreed the Chair of the interview panel and Chair of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee will meet the candidate face to face (if Covid-19 restrictions permit) before the final offer is made.

Timescales

The indicative recruitment process is as follows:

10 September	Draft job description, Chair recruitment pack and other key questions (such as desired characteristics) to the Board by email for feedback.
17 September	Feedback collated, GatenbySanderson add in expertise and draft set of documents created. Once completed, the draft pack will be circulated to Board members as a late paper before the September Board meeting.
22 September	Finalisation of all paperwork and recruitment process in Board meeting.
w/c 5 October	Recruitment campaign will be launched by GatenbySanderson who will also undertake a headhunting exercise. Board members should be available for any questions from potential candidates during the recruitment process.
2 November	Closing date.
w/c 2 November	GatenbySanderson will produce a longlist for Committee consideration and will ensure all candidates meet the requirements before doing so.
w/c 9 November	Feedback will be gathered and a shortlist produced by GatenbySanderson for Interview Panel review.
w/c	Shortlisted applicants invited to Stakeholder Panel.
TBC	Two Stakeholder Panels held. GatenbySanderson collate feedback and present to Interview Panel.
11 November	Interview Panel held.
15 November	GatenbySanderson collate feedback

26 November	November Board meeting to approve recruitment of candidate as a new director.
TBC	Chair of Nomination & Remuneration Committee face to face meeting with selected candidate (if possible with Covid-19 restrictions).
TBC	Successful candidate formally offered role.
TBC	Induction process commences.

C. Delayed/ Unsuccessful Recruitment

The company must have a Chair and therefore if the successful incumbent to the role from the recruitment process is unable to start before the current Chair's term ends in November, the current Chair Jim Stewart will remain in this role.

If the recruitment process is unsuccessful, the current Chair should also remain in post whilst feedback on this matter is sought and a new Chair is recruited.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Dorset LEP Board approve remunerating the role of the Dorset LEP Chair. It is recommended the Chair position is paid at £20,000 per annum.

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommends the Board approves the proposed process and principles regarding Chair recruitment as outlined in this paper. This includes approval of the outlined operational responsibility, finalising of the recruitment pack, the approach to advertising and executive search, the longlisting and shortlisting principles, stakeholder groups and interview panel, recommendation of a preferred applicant, timescales and interim measures in the event of a delayed or unsuccessful recruitment.

APPENDIX ONE: CHAIR RECRUITMENT GOVERNANCE

National Local Growth Assurance Framework

- 75. The LEP should outline, or refer to, its appointment process for Board Members (public and private sector), Chairs and Deputy Chairs within the Local Assurance Framework. As part of this they should ensure that they advertise opportunities for private sector leaders to become a LEP Chair or private sector Board Member when vacancies emerge. They should advertise openly, on a variety of platforms to ensure that people across the business community have an opportunity to apply and consider the diversity requirements outlined in this Framework.
- 76. Whilst LEP Chair appointments are not public appointments, Government offers to list vacancies on the Centre for Public Appointments website.¹⁸
- 77. Government expects that each LEP consults widely and transparently with the business community before appointing a new Chair. LEPs should openly advertise opportunities for private sector leaders to become a LEP Chair or Board Member when vacancies emerge and publish details of how the LEP ensures an open recruitment process. The LEP's appointment process should set out how this is done.
- 131. The leadership that Chairs provide is central to the success of a LEP. As such, LEPs should recruit Chairs who are influential local leaders, who act as champions for their area's economic success. They should have sufficient standing to be able to convene the local business community and public sector stakeholders, whilst having the insight to oversee the development of an economic strategy and the relationship skills to work effectively with Government.
- 132. The Chair must come from the private sector. Given their role involves overseeing public funds and responsibilities; they are expected to display the highest levels of integrity and honesty.
- 133. To support the Chair in their role, all LEPs should appoint a Deputy Chair. The LEP should have a defined term limit of three years for the Chair and Deputy Chair, with an optional extension of three years. There is an option to extend for a further three years in exceptional circumstances if approved by the Board. These term limits should become business as usual once the existing Chair's term has expired.

Dorset LEP Assurance Framework

- 8.1. Dorset LEP's Chair is Jim Stewart is from the private sector.
- 8.2. The Chair may sit for a defined term limit of 3 years, with an optional extension of 3 years. This is reflected in s10.1 of the Articles of Association.
- 8.3. Dorset LEP Chair job description is published on the Dorset LEP website.
- 17.1. Dorset LEP operates an open, competitive recruitment process for Board appointments.
- 17.2. When positions on the Dorset LEP Board become available, they are publicly advertised for at least 28 days and interested candidates are required to submit a CV, covering letter and a screening questionnaire.
- 17.3. The arrangements for appointing new Board members and Chairs are set out in ss22- 29 of the [Articles of Association](#).

Dorset LEP Articles of Association

- The objects of the Company are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to drive economic and employment growth in Dorset, through the support of a strongly performing, productive and sustainable economy, characterised by a greater incidence of higher paid and skilled jobs, in a manner that, in so far as possible, harnesses and protects Dorset's unique environmental assets.
- 26.1 Following an open recruitment procedure the Directors shall appoint individuals as Private Sector Directors so as to ensure that, at all times, the total number of Private Sector Directors is greater than the total number of all other Directors.

- 26.2 Subject to Article 28 and, unless the Directors decide otherwise at the time of appointment, a Private Sector Director is to hold office for an initial period of three years. He or she may be re-appointed in accordance with Article 26.1 for a further two terms of three years.
- 31.1 Directors may undertake any services for the Company that the Directors decide.
- 31.2 Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the Directors determine:
 - 31.2.1 for their services to the Company as Directors; and
 - 31.2.2 for any other service which they undertake for the Company.
- 31.3 Subject to the Articles, a Director's remuneration may:
 - 31.3.1 take any form; and
 - 31.3.2 include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director.
- 31.4 Unless the Directors decide otherwise, Directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.
- 31.5 Unless the Directors decide otherwise, Directors are not accountable to the Company for any remuneration which they receive as Directors or other officers or employees of the Company's subsidiaries or of any other body corporate in which the Company is interested.

Dorset LEP Nomination & Remuneration Committee

- 2.4. Be responsible for the recruitment process to fill all vacancies on the Dorset LEP Board – including Chair and Deputy Chair roles and Committees as and when they arise. This includes identifying and nominating candidates.
- 2.5. Regarding the recruitment to the role of Chair, to ensure wide consultation with the business community before any appointment are made and to ensure the Dorset LEP works with Government to advertise on the Chair role for private sector leaders when vacancies emerge, including listing this on the vacancies section of the Centre for Public Appointments website.
- 2.6. Provide any direction necessary when deviation from the Dorset LEP recruitment process is considered, specifically regarding the balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity; ensuring the arrangements are in line with the Articles of Association and Assurance Framework.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.09.20	Item Number	5.2.2
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Implementation of Board Review		
Recommendation	The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Board approves the proposal to recruit an external company to undertake a Board Review in October 2020.		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Board approves the proposal to recruit an external company to undertake a Board Review in October 2020. This will ensure the Dorset LEP meets the requirements of the [Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) in a timely fashion, that the future skills requirements and any gaps can be identified, that any co-opted Board members can be understood in a timely way, and also to assist Board members to realise their full potential as Company Directors which in turn strengthens the company. It will also identify a process for regular member development reviews.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
I. ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Dorset LEP Board is responsible for strategy development as well as monitoring the implementation of strategic initiatives to assess whether they are on time, on budget and producing effective results. As the company's oversight body it must also ensure that the company has adequate information, control and audit systems in place to assess whether the company is meeting its objectives. It ensures the company complies with legal and ethical standards dictated by law and the Dorset LEP own values and has the responsibility for preventing and managing crises. The Dorset LEP Articles of Association are clear on the responsibilities of the Board and its members.

II. PURPOSE OF A BOARD REVIEW

The Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnership paper is prescriptive in the membership of LEP Boards – for instance the percentage of female representatives and that the Chair must be from the private sector. It is essential that the Dorset LEP review the Board to ensure ongoing compliance and able to respond to challenges in the future. It is also good practice of any Limited Company to undertake a Board review.

A Board member review assesses how skills are being used to govern and promote the success of the organisation and will identify any areas of duplication or gaps in skills (based on the members career and not restricted to their current role) which will inform future Board recruitment. It will also identify any training and development needs.

The aim of a board member review is to assist Board members to realise their full potential as Company Directors which in turn strengthens the organisation. Appraising a Board's

performance can clarify individual and collective roles, and better knowledge of what is expected of them can help boards become more effective and improved board performance can usually translate into better corporate governance.

III. CONDUCTING A BOARD REVIEW

It is recommended that an external company be appointed in order to undertake a full Board review. Working with the Nomination & Remuneration Committee it will create an initial set of objectives that cover the essential responsibilities of an effective Board and recommend priorities which will be sent to the Board for approval.

Possible areas for consideration may include:

- Whether the combined knowledge and experience of the Board members match the strategic demands facing the company
- The future skills requirements and any gaps in current membership
- Board member role description vs role in practice
- Board member contribution and attendance as part of a development review
- Challenging and analysing information and making decisions
- Consideration of an annual appraisal with the Chair.

It is recommended that a company be appointed to undertake the review. Final terms of reference will be developed with the appointed company and circulated to the LEP members.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee recommend the Board approves the proposal to appoint an external company to undertake a Board Review.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.09.20	Item Number	5.2.3
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Update on Committee Recruitment Campaign		
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 is to inform the Board that the Nomination & Remuneration Committee will shortly undergo a recruitment process to fill vacancies and to create a pipeline of members for various Committees and the Board.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

As per its Terms of Reference, the Nomination & Remuneration Committee are responsible for considering succession planning for Dorset LEP Board and its Committees and for the recruitment process to fill vacancies when they arrive.

There are vacancies for members of the business community to fill on the following Committees:

- Performance & Investment Committee
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee
- Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee.

We are looking to create a pipeline of members for future vacancies for the Dorset LEP Board as well as the Skills Advisory Panel & Board.

The recruitment process will be open, and all vacancies advertised on the Dorset LEP webpage, promoted through our social media channels and elsewhere. The Board are also encouraged to promote the opportunities via their networks.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only.

The papers for agenda Item 5.3 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.09.20	Item Number	5.4
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Update on Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
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 is a summary of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee activity July to September 2020.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The first Overview & Scrutiny meeting was held in July 2020 where the terms of Reference were agreed, and a Chair and Deputy Chair appointed. The Chair of the Committee is Councillor Philip Broadhead (BCP Council) and the Deputy Chair the independent representative Aaron Lawes (Director at PKF Francis Clark).

The second Committee meeting was held in September to determine the work schedule of activity. It was agreed that ahead of every Committee meeting, links to minutes from other relevant Committees such as the Board, Performance & Investment Committee and Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee would be circulated for information.

The focus of the future work programme will include retrospective review as well as forward plans in order to review and make recommendations to the Board.

The work programme for January will include an overview of how risk is managed, the impact of Covid-19 on the strategic direction, the governance of the committee structure in terms of making recommendations to the Board and the evolution of Board membership.

The minutes from this Committee are available on our website [here](#).

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	26 September 2020	Item Number	6.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Business Growth and Inward Investment update		
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the doubling of business support funding secured by Dorset LEP. • That board members promote the various new programmes of support that have been developed. • To note the work and efforts of the partners that have helped to develop enquiries relating to the Dorset's Sustainable Aquaculture HPO. 		
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 and current activity within the key sectors across Dorset.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

This report supports the DLEP's 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).

2.1 Dorset Gateway

Dorset Gateway Core Funding: In addition to the core funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which Growth Hubs receive on an annual basis (£12m for 38 LEP Growth Hubs), an additional £10m was agreed in the March Budget for LEPs for their Growth Hubs for 2020-21. Through discussions with BEIS, Dorset LEP has provisionally secured an additional £257,000 of funding from this additional budget uplift, effectively more than doubling the current budget provision that is available to support Dorset businesses through the Dorset Gateway. As a result, we have been able to recruit four additional members of the Dorset Gateway team. We are also working closely with other business support projects and partners to increase capacity around areas such as export advice, innovation support and key sector growth.

Peer Networks Programme: Dorset LEP has been awarded £165,000 to run a Peer Networks programme in Dorset. Peer Networks is a national peer-to-peer networking initiative for SMEs that will be delivered locally through Dorset LEP's and its growth hub, Dorset Gateway. The programme is funded by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in response to a commitment made in the 2019 Business Productivity Review (BPR).

We ran an open tendering process seeking tenders from organisations able to deliver key elements of the Peer Network programme and support the growth of at least 120 participants from SMEs across the Dorset LEP area. A total of nine proposals were submitted and evaluated against the criteria, with a number of applicants invited to interviews to discuss their proposals more fully. The programme will see the creation of a series of peer networks (cohorts), with each group consisting of between 8-11 owners or managers from the SME business community participating in each network. Led by an experienced facilitator, these peer networks will typically meet fortnightly as part of delivering 18 hours of action learning through two-to-three hour sessions.

As part of the national programme, the government has established a set of minimum criteria that participating businesses should meet as set out in the table below.

Figure 1: Peer Network - participating business criteria

Essential criteria	Desirable criteria
In operation for 1 year+	Scale ups
At least 5 employees	Exporters and potential exporters
An aspiration to improve	
A turnover of at least £100,000	
In operation for 1 year+	

Businesses looking to join these networks can register their interest via our dedicated Peer Network page: www.dorsetlep.co.uk/peernetworks

2.2 COVID-19

Building on previous updates, we have continued to respond to the challenges that COVID-19 is having on Dorset's business community across a series of measures.

COVID-19 SME Support Programmes

Kickstarting Tourism and SME Recovery Grants: In July, the Government announced that a share of £30 million would be distributed to each Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), made up of a £10 million Kick-starting Tourism Package for small businesses in the tourism sector and a further £20 million of funding to help smaller businesses recover from the effects of COVID-19.

As a result, a total of just under £550,000 of grant funding has been awarded to Dorset. This funding will be available to SME businesses in the form of grants, between £1,000 and £5,000. The support will be fully funded by the Government from the England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and distributed through Dorset Growth Hub (DGH). The grants will allow eligible businesses to access specialist professional advice (e.g. human resources, accountants, legal, financial, IT

/ digital) or purchase minor equipment to adapt or adopt new technology in order to continue or diversify their business activity.

Of the £550,000 allocated by the Government, a proportion has been specifically set aside for those SMEs working in, or supporting, the tourism sector. The remaining funds are to help the wider SME community that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Whilst funding can be used for adaptations and new technology such as digital signage, it cannot be used to pay for things like Perspex screens or other personal protective equipment (PPE).

**If you are a Dorset-based SME and want to be informed when the applications open and receive guidelines, leave your details on [this simple form](https://www.dorsetgrowthhub.co.uk/recovery-grant).
<https://www.dorsetgrowthhub.co.uk/recovery-grant>**

Business Resilience Programme: In July we announced that we were partnering with financial and professional services firm, Smith & Williamson, to offer Dorset-based businesses access to free expert advice and support to help them recover from impacts of COVID-19. As part of the support package, we are offering businesses the opportunity to access fully-funded one-to-one support with specialists, based on their particular business needs.

With the UK's departure from the EU still likely to have a major impact on how businesses will operate in the future, the support being offered will also help them to get ready for when the transition period ends at the end of 2020.

The programme will be delivered between September and October through a series of five themed webinars and one-to-one business health reviews. For full details about all of the webinars, their content and how to register, visit our dedicated programme webpage: <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/business-resilience-programme>

Crowdfund Dorset Business: In May, Dorset LEP launched a £50,000 fund to give existing micro and small businesses the opportunity to receive grant funding to help them recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Crowdfund Dorset LEP is an open call for projects that can demonstrate how they will help a business cope with current challenging trading conditions. There is a maximum pledge of £5,000 per project (depending upon the size of the business) contributing up to 50% towards the total crowdfund target. To date the fund has received 16 applications from a range of business across the county. Five projects have had funding pledges made by Dorset LEP, all of which have successfully achieved their funding targets. The funds committed to date will hopefully help to protect 44 existing jobs and create five new jobs.

CROWDFUND DORSET BUSINESS	
Total number of applications	13
Number applications pledged to	5
Number of provisional approvals	2
Number of applications declined	3

Number of applications under review	6
Value of approved and provisional applications	£29,811
Value of applications under review	£17,000

Coronavirus business interruption schemes: Paul Jones, Senior Manager UK Network Team South West for the British Business Bank (BBB) attended the Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee meeting on 27th August to provide an update on the various coronavirus finance schemes that the BBB were administering on behalf of the Government. This included data benchmarking the take up of finance support from Dorset businesses against the rest of the UK and the south west as well as data by Dorset's electoral wards. This data is presented in the tables below.

LEP	Sum of CBILS Number of Loans Offered	CBILS Value of Loans Offered	BBLS Number of Loans Offered	BBLS Value of Loans Offered	Regional % of Vat SME pop.	CBILS Number of Loans Offered	BBLS Number of Loans Offered	Average CBILS	Average BBLS
Cornwall	400	£ 79,110,791	9,035	£ 248,490,331	10.4%	10.1%	11.7%	£ 197,777	£ 27,503
Dorset	663	£ 125,104,702	12,363	£ 361,994,082	13.9%	16.8%	16.0%	£ 188,695	£ 29,280
Gfirst	502	£ 116,224,759	8,476	£ 243,183,915	12.6%	12.7%	11.0%	£ 231,523	£ 28,691
Heart of South West	1,244	£ 247,766,822	26,068	£ 738,449,539	32.9%	31.5%	33.7%	£ 199,169	£ 28,328
Swindon and Wiltshire	412	£ 90,764,447	8,424	£ 240,486,063	12.8%	10.4%	10.9%	£ 220,302	£ 28,548
West of England	729	£ 147,264,269	12,965	£ 381,220,780	17.4%	18.5%	16.8%	£ 202,009	£ 29,404
Grand Total	3,950	£ 806,235,790	77,331	£ 2,213,824,710				£ 204,110	£ 28,628
National	39,500	£ 9,139,000,000	966,638	£28,846,000,000				£ 231,367	£ 29,842

Figure 3: take-up of Coronavirus business interruption schemes – Dorset vs south west

Constituency	Sum of CBILS Number of Loans Offered	CBILS Value of Loans Offered	BBLS Number of Loans Offered	BBLS Value of Loans Offered	Regional % of Vat SME pop.	CBILS Number of Loans Offered	BBLS Number of Loans Offered	Average CBILS	Average BBLS
Bournemouth East	38	£ 6,554,660	1658	£ 45,763,406	10.5%	5.7%	13.4%	£ 172,491	£ 27,602
Bournemouth West	114	£ 25,353,033	2001	£ 60,591,797	12.4%	17.2%	16.2%	£ 222,395	£ 30,281
Christchurch	92	£ 14,096,930	1433	£ 43,252,450	11.6%	13.9%	11.6%	£ 153,228	£ 30,183
Mid Dorset and North Po	58	£ 10,622,268	1270	£ 36,430,674	10.6%	8.7%	10.3%	£ 183,143	£ 28,686
North Dorset	99	£ 20,413,887	1516	£ 44,190,011	15.5%	14.9%	12.3%	£ 206,201	£ 29,149
Poole	118	£ 25,256,810	1770	£ 55,385,868	13.7%	17.8%	14.3%	£ 214,041	£ 31,291
South Dorset	49	£ 8,229,600	1085	£ 29,666,487	9.2%	7.4%	8.8%	£ 167,951	£ 27,342
West Dorset	95	£ 14,577,514	1630	£ 46,713,389	16.6%	14.3%	13.2%	£ 153,448	£ 28,659
Grand Total	663	£ 125,104,702	12363	£ 361,994,082				£ 188,695	£ 29,280
National								£ 231,367	£ 29,842

Figure 4: take-up of Coronavirus business interruption schemes – Dorset's electoral wards

In summary:

- Dorset slightly down against averages across the south west and the UK more generally.
- Around a third of businesses have taken BBLS (data is based on VAT paying businesses only so is not 100% accurate).
- Bournemouth East has very low CBIL take-up with high BBLS take-up
- Bournemouth West has a very high take-up of both schemes
- Poole has seen very high CBILS take up

2.3 Sector updates

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN): There are now more than 90 members of the SWAN and the organisation has gained a good level of engagement across the wider south-west region. Subject to rules regarding organised gatherings and events, the network is proposing to send representation to the European Aquaculture event being held in Cork, in May 2021. The next scheduled SWAN meeting will take place in mid-October 2020.

Dorset Mariculture Strategy: The Dorset Mariculture Strategy, produced by Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) was launched at the end of August. Alongside the strategy a new online website will also be launched www.dorsetaquaculture.co.uk. The website is a virtual hub which provides a one stop shop to help with applications for licenses and permissions, highlights some of the existing businesses already operating in Dorset and provides insight into the industry for the general public. The strategy is available now to download from the Dorset Coast Forum website <https://www.dorsetcoast.com/projects/aquaculture/> and anyone who wants more information should contact Martin Sutcliffe on 01305 224766 or by e-mail at martin.sutcliffe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

South West Agritech (SWA): SWA has held two virtual meetings in recent months, both of which were very well attended. The Department of International Trade's HQ Team will be seeking to concentrate on six regional clusters within UK, of which the south west will be one. This has been achieved despite not being a formal organisation as a result of the region's status and relationship with DIT. The group has recently agreed to develop one positioning paper to be written to present to all SW LEP boards.

2.4 Department for International Trade

Dorset's Sustainable Aquaculture High Potential Opportunity (HPO): Dorset's Sustainable Aquaculture HPO has to date generated 10 investment enquiries; five domestic and five overseas making it the most successful in terms of lead generation from the Round 1 HPOs. Whilst the details of these enquiries are subject to commercial confidentiality, several are progressing well and we understand that one is in the latter stages of reaching a formal agreement. As a result, this has formed the basis of a short internal case study that has been shared amongst DIT's Investment Services Team colleagues. This has been in no small part down to the support provided by the coordinated efforts of partners across Dorset. Most notably, outside of Dorset LEP, this has been provided by Jo Rufus, Economic Development Officer at Dorset Council and Martin Sutcliffe, Aquaculture Development Officer, from Dorset Coast Forum.

High Potential Opportunity (HPO) Round 2: On 7th August the successful nominations for the second round of HPOs were announced. Unfortunately, neither of the individual Dorset nominations - one for Cyber Security and one for Digital Health and Care - were successful. However, the Cyber nomination has been recognised as suitable for inclusion in the National Proposition on Cyber which will be developed shortly.

In addition, the Great South West multi-LEP proposition on marine autonomy has been accepted which Dorset will play a major part in. Furthermore, it is one of the HPOs that has been chosen for priority development and work will begin by

October. Ahead of that a stakeholder workshop will be held at the end of September which Dorset LEP will be attending.

Detailed feedback was provided on all three nominations and shared with the LEP.

Inward Investment Roundtables: On the 23rd July Lord Grimstone, DIT Minister for Investment led a Town Hall discussion with the LEPs on the future investment strategy for the UK. This discussion was one in a series of five Inward Investment Roundtables that Lord Grimstone has hosted with different stakeholder groups. A second was held a week later primarily for existing foreign investors in the UK. It is anticipated that the new Investment Strategy will be launched in September.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- To note the doubling of business support funding secured by Dorset LEP.
- That board members promote the various new programmes of support that have been developed.
- To note the work and efforts of the partners that have helped to develop enquiries relating to the Dorset's Sustainable Aquaculture HPO.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22 September 2020	Item Number	6.2
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		
Recommendation	For Information		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper is to update the Board on activity related to skills/

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Signs of recovery? Dorset LEP's Labour Market Insights: July 2020

As part of Dorset LEP's recovery planning, we have been analysing data and insights on the region's economy and labour market, monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Dorset.

As lockdown measures have been eased, this month's data shows tentative signs of recovery in the labour market.

Overall level of job vacancies in Dorset has increased by over 20% compared to June – increasing higher than the national average of 10%, however, vacancy levels remain over 1,200 lower than the same time last year. There has been a notable increase in vacancies across the accommodation, food, construction and manufacturing sectors, which are among the sectors most reliant on contact and therefore most affected by the lockdown measures.

Regarding the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits which is one indicator of unemployment, there were 25,230 claimants in Dorset in July – 745 less than the peak in May, showing signs of stabilisation. However, the claimant numbers among young people aged between 16 and 24 has continued to rise. It has to be noted that this indicator is currently overstating the level of those genuinely unemployed, mainly due to changes in Universal Credit and delays in work status updates (find out more about the data limitations in our [Understanding LMI during COVID-19](#) paper).

As vacancies have started to recover and the claimant count has stabilised, there was a ratio of 6 unemployed (people claiming benefits thus treated as being unemployed) for each vacancy in July. This has fallen from 8 in May but remains well above its pre-crisis levels of around 2 claimants per vacancy in February and the pattern of higher ratio in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole compared to the rest of Dorset remained consistent.

The latest insights are visually represented in a [labour market insights dashboard for July 2020](#), and show the evolving impact of COVID-19 on the local economy and people.

Read brief commentary to the dashboard in our [Labour market insight commentary July 2020](#) and our observations of [Labour market general trends July 2020](#).

The monthly dashboards including latest labour market statistics and commentary, will be produced until the end of 2020.

New Programmes

During August the 'Plan for Jobs' was announced by the Chancellor, the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP.

It focusses on the support for Apprenticeships, Traineeships, investment in the National Careers Service, and a new 'Kickstart Scheme' which are considered as an holistic programme of support within the plan.

The complete document can be found at using the link below.

This programme is intended to support the UK's economic recovery while continuing to prioritise people's health by:

- introducing a new **Job Retention Bonus** to encourage firms to keep on furloughed workers
- supporting jobs with direct help to find work and to gain the skills people need to get a job
- protecting jobs in the hard-hit hospitality and accommodation sectors and at attractions by supporting demand for these businesses, giving them confidence to reopen
- creating jobs with action to get the property market moving, to increase and bring forward infrastructure investment, and to make homes greener, warmer and cheaper to heat.

The Government has also announced **Further Education Incentive Schemes** in order to support Apprenticeships. We will be gathering feedback on the level of success of the scheme over the coming weeks.

The principle issue will be to ensure that we utilize all the services and sources of support in the most cogent programme we can achieve in order to realise synergies between the DLEP programmes, those of DC and BCP Councils and the Government Agencies in order to drive real delivery and value for money.

We are presently sharing information and the evidence base with DWP/JCP, each of the local authorities and all of the training and skills providers using the 'Local Market Information' (LMI) Dash Boards to underpin advice to all of those individuals transitioning between education, or unemployment and the world of work.

These 'dash boards' exist for each of the target industries identified in the LIS and will form both a monthly snap-shot and a longitudinal reference of the changes that occur over the next 12 months.

At the SAP Board on the 14th September 2020 it was agreed to map all the monitoring information of each of the support schemes in progress across the various partnerships in order that a performance dashboard can be prepared for future meetings.

Additional Sources:

The DLEP insight for July is located here - <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/dorset-labour-market-insights-july-2020>

Reference/information sources:

- Plan for Jobs <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-plan-for-jobs-documents>
- Apprenticeship Programme Response to COVID-19 (version 7) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response>
- Apprenticeships Funding Policy 2020/21 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding>
- Apprenticeship Funding Rules 2020/21 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apprenticeship-funding-rules>
- Traineeships <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeship-information-for-employers>

To note:

In Parliament the **Economic Affairs Committee** has launched an enquiry into Employment and the impact of COVID 19. They completed a round of gathering evidence on the 10th September.

Careers and Enterprise Company Programme Update

The Dorset Careers Hub

The Dorset Careers Hub has worked intensively with 40 institutions as part of a pilot programme since November 2019 to explore whether increased funding and provision results in more rapid progress towards achieving the Gatsby benchmarks. The Dorset Careers Hub has made exceptional performance in the first ten months and is out-performing equivalents in other LEP areas across the country. In recognition of this, within the last quarter the Dorset Careers Hub has received notice of additional funding to expand its work across 75 schools, Further Education Institutions and establishments for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (for which the DLEP partnership has been awarded an additional sum for developing a 'Community of Best Practise'). The re-structured programme to begin on 1st September 2020.

Of recent days we have appointed an interim Hub Lead (to cover maternity leave), and an additional Senior Enterprise Co-ordinator within the Dorset Careers Hub, in order to balance out the increased workload. This is to enable the widening of the Dorset Careers Hub to become a truly Dorset-wide initiative.

The immediate challenges are to engage lead schools, restructure the clusters and identify / appoint new Enterprise Advisors from Dorset based businesses to provide advice to each of the newly introduced schools.

The original Dorset Careers Hub was focussed up Weymouth and Portland. The partnership learnt a great deal in working with the school cluster in this area, learning which the DLEP partnership needs to retain and apply to other Super Output Areas in Dorset. Dorset Council officers are presently developing a project to extend the CEC programme into Primary Schools in the Weymouth and Portland area in order to begin to address some of the social mobility issues at a much earlier stage in a young person's school life.

We have received confirmation from the Careers and Enterprise Company for the funding package for the period September 2020 to the end of August 2021.

There is an addition of some carry over from the period up to September 2020 which was previously allocated to schools but has not been claimed by the institutions over the summer – this is being resolved.

Both the CEC and the LEP team have been developing and delivering web conferences for young people, teachers and parents in order to promote pathways to employment and present apprenticeships as a 're-enforced' option for the future (as additional grants are available to Further Education centres and employers as incentives to both retain and add to the apprenticeship programme).

The proposals to restructure the groupings of schools and for the identification of 'lead' institutions has been shared with both BCP & DC Councils as have the new contracts for financial support that will run from 1st September 2020 for 12 months.

3. RECOMMENDATION

For information

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22 September 2020	Item Number	7.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset Tourism Association Update – post conference		
Recommendation	For info only		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

Update of DTA activities

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Ongoing work

3. RECOMMENDATION

Info Only

Coronavirus

The industry reopened on 4th July, with accommodation bookings being strong and this pattern continuing into the autumn, albeit with a time horizon of only 4-6 weeks. Capacity remains a key constraint with all providers limiting numbers due to social distancing. Analysis of internet traffic to the Visit Dorset website suggests that interest in holidays in Dorset is currently at roughly similar levels to 2019s, following a significant spike at the beginning of the summer.

The experience in Dorset seems reflective of the national picture. Research by the National Coastal Tourism Academy (NCTA), which has included data gathering in Dorset has highlighted that:

- 7% of businesses have already permanently closed on the coast and the economic impact for 2020 is forecast to be a cut in tourism spend of £7.96bn in England, £10.3bn for Great Britain.
- Most businesses are operating at between 40-60% capacity over the peak summer period with most stating this model is not commercially viable - 67% it will take up to a year before they can return to a profit and 41% believe it will take up to two years.
- 78.4% of businesses feel ongoing Government support (beyond existing measures) will make "a significant difference between survival and collapse"
- Whilst the numbers of visitors in coastal destinations has been good, the number of overnight visitors is lower than normal due to social distancing measures, and thus there has been a higher number of day visitors who have been spending less. As a result there is still a decline in tourism spend versus previous years. Many businesses are now concerned about surviving the autumn / winter season.

The DLEP should continue to be part of a lobbying process to encourage government support to the sector through the upcoming winter.

Current Support

As part of the recovery process, DLEP is collaborating with the other Great South West LEP's to participate in a promotional programme to encourage visitors to come and visit our region in the autumn.

The Dorset Growth Hub is administering a £500k fund from the ERDF for SME Recovery, of which £300k is directed towards small grants for tourism businesses. The DTA has been pushing this to members, and have generated over 1,000 expressions of interest, which is likely to mean that the fund is at least six times oversubscribed. This clearly illustrates the need for support from an industry that has been particularly hard hit by the lockdown and subsequent operating restrictions.

Future Strategy

Future operation of tourism in the county was reviewed by an NCTA study at the beginning of 2020. The DTA Chair, LEP Director and representatives of BCP and Dorset Councils met to discuss how this plan can be implemented, which may have implications for distribution of spends. This work is ongoing.

The sectors covered by the DTA are examining the potential for structural investment into the sector to improve productivity, sustainability and resilience. When refined, proposals will move through the existing pipeline process for consideration by the LEP Board.