

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>	

4.	Guest Presentation	
4.1	<p>Covid-19 Economic Impact Presentation MS gave a presentation on the Covid-19 economic impact.</p> <p>The presentation drew together the analytical work and action planning undertaken by Dorset LEP since the onset of Covid-19 and covered the mechanisms by which the pandemic affects the economy as well as the risk and resilience factors that will drive local economic outcomes, and how these could play out in Dorset relative to pre-Covid baseline assumptions and comparator geographies. It also covered the medium and longer-term implications of the Covid-19 crisis for key business sectors, clusters and sub-geographies; the challenges and the opportunities; the scope for local action and influence over outcomes and how far existing strategic objectives and action plans need to be re-assessed and the priority topics / questions to revisit with stakeholders.</p> <p>MS explained that the evidence base for the Local Industrial Strategy is robust and does not require any changes as a result of Covid-19. Certain aspects of the Local Industrial Strategy need to be prioritised in light of Covid-19 such as digital infrastructure for households where multiple people are using the internet for work or schooling purposes at home.</p> <p>Action: The presentation will be circulated to the Board.</p>	KH
4.2	<p>Investment Prospectus Presentation SR provided an update on the development of the Dorset Investment Prospectus. The Board were reminded that the Investment Prospectus will underpin a number of detailed investment opportunities for the Dorset Local Industrial Strategy and other associated economic growth plans across Dorset. Its purpose is to translate the Dorset ambitions into a coherent programme for investment and delivery in the next 2 to 10 years.</p> <p>Following a survey issued to the Local Industrial Strategy Steering Group, SR presented the preferred Investment Prospectus design for Board approval.</p> <p>Action: The Board all agreed the initial Prospectus 'design-style' as preferred by the Steering Group.</p> <p>SR highlighted that an initial review of all current LEP pipeline investments had been undertaken and the report set out initial feedback and recommendations on content development. The Board were asked to consider a strategic response to options outlined in the paper for development of both recovery actions and next steps for investment propositions and to consider the level of ambition for the prospectus. This included whether there should be a more aggressive strategy to attract large corporations to Dorset as an environment with great home working and lifestyle for employees.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the impact of Covid-19 on the high street and how many commercial properties in these areas will be transformed into residential properties. This provides an opportunity to completely rethink the high street and shopping experience; Birmingham Bullring was cited as an example as to where this had successfully been achieved.</p> <p>Action: LIS Steering group to discuss the detail of how to reengage and engage the public and private sector in pipeline development.</p>	<p>All agreed</p> <p>All agreed</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>	
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