

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING
22 JULY FROM 10:00 AM TO 12.30 PM
ZOOM MEETING
AGENDA

Time	Item	Subject/Title	Presenter	Recommendation
10.00	1.	Apologies and declarations of interest	Cecilia Buffon	
10.05	2.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising, and Board Papers Exec Summary	Cecilia Buffon	
	3.	Strategy		
10.15	3.1	Interim Director's Update	Corrina Osborne	It is recommended the Board notes the ongoing LEP review work, the securing of funding and strategy work since the last meeting.
10.20	3.2	Strategy update	Corrina Osborne	i. It is recommended the Board agrees the areas to prioritise for a business case pipeline. ii. It is recommended the Board approves establishing a small task and finish group to move this work forward.
10.40	3.3	Dorset Low Carbon Energy Investment Opportunities	Corrina Osborne/John Sutcliffe	It is recommended the Board approves recommendations in the paper.
	4.	Guest Presentation		
10.55	4.1	SW Energy Hub support offer for Dorset	Jon Rattenbury South West Energy Hub	Presentation to be given at the meeting

5. Strategic Committees Update				
11.20	5.1	Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee	Finn Morgan	<p>It is recommended the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notes the continued success of the Peer Networks programme notes the confirmed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 2020/21 figures for Dorset promotes the SME Internationalisation Fund amongst SME businesses
11.25	5.2	Skills Advisory Panel and Board	Rebecca Davies	None - for information only
11.30	5.3	Strategic Infrastructure Committee	Corrina Osborne	<p>i. It is recommended the Board notes the importance of the on-going work around energy and its significance to Dorset.</p> <p>ii. It is recommended the Board notes the value in producing an infrastructure prospectus in the future.</p> <p>iii. It is recommended that in order to have maximum impact, the Board supports the proposal for the Strategic Infrastructure Committee to become more focused in its remit.</p> <p>iv. It is recommended the Board notes that the Committee is working effectively in coordinating and facilitating stakeholders to collaborate on key strategic infrastructure strands.</p>
11.35	5.4	Enterprise Zone Committee	Daniela Doncakova	None - for information only
6. Governance Update				
11.40	6.1	Communications Update	Amy Blackham	None - for information only
11.45	6.2	Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee	Corrina Osborne	That the Board approves the recommendations in the paper
11.55	6.3	Performance and Investment Committee	Daniela Doncakova	That the Board approves the recommendations in the paper

12.05	6.4	Nomination & Remuneration Committee	Jim Andrews	That the Board approves the recommendations in the paper
12.15	8.	Any Other Business		

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

DRAFT MINUTES

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

25 MAY 2021 FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Andrew Wickham (AW)
Arabella Lewis-Smith (AL)
Diane Grannell (DG)
Cecilia Buffon (CB)
Emma Hunt (EH)
Ian Girling (IG)
Jim Andrews (JA)
Jim Stewart (JS) (Chair)
Cllr John Beesley (JB)
John Sutcliffe (JSu)
Luke Rake (LR)
Nick Brook (NB)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Read (PR)
Sara Uzzell (SU)
Sophia Story (SS)
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)

Also Present:

Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)
Daniela Doncakova (DD) (Dorset LEP)
David Walsh (DW) (Dorset Council)
Elizabeth Spence (ES) (BEIS)
Kate Ryan (GF) (BCP Council)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Lorna Carver (LC) (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)
Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
4	<p>Strategy Update</p> <p>IG started the item by explaining the results of the business economic survey written by the British Chamber of Commerce. He explained that from beginning of January to the end of March the economy was operating at two speeds. Cash flow was showing signs of improvements and professional services and marketing businesses were expecting turnover to increase. It said that businesses were feeling more optimistic. At a local level, some key issues were coming through and sectors that are open are starting to get busier. The industrial property market was picking up but the high street seems 'confused'. Recruitment is picking up and there were big increases in demand around hospitality. There are issues with recruitment around hospitality and construction though, with not enough people to fill the roles. Recovery was happening faster than anticipated but still need to see full effect once furlough has finished.</p> <p>JB mentioned that hospitality is facing a lot of problems and asked whether there is anything Dorset LEP should be doing in making representations to Government. He explained people have been returning to their home countries and the problems with language school students has caused a shortage of staff in the hospitality sector. If we get back to full capacity in hospitality it is going to be very difficult to staff that up. The impact has not yet been felt because hospitality is just opening up.</p> <p>IG mentioned that the British Chamber of Commerce would be a good route to do that.</p> <p>SU said that to attract businesses to Dorset there needs to be a strong economy all year round and that having a thriving visitor economy supports a regeneration and inward investment.</p> <p>JS said that a positive from Covid is staycations and that there has been an absolute surge in the leisure sector and the purchasing of boats has gone through the roof. Within the port sector there is a lot of uncertainty around cruises though. He informed that he had met with Sunseeker International and they had said that finding people to build their boats is an issue.</p> <p>DG said that changing policy of government is not going to happen overnight and so have a short term problem and suggested the idea of getting employment agencies in the area together to see if there is a way of helping.</p> <p>IG mentioned that some businesses are highlighting that getting lower skilled labour is also an issue.</p> <p>LC ran through her presentation on strategy and that the Board should be thinking about being ready for funding when it happens. There is some money available, if the Board is minded, to think about accelerating Dorset LEP to be in a position to be ready to go. She ran through the different strategy documents that are in place.</p> <p>Action: Strategy presentation to be circulated to the board.</p>	<p>KH</p>

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
5.	Governance	
5.1	<p>Communications Update</p> <p>CK said she would take the paper as being read but highlighted that we are putting together a Dorset LEP promotional video and thanked those board members who have already been involved in that.</p> <p>JSu mentioned the public Defence and Cyber Security event that was taking place on Friday 28th, if anyone was available and could attend. This would be covered by FM during his item.</p> <p>CB thanked the Comms team.</p> <p>The Board noted the paper.</p>	
5.2	<p>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO said she would take the paper as being read and updated the Board on the discussions at the recent FACR Committee.</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendation in the paper</p>	
5.3	<p>Performance and Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>DD said she would take her paper as being read but highlighted the recommendations in the paper.</p> <p>A discussion on the items in the paper took place.</p> <p>The Board approved the recommendations in the paper.</p>	
5.4	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>CO said she would take the paper as read. She highlighted that at the last meeting they covered managing conflicts of interest, SME engaging in business support offer, project lifecycle, project pipeline and support given to rural Dorset. The next meeting will cover best practice sharing with other LEPs, energy and digital connectivity activity and advertising Dorset LEP to businesses. The Committee noted Dorset LEP helps a breadth of businesses across Dorset and is proactive and willing to support activity to better the region.</p>	
6.	Strategy	
6.1	<p>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee</p> <p>FM said he was taking the paper as read but he mentioned a couple of points to note and was happy to take questions.</p> <p>FM spoke about the Global Investment Summit and explained this was a closed call from DiT to partners and they are looking for up to 20 projects across the UK. FM explained the criteria is set out under item 2.5 in the paper. The intension is to look through the list of projects put forward under the Investment Prospectus. It is not a public call and there is a very tight turnaround.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
6.	Strategy Cont'd	
6.1	<p>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee Cont'd</p> <p>Action: FM to follow up with the Board with the high level criteria and ask the Board if they know of any business to suggest to be put forward.</p> <p>FM informed that there have been 100 businesses register for the Defence and Security Event on Friday 28th from businesses within Dorset and also some from outside of Dorset.</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendations in the paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the opportunity to participate in Peer Networks in 2021/22 • To promote the two programmes being offered by the Department for International Trade • To decide which projects, if any, from Dorset should be put forward as part of the Global Investment Summit in October 2021 	
6.2	<p>Skills Advisory Panel and Board</p> <p>EH said she wanted to compliment everyone who sits on the Skills Advisory Panel and Board for all the work that goes on. She said there is great collaborative and partnership working within the panel. She informed there is also a local skills investment plan coming up shortly.</p> <p>She explained that businesses have been offering virtual work placements.</p> <p>LR informed that, as a group of colleges, they have put in for the Development Fund pilot.</p> <p>IG mentioned the Trail Blazer and that there will only be between 6 and 8 Trail Blazers across the whole of the UK. He felt it was important for Dorset to raise its hand. He wanted to thank Rebecca Davies for her help and support with the bid and that it had been a really valuable piece of work.</p>	
6.3	<p>Strategic Infrastructure Committee: Energy Update</p> <p>CO informed the Board that a Low-Carbon Energy Investment Plan has been drafted. She explained there was a Stakeholder meeting on Wednesday to discuss it and map out immediate priorities. There was also an Energy Working Group meeting to discuss what going to do with that plan next.</p> <p>CO updated that Connected Dorset has been re-established as a sub-group of Strategic Infrastructure Committee.</p> <p>JS informed that Connected Dorset met last week and agreed a new Terms of Reference for the group. He said that Connected Dorset seems to be a well supported group and he will update the Board for the next meeting. He explained that he also attended the Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body.</p>	

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
6.	Strategy Cont'd	
6.3	<p>Strategic Infrastructure Committee: Energy Update Cont'd</p> <p>CB mentioned communicating with MPs about sharing what the region is doing around rail.</p> <p>JS explained that Chris Loder MP was involved in a major project to try and link up the Weymouth/Dorchester line to Yeovil and London Salisbury line with north/south rail line. He said that this is discussed at the Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body and that the local authorities are part of that meeting and that he attends as the Chair of the Business and Transport Forum.</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendations in the paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended the Board notes progress towards addressing the Dorset energy crisis including the forthcoming Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Plan. • It is recommended the Board notes that Connected Dorset is now a sub-committee of the Strategic Infrastructure Committee, focused on promoting integrated, efficient and sustainable transport strategic priorities in the area. 	
6.4	<p>Enterprise Zone Committee</p> <p>CO mentioned there has been a meeting to discuss the Enterprise Zone Investment Plan. There has been lots of engagement and we have attended an MoD event on 20 May, a press conference on the Innovation Centre. The Battlelab is due to open in the Autumn and Dorset is set to be a real innovation centre.</p> <p>JSu explained that this is a flagship opportunity for Dorset for defence. A lot of collaboration going on. An enormous amount of collaboration between the local authority and the LEP to make this happen. Extremely positive and a lot of time and effort has been put in to make sure this stays on its current trajectory. It should deliver something quite good in next 2-5 years.</p> <p>TF mentioned Dorset Council's Levelling Up bid for a regeneration project in Portland to join up with the Innovation Centre to give water access.</p> <p>The Board noted the recommendations in the paper:</p> <p>It is recommended the Board commends the professional and enthusiastic contribution of Dorset Council, Dorset LEP and Ministry of Defence in the successful delivery of the Enterprise Zone Battle Lab.</p>	
7.	Papers for Information	
7.1	<p>Advisory Group Updates</p> <p>The Board noted the papers.</p> <p>LR informed the Board that the next Local Nature Partnership meeting was taking place in June.</p>	

DRAFT MINUTES

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
8.	Any Other Business	
	LC thanked the Board for their support during her time with Dorset LEP.	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 22 July at 10.00 am

DRAFT

The papers for agenda Item 3.1 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

The papers for agenda Item 3.2 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

The papers for agenda Item 3.3 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.07.21	Item Number	5.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Business Growth and Inward Investment update		
Recommendation	It is recommended the Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the continued success of the Peer Networks programme • notes the confirmed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 2020/21 figures for Dorset • promotes the SME Internationalisation Fund amongst SME businesses 		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input checked="" 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.

This report supports Dorset LEPs strategic objective for business growth and attracting inward investment to increase employment opportunity and raise productivity of businesses across the region.

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

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

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
2.1 Providing strategic direction in shaping the current and future business support provision across Dorset;
COVID LOAN FINANCE

The latest data published by the British Business Bank (BBB) shows that businesses across the South West received over £5.6bn in funding under the government's two largest Covid-19 loan schemes; the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs). The schemes provided financial support to businesses across the UK impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak, closing for applicants at the end of March 2021.

National context

- The proportion of overall loans in each of the nine English regions and three Devolved Nations matches closely their respective share of the UK business population.

- Outside London and the South East, the North West reports the largest usage of CBILS and BBLs.
- For CBILS, the manufacturing sector accessed a significantly higher proportion of loans (14%) than its share of the business population (5%), followed by wholesale and retail (17% v 9.2%).
- For BBLs, the wholesale and retail sector accessed a significantly higher proportion of loans (15%) than its share of the business population (9%). The construction sector accessed the highest proportion of BBLs loans overall (17%).
- Construction (17%) and wholesale and retail (15%) received the highest proportion of total loans.

A breakdown of figures against other LEP regions in the south west is set out below.

LEP	Sum of CBILS Number of Loans Offered	CBILS Value of Loans Offered	Average CBILS Value of Loans Offered	BBLs Number of Loans Offered	BBLs Value of Loans Offered	Average BBLs Value of Loans Offered	Number of Loans Offered	Value of Loans Offered
Cornwall	796	£ 176,455,442	£ 221,677.69	14761	£ 394,370,985	£ 26,717.09	15,557	570,826,427
Dorset	1394	£ 324,882,338	£ 233,057.63	19821	£ 571,873,489	£ 28,851.90	21,215	896,755,827
Gfirst	1128	£ 278,979,076	£ 247,321.88	13915	£ 393,709,498	£ 28,293.89	15,043	672,688,575
Heart of South West	2791	£ 642,968,138	£ 230,371.96	42783	£ 1,188,406,581	£ 27,777.54	45,574	1,831,374,719
Swindon and Wiltshire	937	£ 237,479,020	£ 253,446.13	13802	£ 388,855,743	£ 28,173.87	14,739	626,334,763
West of England	1603	£ 402,609,514	£ 251,160.02	21414	£ 617,612,373	£ 28,841.52	23,017	1,020,221,887
Grand Total	8,649	£ 2,063,373,529	£ 238,567.87	126,496	£ 3,554,828,669	£ 28,102.30	135,145	5,618,202,198
National	99,695	£ 26,080,072,546	£ 261,598.60	1,554,764	£ 47,183,086,867	£ 30,347.43	1,654,459	£ 73,263,159,413

High level Regional analysis

- Nearly 126,500 loans worth nearly £3.6bn have been provided across the region under the BBLs, which provided a six-year term loan from £2,000 up to 25% of a business' turnover, with a limit of £50,000.
- Over 8,600 loans worth over £2bn have been provided across the region under the CBILS, which provided Business loans, overdrafts, invoice finance & asset finance of up to £5m to businesses with a turnover less than £45m.
- SW region has received 8% of national loans against 9% of SME's showing a good distribution across UK
- The mean average value of a CBILS loan is lower than that of the SW regional average and the average for LEP regions across England.
- The mean average value of a BBLs loan is slightly above that of the SW regional average but is lower than the average for LEP regions across England.
- Dorset businesses received the third highest number of CBILS and BBLs loans of the six SW LEP regions, behind Heart of the South West LEP and West of England LEP respectively.
- Dorset has 14% of the regions VAT registered SME's and has received c.16% of Loans – equal CBILS/BBLs

Breakdown of Dorset business data

This data is also published at parliamentary constituency level....

LEP	Constituency	Sum of CBILS Number of Loans Offered	Sum of CBILS Value of Loans Offered	Average CBILS Value of Loans Offered	Sum of BBLs Number of Loans Offered	Sum of BBLs Value of Loans Offered	Average BBLs Value of Loans Offered	Sum of Number of Loans Offered	Sum of Value of Loans Offered (£m)
Dorset	Bournemouth East	72	£ 14,860,410	£206,394.59	2714	£ 73,680,954	£ 27,148.47	2786	£ 88,541,364
	Bournemouth West	223	£ 69,245,787	£310,519.22	3177	£ 94,500,000	£ 29,745.04	3400	£ 163,745,786
	Christchurch	203	£ 44,507,698	£219,249.74	2317	£ 69,160,472	£ 29,849.15	2520	£ 113,668,169
	Mid Dorset and North Poole	141	£ 32,517,748	£230,622.33	2033	£ 58,268,679	£ 28,661.43	2174	£ 90,786,427
	North Dorset	212	£ 42,749,888	£201,650.42	2423	£ 68,895,763	£ 28,434.07	2635	£ 111,645,651
	Poole	240	£ 63,224,543	£263,435.59	2803	£ 85,648,905	£ 30,556.16	3043	£ 148,873,447
	South Dorset	106	£ 20,560,328	£193,965.36	1813	£ 49,741,282	£ 27,435.90	1919	£ 70,301,610
	West Dorset	197	£ 37,215,937	£188,913.38	2541	£ 71,977,435	£ 28,326.42	2738	£ 109,193,372
Dorset Total		1394	£ 324,882,338	£233,057.63	19821	£ 571,873,489	£ 28,851.90	21215	£ 896,755,827

High-level parliamentary constituency analysis

- Whilst businesses in the Poole constituency received the greatest number of CBILS loans, Bournemouth West constituency had the highest mean average loan value.
- Bournemouth West constituency businesses received the highest number of BBLs loans but Poole constituency had the highest mean average loan value.
- Overall, businesses in Bournemouth West constituency received the most CBILS and BBLs loans and had the highest mean average loan value.

...and at local authority level.

District	CBILS			BBLs			TOTAL		
	No. of Loans Offered	Value of Loans Offered	Average Value of Loans Offered	No. of Loans Offered	Value of Loans Offered	Average Value of Loans Offered	No. of Loans Offered	Value of Loans Offered	Average Value of Loans Offered
BCP	690	£183,429,195.94	£265,839.41	10,671	£310,442,436.52	£29,092.16	11,361	£493,871,632.46	£43,470.79
Dorset	704	£41,453,142.29	£200,927.76	9,150	£261,431,052.10	£28,571.70	9,854	£402,884,194.39	£40,885.35

High-level local authority analysis

- Despite receiving a smaller number of loans, the total value of loans issues to BCP council businesses was nearly four times greater than the total value of CBILS loans offered to businesses located in the Dorset Council region.

The government has now launched the 'Pay as you Grow' repayment scheme for those businesses that took-up BBLs loans. Pay as You Grow is designed to alleviate borrowers' financial difficulty, before it arises, by giving them flexibility in meeting their repayment obligations. Currently, the banks are quoting take up as expectedly low. The BBB has advised that there needs to be a watching eye on indebtedness to ensure no SME is struggling with finances and cash-flow.

Similarly, the government has now launched the Recovery Loan Scheme (RLS) and that too has seen a low initial take up as expected. The RLS provides financial support to businesses across the UK as they recover and grow following the coronavirus pandemic. With CBILS offering more favourable terms there was a rush to the close of that scheme and that has impacted the demand for this product.

Dorset Supply Chain Study: Business Intelligence and Disruption (COVID-19 & Brexit)

In December 2020, Dorset LEP commissioned economic development specialists, Hatch Associates, and their tech partner, glass.ai to produce research and evidence to better inform us about the scale and composition of Dorset's business base and how businesses have been impacted by Brexit and COVID-19.

Using industry-leading web crawling technology, the study provides real-time and sector-based information on the business base and the types of issues and challenges being experienced by local businesses, including priority sectors.

It is intended that the data and conclusions from this work will help Dorset LEP and other local stakeholders and decision makers to develop interventions to ensure Dorset's business base is more resilient to economic shocks in the future. It will also provide a base of information that can be used to improve business intelligence and support wider decision making across the LEP for partners and local stakeholders.

A key feature of this work is a standalone data dashboard which supplements the summary report that has been produced. This can be viewed [here](#).

The Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee has been a key stakeholder in overseeing the development of this work and includes representation from the two local authorities and the private sector. The summary report includes a number of outline options regarding how the study can be taken forward. The BG&I Committee discussed these and other options at the meeting on 17 June and it was agreed that a small working group would be established to draw-out some practical applications.

Net Zero: Together for Our Planet 'Business Climate Leaders' campaign

Net Zero is one of the key policy areas for Government over the next 10 years. The Together for Our Planet 'Business Climate Leaders' campaign encourages small and micro businesses to commit to cutting their emissions in half by 2030 and to net zero by 2050 or sooner through the new UK Business Climate Hub.

Small businesses can use the hub to find practical tools, resources and advice to understand their emissions and develop a plan to tackle them, as well as providing ideas for steps they can take. We have been asked to support the campaign by sharing information from the stakeholder toolkit with the SMEs we work with.

Key messages for business

- Taking action on climate change will help businesses grow, seize new opportunities, create new jobs, encourage investment and adapt against the challenges of a changing planet.
- Reducing emissions can also lower businesses' running costs, save them money and attract new customers – ultimately helping them maintain a competitive advantage locally and globally.
- Signing up to the official SME Climate Commitment via the UK Business Climate Hub means small businesses will get access to assets and promotional materials to publicise their pledge, so they can show prospective customers evidence of their climate credentials. They will also be included on the UK Business Climate Hub's list of businesses who have signed up and have the chance to feature in the campaign.

All LEP growth hubs are being asked to promote this campaign and consider further interventions that can be put in place to encourage and support local businesses to sign-up to reducing their carbon footprint.

For more information, visit: <https://businessclimatehub.org/uk/>

2.2 Helping Dorset businesses to increase their resilience against the impact of economic shocks

Back to Business: BCP Council's Bounce Back Challenge Fund

In May, we were successfully awarded £50,000 by BCP Council to deliver a project aimed at helping businesses in the BCP area recover stronger from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This project was funded through their Additional Restrictions Grant round 3 (ARG3) which included an invitation for business support organisations to submit project proposals.

In total, BCP Council has awarded £3 million to over 100 projects to help BCP's economy bounce back from the pandemic. Projects were assessed against the following criteria;

- helping the economy to bounce back,
- pride in place,
- innovation and deliverability.

BCP has delivered this project at speed to enable them to receive further funding from government. In addition, BCP has also delivered an Exceptional Circumstances Fund, which has seen more than 500 businesses that have not had support from previous grant schemes, receive funding.

About the project

Businesses have had to endure a huge amount of disruption and uncertainty over the last year. In that time, the very nature of some businesses has changed, perhaps forever. Many businesses have had to make decisions quickly without the luxury of time to necessarily consider the long-term implications.

Once the dust settles and the anticipated boom of the summer months has passed, many businesses will be faced with potentially more uncertainty (potential further restrictions, etc.) as well as obligations for VAT, furlough claims, etc. There are also questions for many SMEs around changes in employment terms, implications of redundancy and other matters relating to HR.

The core objectives of the programme are to help businesses to:

- reflect on decisions made during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- evaluate the current health of their business, including winter cash flow; and
- consider and implement improvements and grow their business

The different aspects of the programme will help to address these challenges, and will include the following:

- **Business Health Checks:** an online diagnostic tool to help business leaders and decision makers assess what actions and decisions they need to be thinking about.
- **Finance clinics:** focused on assessing VAT/tax obligations (termination payments), and furlough claims – all connected with COVID-19.
- **HR Clinics:** the overhaul of Employment Law legislation may have slipped under the radar for some businesses due to the pandemic. However, all employers have a responsibility to ensure implementation of the relevant Good Work Plan changes
- **SME business improvement workshops:** themed workshops helping businesses to assess current and future working practices.

Whilst the programme is for BCP Council businesses only, its legacy will hopefully create a template for future support programmes of this nature. Further information will be published in due course with the programme expected to get underway in August and be concluded by March 2022.

Peer Networks Programme

The Peer Networks Programme for 2021/22 has started with our three delivery partners – Dorset Chamber of Commerce, Evolve Members and Dorset Business Mentors – all commencing a number of cohorts. In total, we have funding to support 220 businesses. As of 18 June 2021, 110 eligible businesses had registered successfully onto the Peer Networks programme. Of this number, 78 have started the programme across seven different cohorts (groups). Based on the latest update received from the central Peer Networks team, there are currently 350 active participants across 35 cohorts in 12 LEP regions, which suggests that Dorset represents 20% of the current national delivery totals.

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

Support for small businesses

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

As part of our COVID-19 additional support response, Dorset LEP (through Dorset Gateway) have offered businesses in Bournemouth, Bridport, Gillingham, Poole, Sherborne, Sturminster Newton and Wimborne the opportunity to trade online for free, with a year's access to the ShopAppy 'virtual high street'. To date 302 businesses have enquired about the platform and 80 businesses are currently live on the platform.

ShopAppy has recruited a new local account manager to support the further roll out of the programme. This person will also be able to do more on the ground which will increase engagement with businesses and consumers. ShopAppy is also planning to run launch events in the towns taking part in July, starting with Wimborne, as they currently have the most businesses listed on the website. This will take place on Friday 16th July, to promote the platform to customers and local businesses.

The contract end date has been extended to March 2022 to account for the downtime of the platform whilst it was undergoing maintenance in January of this year.

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

Advancing Dorset in Defence, Security and Innovation event

More than 80 businesses and organisations joined us for our Advancing Dorset in Defence, Security and Innovation event on 28 May. A summary of speakers and copies of the presentations are available to download on our website:

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/advancing-dorset-in-defence>

The presentations prompted an enthusiastic Q&A which showed us there's a keen appetite for more support from Dorset Gateway for our defence sector. In response, we partnered with the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) to offer a two-hour virtual defence bid-writing masterclass on 28 June.

Plans for a pop-up event at Dorset Innovation Park in September are being discussed with colleagues from Dorset Council and the Defence BattleLab.

2.4 Ensuring innovation is a key foundation of productivity in Dorset

Promoting Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

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

Currently, no other business support service in Dorset is promoting KTPs. BU currently provides general information on their website about KTPs but they do not have the capacity currently to actively promote them to businesses. Similarly, AUB would also like to increase the number of KTPs they do. However, like BU, they too would benefit from extra support with promoting KTPs.

One of the biggest challenges of the KTP application process is the bid writing process. The application must have a strong business case and be completed by the business and academic team. This takes time and good co-ordination. Our Dorset LEP's Bid Writing Support Service could help with this challenge leading to more businesses considering/offering KTP opportunities.

As an initial step, we will be hosting a short engagement event aimed at providing SMEs with information about KTPs, their benefits and how they work. The event will be supported by the KTN, with academics from BU's Business School facilitating discussions to identify where there are opportunities to apply for a KTP. Following the event, businesses will have the chance to access support with writing an application from our bid writing specialist.

Bid Writing Support Service (BWSS)

Building on the success of last year's performance, our BWSS is continuing to work with local SMEs with the aim of helping them to secure innovation and research-based funding.

- **Innovate UK SMART Grants:** Working with seven local SMEs on applications for the current and next funding rounds. These bids total in excess of £800,000.
- **Young Innovators Award:** supporting a previous client of the BWSS who was awarded £100,000 as part of last year's Sustainable Innovation Fund (SIF).
- **SBRI (Hydrogen Call):** Again, working with a previous successful BWSS business in partnership with colleagues from Innovate EDGE
- **Defence and Security Accelerator Open Call:** Supporting one SME that attended the recent defence and security masterclass that we hosted.

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

High Potential Opportunity (HPO) Round 2 – Marine Autonomy:

The HPO for Marine Autonomy that Dorset LEP is part of with Heart of the South West LEP and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP was launched on 1 July. There were over 60 DT overseas 'posts' – people who engage with potential investors in specific countries –

on this virtual call. The final document is soon to be uploaded to the government's Great Asset Library and will also be available via Dorset LEP's Inward Investment webpages. This is a living document and we will be able to update it as and when there are significant changes/development as we have done with the Sustainable Aquaculture HPO.

Colleagues in the Dorset Gateway Team have been working with/supported by colleagues from BAE, ATLAS ELEKTRONIK UK (AEUK) and Dorset Council (Economic Development Team and 5G project) in ensuring key assets in Dorset are reflected in this document including sites such as Portland Port and Dorset Innovation Park (including the Defence BattleLab) as local HE and FE providers and businesses including AEUK, BAE and Coda Octopus. A link to the document will be circulated to the Board in due course.

National Propositions

Over the last 14 months, DIT has produced almost 20 UK National Propositions, and with a schedule for 2021 to produce a further eight. Each National Proposition focuses on a particular sector and represents a detailed description of the UK strengths in that sector. Typically running to 80+ pages, the proposition documents capabilities, significant assets, business clusters and academic institutions relevant to the sector being described.

The UK National Propositions are held online in the [GREAT Asset Library](#) and are accessible by DIT Posts abroad, DIT sector teams and also local partners such as LEPs and councils. The Propositions are not intended to be shared with companies as a whole, but can be used internally to help inform conversations with existing or prospective investors. For example, relevant extracts can be lifted and sent to a company where that will help answer a particular question. In addition, extracts, images and graphs from the National Propositions can also be reproduced in marketing material as long as any copyright, credit or referencing is maintained.

To date, Dorset has responded to 19 of the calls for content to help write the Propositions in sectors as diverse as Aquaculture, Defence, Insurance and Back & Middle Office operations. A full list is available below:

Investment Proposition Theme/Focus		
Aquaculture	Defence & Security	Industrial Robotics & Automation
Insurance	Advertising	Biopharma
Smart Cities	MedTech	Back & Middle Office Proposition
Healthy Ageing	Cyber	Maritime
Retail manufacturing	FinTech	Sustainable Construction
AR/VR	Precision Medicine	
Gaming	Battery & Energy Storage	

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

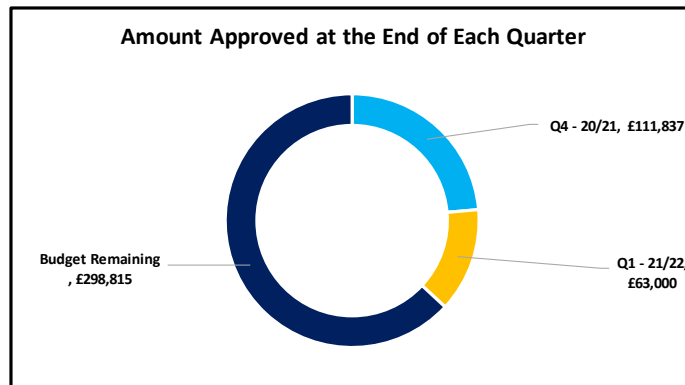
Department for International Trade's (DIT) Export Growth Programme

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

To date, 22 Dorset SME's have applied for and been accepted onto the **SME Internationalisation Fund**, which offers match-funded grants of between £1,000 and £9,000 to help support future export activity. This is an increase of seven businesses since the previous Board update in May. Our target is to help up to 95 Dorset SME's successfully apply for this fund between now and the end of December 2021. As the chart below illustrates, £174,815 (37%) of the funds available for Dorset SMEs has been allocated/committed with just under £3000,000 remaining. This means that there are sufficient funds to support a minimum of 33 additional Dorset businesses based on them accessing the full £9,000 match funded grant. The current average grant award is just under £8,000.

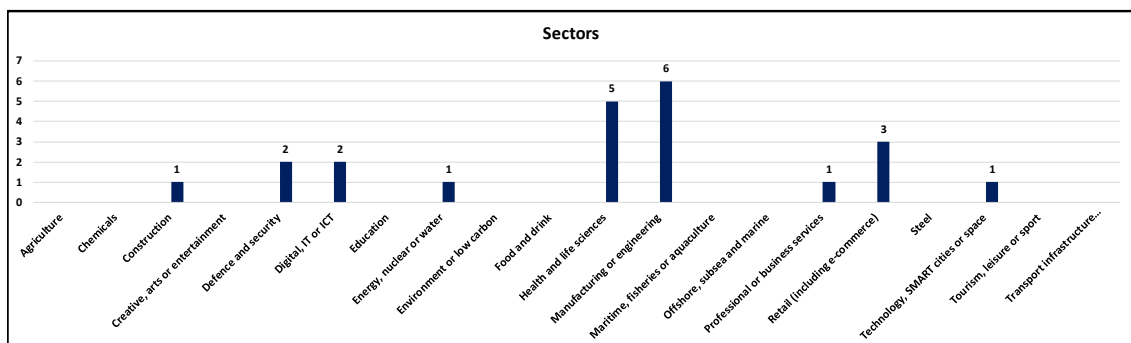
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE REMAINING - MORE DEVELOPED

Total budget £473,651
Total value awarded £174,837



The focus of this support is around high growth potential (HGP) SME businesses that also have high potential to succeed or grow in international markets or can bring new products and services to new international markets. Whilst there is a focus on businesses with annual sales of £500K+ there is scope to support smaller companies.

SECTORS



Across the South West region, there have been a lower number of applications in the current quarter than previously, which is being monitored. Whilst there has been a strong pipeline it is thought that a number of businesses who wanted to apply might be too busy and/or struggling with supply of materials which has forced them to delay their export plans. The Dorset Gateway team will continue to promote this programme and look at some targeted activity with key sectors, such as manufacturing and engineering where has been a good level of interest already, as well as

underrepresented sectors such as food and drink to dry and increase interest in the programme.

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

3. RECOMMENDATION

- To note the continued success of the Peer Networks programme
- To note the confirmed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 2020/21 figures for Dorset
- To promote the SME Internationalisation Fund amongst SME businesses

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.7.2021	Item Number	5.2
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 Update		
Recommendation	For Information		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper provides an update from the Dorset Skills Advisory Panel and Board (SAPB), together with operational updates from Dorset LEP skills team in Dorset between May and July 2021.

2. SUMMARY

I. Skills team operational update

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

- **SAP Programme funding** – We have now been transferred Department for Education funds for another year (until the end of March 2022) to continue the work of the SAPB, produce labour market and skills research and an updated version of the Local Skills Report. As part of the funding, we have extended our analytical contract with Burning Glass Technologies providing live vacancy data utilised within our interactive dashboards and have contracted EMSI to use their economic analysis tools.
- **Skills Boot Camps** - [The Skills Bootcamp](#) in Advanced Building Construction Supervisory is now open for enrolment and further bootcamps and dates would be announced later in July. Eligible candidates should be over 19 years old, either be in work or unemployed for less than 12 months and be local residents.
- **Mid-life MOT pilot** – Dorset LEP reported back on the delivery of the Department for Work & Pensions funded Mid-life MOT pilot project, which developed a digital toolkit for employers and ran a week of webinars and podcasts in support of those employees aged over 50. Overall, 21 businesses expressed interest in the project, 10 attended one or more webinars, and 8 businesses told us they have distributed the toolkit to around 362 employees. A host of resources were developed as part of the project, including a [promotional video](#), a [digital toolkit](#) and an [Employer Content Hub](#). We have now linked this resource hub to our 'Helping Businesses' tab on the Dorset LEP website which is freely available and promoted through the Dorset Gateway.
- **LMI training** – we have continued to deliver Labour Market Insights (LMI) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training most recently for the Skills & Learning Adult Community Education team informing their "Fresh start" course designed for adults experiencing long-term unemployment with complex or multiple needs and barriers. The CPD session, aimed at tutors and curriculum managers, offered ways to identify declining and emerging job roles, sectors, and skills in demand using the SAPB developed local LMI. The training also offered insights on other tools to identify matching opportunities based on the individual's transferable skills.

- **Graduate retention** – we have joined forces with BCP Council and [Bournemouth Digital](#) – a software development company based locally, to deliver a workshop for Bournemouth University (BU) final year students promoting job opportunities in Dorset as part of BU's "Focus on your Future" webinar series. In similar effort to boost retention of talent locally, BCP Council in collaboration with BU, and the Dorset Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster delivered "Looking for talent for the future?" experience sharing event, aimed at Dorset-based businesses looking to provide local placement opportunities for highly skilled university students.
- **Restart Programme** – Seetec Plus who will be delivering the Restart programme for long term unemployed (1yr+)in the South West have now appointed an area manager for Dorset and Wiltshire. We will be informing their programme delivery in Dorset.
- **Bidding activity** – Universities Hospital Dorset have been successful in their [Adopting Innovation programme](#) funding bid from the Health Foundation. Dorset Gateway has also been successful in securing a business resilience programme funding from the [BCP Council's Bounce Back Challenge Fund](#). The Dorset LEP team have also been bidding with partners for funding in response to various opportunities including our Skills Accelerator bids to become a Local Skills Improvement Plan Trailblazer and Skills Productivity Board pilot area which were both submitted at the end of May. Other bids recently supported include Young Enterprise seeking to significantly generate enterprise entrepreneurialism in schools through recovery and support for young people who are vulnerable to find positive outcomes following transition to post16 education or work and we are expecting to hear the outcomes from these applications shortly.
- **Apprenticeship myth busting** – we are progressing on our apprenticeship project launching our skills brokerage service, redesigning our apprenticeships pages and working on solutions to solve the issues raised with our apprenticeship finder tool dorsetlep.co.uk/apprenticeship-finder

II. Dorset LEP Careers Hub Update

The Dorset Careers Hub summer term projects are all progressing well with delivery and there are major strides to update the webpages and add more engaging content highlighting the work of the Hub across the county.

The Hub has signed 20 Dorset employers from a range of priority industries and secured around 1100 virtual work experience places for Year 10 students. The final placements are taking place in the beginning of July and the feedback thus far from both schools and employers have been very positive highlighting the future opportunities opening up as a result of these pilots.

In partnership with 12 organisations across Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey, The Hub also led on the hugely successful online [Careers and Apprenticeship Show 2021](#). The virtual show attracted 60 exhibitors and over 20,000 students to their virtual booths to benefit from 20 live careers talks, 30 pre-recorded careers sessions and hundreds of downloadable resources highlighting local careers.

The Dorset Careers Live webinar series has also been a success, already delivering webinars for careers in healthcare, hospitality, construction and a dedicated webinar on the work to support SEND young people with careers progression. The webinars are available on the [careers hub pages](#) and there are plans to deliver more of these in the next academic year.

In addition, most of the schools have been provided with grants to kickstart their careers delivery projects and the Hub has scored well in the most recent Compass assessments, placing Dorset Careers Hub in the top third of Hubs nationally.

The Careers & Enterprise Company have also confirmed details of the 2021/22 contract.

III. The Labour Market Information update

The Q2 labour market and skills insight report and dashboards are due to be published by mid-July on our [LMI page](#). Current trends show significant surge in vacancies particularly during the second quarter. Decline in the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits is also noted, particularly amongst young people. The rise in furloughed employments seen at the start of the year has also seen an improvement.

Key findings include:

- **Unemployment, furlough, out-of-work benefits decreased**

While over the course of 2020 employment rate in Dorset fell by almost 2 percentage points and unemployment increased at a similar rate, representing an estimated 8,400 fewer people in employment at the last quarter of 2020 compared to 2019, the [latest national figures](#) suggest the jobs market is recovering.

There were 22,525 people (accounting for 5% of residents (6.5% UK reference) claiming job or income support in May in Dorset, which is c.2,300 fewer than in March, but continues to be over twice higher than the figures seen prior to the pandemic. The decline was more significant amongst young people with 3,860 18-24 year olds (6.7% with 8.3% UK reference) claiming out-of-work benefits in May which was 610 fewer than back in March.

40,900 people in Dorset were furloughed at the end of April – 13% of the eligible employments, over 15,000 fewer than February still higher than the 11% UK average. Almost half (20,000) of furloughed employments were in Tourism, Hospitality and Retail.

19,600 self-employed received Self Employment Income Support - 7,000 fewer than earlier in the year, 45% take-up.

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

- **Recruitment activity picking up**

Over 36,000 vacancies were advertised in Dorset in the first two quarters -40% higher than 2020 and 14% higher than 2019 levels. Since March, vacancies are overtaking both their 2020 and 2019 levels with over 6000 vacancies advertised each month. This marks a positive development after a turbulent 2020 and a wobbly start of 2021 - in January alone vacancies were down by a fifth on last year.

All sectors have increased employment demand excepts arts and entertainment.

[Visit Dorset LEP's Vacancies and Opportunities in Dorset Dashboard](#).

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.07.21	Item Number	5.3
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Strategic Infrastructure Committee Update		
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. It is recommended the Board notes the importance of the on-going work around energy and its significance to Dorset. ii. It is recommended the Board notes the value in producing an infrastructure prospectus in the future. iii. It is recommended that in order to have maximum impact, the Board supports the proposal for the Strategic Infrastructure Committee to become more focused in its remit. iv. It is recommended the Board notes that the Committee is working effectively in coordinating and facilitating stakeholders to collaborate on key strategic infrastructure strands. 		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Board with an update as to the discussion within the Strategic Infrastructure Committee held in June 2021, Chaired by Board member John Sutcliffe.

This paper therefore references updates given on housing and highways and the Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Plan, discussion around an investment prospectus and a more focussed approach of the Committee in order to have maximum impact. It also highlights that the Committee is effective in coordinating and facilitating stakeholders to collaborate on key strategic infrastructure strands.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The Committee received a presentation from Dorset Council on their housing plans and an update on their Local Plan which will be submitted around October 2023. The latter is expected to present a proposal for up to 35,000 dwellings between now and 2038, and around 130 HAs of employment land. The Committee welcomed the coordination across both councils in developing their Local Plans and working jointly on the evidence base for these. Given the housing issues within Dorset, the Committee were reassured that parallel to the local plan activity work has also begun on exploring the development of new settlements.

The Committee were also updated that Highways England has initiated engagement on route strategies (due for publication in 2022) which will cover strategic routes, census population, industry and international gateways. All proposals selected as a result of this round of Route Strategies will become studies from about 2026 onwards with a view to then constructing from 2030 onwards.

An update was given on the progress towards the Dorset Low-Carbon Energy Investment Plan and its timeliness in light of the UK Infrastructure Bank, which will be accelerating investment into ambitious infrastructure projects, cutting emissions and levelling up across the UK. The Committee noted the importance of the on-going work around energy and its significance to Dorset.

The Committee discussed the value in producing an infrastructure prospectus which brings together the various Dorset infrastructure strands in a single 'living document', providing visibility for investors, to reassure there is a joined-up approach to the place. The Committee agreed there was value in this in order to attract further investment but agreed that before undertaking such a piece of work an acceleration of addressing the energy issue was a priority.

It was agreed that as strategic infrastructure is such a wide-ranging concept, there would be increased added value in the Committee focussing on two or three infrastructure priorities which will have the greatest impact and the Board are recommended to support this approach. If agreed, at the next meeting, the Dorset LEP Team will make suggestions based on the evidence base as to what these should be for discussion. Recommendations will be made to the Board and a review of the Committee members should be undertaken following this.

The Committee is working extremely productively in its ambition of coordinating and facilitating stakeholders in order to collaborate on key strategic infrastructure strands. Within the meeting for instance, arrangements were made for Network Rail and energy colleagues to liaise outside of the meeting as well as Dorset Council housing colleagues to liaise further with the South West Energy Hub for additional support.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- i. It is recommended the Board notes the importance of the on-going work around energy and its significance to Dorset.
- ii. It is recommended the Board notes the value in producing an infrastructure prospectus in the future.
- iii. It is recommended that in order to have maximum impact, the Board supports the proposal for the Strategic Infrastructure Committee to become more focused in its remit.
- iv. It is recommended the Board notes that the Committee is working extremely effectively in coordinating and facilitating stakeholders to collaborate on key strategic infrastructure strands.

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Dates	22 July 2021	Item Number	5.4
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Enterprise Zone Committee Meeting Update		
Recommendation	None – for information only		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board as to the last Enterprise Zone meetings held on 24 May, 8 June and 28 June which were Chaired by Board member John Sutcliffe.

The meetings discussed the Enterprise Zone draft Investment Plan from Dorset Council and the plan for academic collaboration on the site.

The minutes of the meetings can be found here:
<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/enterprise-zone-committee>.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND
I. Enterprise Zone Investment Plan

Cushman and Wakefield have delivered a report for Enterprise Zone management and PA Consulting have delivered a report on future strategy for defence innovation in Dorset. The Committee met on 24 May and discussed the Cushman & Wakefield's review and assessment report for the Enterprise Zone. Subsequently, Dorset Council prepared a draft Investment Plan for the site which was discussed at the 8 of June meeting. The focus for the Innovation Park is currently strongly on defence and security and further detail of the investment plan will be discussed at the next Committee meeting on 19 July. Following this, the next action will be to discuss details and map out activities to ascertain if the funding requirements can be achieved and to turn it into a plan of action.

On 28 June the Committee discussed the plan for academic engagement and presence on the site.

Marketing of the site will be fundamental to making the Innovation Park successful, whilst creating a community feel.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Dorset LEP and Dorset Council regarding the business rate uplift income is being finalised; and a policy will be drafted to determine how that uplift will be spent.

II. Engagement

Admiral Sir Tim Fraser, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, visited the BattleLab at Winfrith on Friday 11 June. The aim of the visit was to get a taste of the type of innovative technologies that will be tried and tested at the lab and hear about the investment plan for the future of the site. Board members Cecilia Buffon and John Sutcliffe attended from Dorset LEP.

The Minister for Digital Infrastructure, Matt Warman MP, visited the Enterprise Zone and other Dorset sites on 7 July. The focus of the visit was 5G and during his visit he witnessed land, air and maritime applications of 5G including defence and security, emergency services, aquatech and others. Dorset LEP Chair Cecilia Buffon attended this visit.

III. Defence BattleLab

The Defence BattleLab has completed the build of the workshop and is already in use with two Ministry of Defence events having already taken place there. The 5G equipment has all been procured, installed and is live.

Phase two covering the build of the office space is underway and the first floor is completed with internal works now taking place. The second floor should be completed by the end of July and full completion is expected by October with the BattleLab being fully operational in November 2021. Plans are in discussion for a launch event to take place between 8 – 12 November 2021.

The BattleLab will enable the Ministry of Defence to work in collaboration with academic institutions, private sector and SMEs to develop new products and technologies with the potential to be commercialised. It will develop and build on the Enterprise Zone strengths in marine, defence, energy and cyber-security; helping to grow its advanced engineering cluster of excellence.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None – for information only

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	22.07.21	Item Number	6.1
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Communications Update		
Recommendation	None – for information only		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

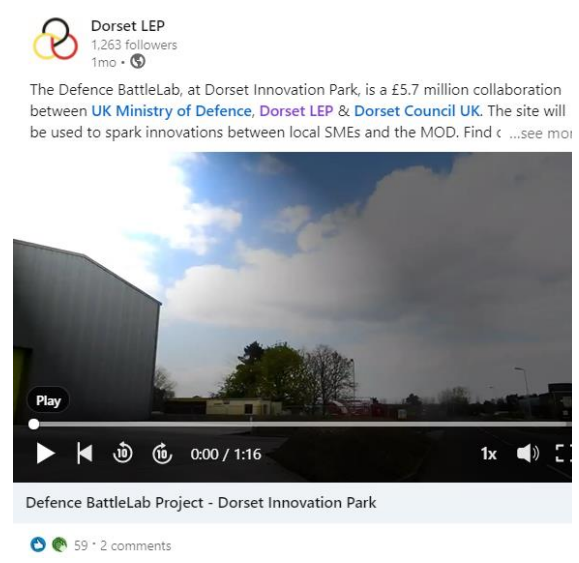
1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board on Dorset LEP communications activity and forthcoming plans.

2. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Since the last Board meeting we have identified twelve positive news coverage articles appearing in Bournemouth Echo, Dorset Echo, BBC News and Dorset BIZ news, and in the more trade-specific titles of Horticulture Week and the South West Farmer, helping to raise our profile amongst the agricultural community.

Our most successful PR campaigns for this period included the announcement of a major milestone to the Defence BattleLab project at Dorset Innovation Park ([BBC News](#) / [Bournemouth Echo](#) / [Business Live](#)) and the near completion of the Agritech Glasshouse project at Stewarts Garden Centre ([South West Farmer](#) / [Horticulture Week](#) / [Dorset BIZ News](#) / [Bournemouth Echo](#)). Both of these announcements provided good opportunities for us to capture some good quality multimedia content and positive engagement on our social media channels.



Other significant communications activity during this period included promotional support for the Dorset Careers and Apprenticeship Show and Dorset Careers Hub Employer and Virtual Work Experience events:

- [Over 20,000 students welcomed at virtual careers and apprenticeship show](#)
- [Dorset LEP successfully delivers virtual work experience pilot](#)
- [Dorset LEP sponsors winner of winners in 2021/22 Dorset Tourism Awards.](#)

All news outputs are available on our [website](#), [LinkedIn page](#) and [twitter feed](#) and videos on our [YouTube channel](#). A breakdown of media coverage, website, social media and newsletter analytics is available on request.

Forthcoming announcements/ activity:

- News release – high-level overview of Dorset LEP investment and projected outcome statistics
- Release of Dorset LEP feature article – access to skills and LMI insights
- Dorset LEP 'A decade of difference' celebratory campaign
- News release – how businesses can access skill support through Dorset LEP
- Filming in Weymouth at Budmouth Academy focusing on Careers Hub support in the area
- Filming at Poole Harbour promoting the Getting Building Fund Public Trade Office project and EU-Exit support from Dorset Gateway
- External promotion of Careers Hub Vacancies
- Dorset LEP feature article – advancing Dorset's strengths in defence innovation and security
- Investment announcement into new Clinical Trials Unit at University Hospitals Trust
- Promotion of Dorset Energy Investment Plan
- Completion of Dorset LEP 2021 promotional video
- News release – success of Virtual Work Experience programme.

3. RECOMMENDATION

None - for information only.

The papers for agenda Item 6.2 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

The papers for agenda Item 6.3 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive

The papers for agenda Item 6.4 are not included as they are Commercially Sensitive