

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

28 SEPTEMBER 2021 FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.00 PM

HELD AT KINGSTON MAURWARD COLLEGE AND VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Andrew Wickham (AW)
Diane Grannell (DG)
Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)
Emma Hunt (EH)
Ian Girling (IG)
Jim Andrews (JA)
Jim Stewart (JS)
Cllr John Beesley (JB)
John Sutcliffe (JSu)
Luke Rake (LR)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Sara Uzzell (SU)
Sophia Story (SS)

Also Present:

Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)
Daniela Doncakova (DD) (Dorset LEP)
Elizabeth Spence (ES) (BEIS)
Graham Farrant (GF) (BCP Council)
Heather Lappin (HL) (Dorset Council)
Jon Bird (JB) (Dorset Council)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Arabella Lewis-Smith (AL)
Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)
Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Read (PR)
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)

Presenting:

Cas Paton - OnBuy

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Arabella Lewis-Smith, Drew Mellor, Nicola Newman, Paul Read, Tony Ferrari and Spencer Flower.</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest.</p>	
2.	Guest Presentation	
2.1	<p>Presentation from OnBuy</p> <p>CB introduced Cas Paton (CP) from OnBuy.</p> <p>CP presented on the company OnBuy including when it was launched, the nature of the business and its rapid growth both financially and globally. He explained that the company made the decision to retain its headquarters in Dorset and expand its office space.</p> <p>CP explained he felt there was a strong alignment between OnBuy and the Silicon Beach concept which is the reason for his growth in Dorset. He stated the company's recruiting of tech talent to the region has built awareness of what Dorset stands for and is a great opportunity but more could be done to support businesses who want to grow in the area.</p> <p>He advised that support for new companies in finding space at Lansdowne is needed as well as work to attract and build a community of digital, tech and creative sectors at Lansdowne. CP also advised that encouraging the establishment of provisions for office workers such as café's shops and bars would help strengthen the area as a business environment.</p> <p>The Board thanked CP for his presentation and congratulated him on the success of his business and how helpful hearing his account of growing his business in Dorset had been.</p> <p>JB said he was interested to hear what else BCP could do to support OnBuy now and in the future.</p> <p>CP reiterated that it is essential to remove barriers and proactively offer support for new companies in the area particularly in expanding both in terms of physical space and human resource recruitment</p> <p>CP also advised support for companies who want to attract top talent away from London is needed. Selling the leisure aspects for future employee's work-life balance is essential as well as the future vision of Lansdowne being a fantastic place to work.</p> <p>GF said he had met with CP to talk about some of these challenges around accommodation. He advised that there has been significant investment into the Lansdowne area and that BCP are committed to making sure it is the premier business district in Dorset. GF stated that he would gain an update from colleagues and provide a presentation on Lansdowne as a key business district at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>DG asked whether there was also an opportunity to create a pipeline of talent through the local colleges and Universities. CP said he had been talking to Bournemouth University and that he is currently looking for a new HR Director</p>	

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2.	Guest Presentation Cont'd	
2.1	<p>Presentation from OnBuy Cont'd</p> <p>to build those local relationships. He stated they are interested in building a pipeline but at present due to their rapid growth need experienced talent to hit the ground running.</p> <p>NG thanked CP for his presentation. He explained that he has built high tech businesses over the years and attracting talent is an issue he too had experienced. He emphasised the importance of recognising challenges and taking on Board CP's experiences today in order to attract and retain businesses in Dorset.</p> <p>CB thanked CP for sharing his experiences and stated that we would follow up with an email of the various Board members who have offered support's details.</p> <p>CP left the meeting.</p>	CO
3.	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.	
7.3	<p>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee</p> <p>JSu informed the Board that the Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee was reviewing its Terms of Reference to ensure it is strategically focused. A working group will review the Terms of Reference following the outcome of the LEP Review to ensure this and make any suggested changes for consideration to the Board.</p> <p>The Board approved the recommendations in the paper, which were that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the review growth hubs and business support alongside the wider national business support offering • note the continued success of the Peer Networks programme • note the latest successes through the Bid Writing Support Service. 	All noted
7.2	<p>Enterprise Zone Committee</p> <p>JSu updated on the Enterprise Zone. He advised that the Battlelab continues to grow and has further aspirations. He informed that there will be an opening ceremony for the Battlelab in November and then a Ministerial level event at the Enterprise Zone in the new year.</p> <p>JSu advised links had been made with the Dorset LEP funded AUB Innovation Centre regarding potential collaboration. He also updated that we continue to work with Dorset Council and the MoD as to how they might stimulate the rest of the Enterprise Zone site.</p>	
4	<p>Interim Director's Update</p> <p>CO said she would take the paper as being read and invited ES to comment on the LEP Review and Cabinet reshuffle.</p> <p>ES informed the Board that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities</p>	

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4	<p>Interim Director's Update Cont'd</p> <p>and advised that Michael Gove is now the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations. She confirmed that the LEP Review is still ongoing, is expected to be announced alongside the Levelling Up White Paper and Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.</p>	
5	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>CB gave a brief update. She said that Michael Gove's new position presents a key opportunity for LEPs. CB highlighted the open letter for the Great South West to be recognised as the 'UK's Natural Powerhouse' and updated the Board that we have been regularly writing to our local MPs.</p> <p>CB stated it was exciting that the business case pipeline call was engaging new organisations and updated that she had received a number of calls from private sector companies asking about this.</p> <p>She congratulated Dorset Council for receiving 3 prizes at the Connected Britain awards in relation to 5G.</p> <p>CB informed the Board that two Board members will be leaving at the end of the year. She explained that EH is taking on a new position and leaving AUB and that DG is retiring. She formally thanked them for all the work they have done both on the Board and in their Committees.</p>	
6.	<p>Governance</p>	
6.1	<p>Performance and Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>DD took the paper as read and a discussion took place.</p> <p>The Board approved the recommendations in the paper:</p> <p>Local Growth Fund NOTE: The Board notes the outcome of the Gillingham Growth residual land project written procedure</p> <p>NOTE: The Board notes the success and achievements of the Local Growth Fund Programme.</p> <p>Getting Building Fund NOTE: The Board notes the project end date extension from November 2021 to March 2022 for the Network Infrastructure (Bournemouth & Poole College) project, approved by the Performance & Investment Committee on 7 September 2021.</p> <p>NOTE: The Board notes the Getting Building Fund financial and programmatic update.</p>	<p>All noted</p> <p>All noted</p> <p>All noted</p> <p>All noted</p>

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6.	Governance	
6.2	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>CO took the paper as read and highlighted to the Board that topics covered in the last meeting were how Dorset LEP engages the business community through its communications, how Dorset LEP shares best practice with other LEPs and what activity Dorset LEP has supported in terms of energy and digital. She also stated that the Committee had requested for the next meeting some local MPs are invited to discuss their view in the meeting itself on how the LEP and MPs can work more closely together.</p> <p>LR stated that continuing engagement with the local rural business community is essential.</p> <p>SU stated reaching a wide range of businesses across Dorset is essential through our communications. SU said the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is working really well, that it was a very interesting last meeting and the Committee ask lots of great questions.</p>	
6.3	<p>Nominations and Remuneration Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>JA informed that the Committee met and discussed the Director recruitment process and gender balance of the Board. He provided a summary of the paper and stated the Committee agreed that once the outcome of the LEP Review is known a Board review should be undertaken to ensure the right skills balance.</p> <p>The Board approved the recommendations in the paper which were that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve appointing the two female Board member pipeline candidates if they accept the offer of a one year co-opted position. • approve undertaking a Board review once the outcome of the LEP review is known. • endorse establishing a Dorset Low Carbon Energy Partnership as a Strategic Infrastructure Committee subgroup, with the provided Terms of Reference and Board member Nick Gaines as Chair. <p>NG reminded the Board that this latter recommendation follows from the Dorset Low Carbon Energy Opportunities document the Board approved at the last meeting. He emphasised that the purpose of the Partnership is to engage partners, ensure alignment around priorities and sharing of best practice to accelerate emerging opportunities.</p> <p>LR stated he was supportive of the Partnership and suggested the education representation is reduced to one Further Education and one Higher Education representative and this was agreed.</p>	<p>All approved</p> <p>All approved</p> <p>All approved</p>

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7.	Strategy	
7.1	<p>Skills Advisory Panel and Board</p> <p>EH said she would take the paper as read and highlighted the great work around the Labour Market Information data that RD's team provides.</p> <p>She informed the Board that in the Cabinet reshuffle the Secretary of State for Education was changed and that the two sub ministers are coming together to work on further education and higher education.</p> <p>EH mentioned she was leaving her position at AUB later this year and therefore her position on the LEP Board and committees.</p> <p>NG stated the work around digital skills and lifelong learning was great and we need to accelerate this further.</p> <p>EH mentioned that some areas of the country already have devolution deals in regards skills funding and this would be of benefit to Dorset. ES gave an update on the County Deals proposition and that this could offer the devolution deal needed for Dorset and that there will be more details in the White paper. She confirmed the County Deals are Local Authority led, there will be more details as to what the deals contain later in the year and that BCP had already been in discussions with Cities & Local Growth Unit regarding this.</p>	
8.	Papers for Information	
8.1	<p>Advisory Group Updates</p> <p>The Board noted the Dorset Tourism Association update paper.</p> <p>SU informed that the Destination Management Organisation review came out at the end of last week and is being considered and response put together by the Association. She stated a key issue in the hospitality industry remains to be staffing which as a result of a shortage, some restaurants and pubs are having to take the decision to reduce their opening times.</p> <p>JB agreed with this point and stated it is something that will not quickly or easily be resolved. He also expressed his concern that there are staff shortages in the care sector.</p>	
9.	Any Other Business	
9.1	<p>CB stated the next Board meeting in November will be essential as it will discuss the outcome of the LEP review and asked Board members to prioritise attending, especially in person where possible.</p>	
9.2	<p>DG informed the Board that Bournemouth & Poole College are having a launch event for their Career Ready Hub on Wednesday 6 October from 4.00 to 6.00 pm at the Lansdowne site and Board members are welcome to attend.</p>	
9.3	<p>IG stated that from a business perspective the local market shows signs of recovery but highlighting the labour issues. He also advised that the speed of planning permission is still being highlighted as a key issue for local businesses.</p>	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 25 November at 10.00 am. This is being held at Bournemouth University, BH12 5BB and there will be an option for virtual attendance for those who cannot make the meeting in person.