

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

28 JULY 2022 FROM 10.00 am TO 12.30 PM

ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)
Cllr John Beesley (JB)
Liz Williams (LW)
Luke Rake (LR)
May Palmer (MP)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Gough (PG)
Cllr Spencer Flower (SF)
Cllr Tony Ferrari (TF)

Also Present:

Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)
Anwen Jones (Cities and Local Growth Unit)
Corinne Lancaster (Cities and Local Growth Unit)
Corrina Osborne (CO) (Dorset LEP)
Daniela Doncakova (DD) (Dorset LEP)
Finn Morgan (FM) (Dorset LEP)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Nick Webster (NW) (Dorset Council)
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Cllr Drew Mellor (DM)
Ian Girling (IG)
Jim Andrews (JA)
Julia Howe (JH)
Paul Read (PR)
Sophia Story (SS)

Presenters:

Sergi Martorell, Glass AI
Chris Rawson, Glass AI

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Drew Mellor, Ian Girling, Jim Andrews, Julia Howe, Paul Read and Sophia Story.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: No additional conflicts were declared.</p>	
2.	Guest Presentations	
2.1	<p>Supply Chain Issues</p> <p>FM started by saying that businesses have faced unprecedented disruption to their supply chains over the course of the last few years, largely as a result of major global and geo-political events. These issues continue to have a major impact on businesses today. He advised that in 2020, Dorset LEP secured funding to carry out a study mapping in more detail, Dorset's business base. The primary aim was to identify those sectors locally that had been impacted the most by this disruption, as well as identifying those that were more resilient/greater insulated against these impacts.</p> <p>He informed the Board that we worked with economic consultancy Hatch Regeneris and technology provider glass.ai to carry out this study. The latter's AI technology crawls millions of websites and online news, social media articles and matches them with official data sources such as Companies House data. The result was a richer and more comprehensive understanding of the local economy, providing us with a deeper understanding of Dorset's business base and capabilities. Having established a base-line in 2020/21 we repeated the study in 2021/22 to see what issues were most effecting local businesses.</p> <p>Sergi Martorell, Co-Founder and CEO of Glass.ai, and Chris Rawson, Head of Public Sector at Glass.ai, to present the results of the most recent study. SM explained that Glass.ai are a technology company and have worked with regional and central Government. They have researched into themes around supply chain issues. He explained how the data was collected, the parameters of the data and the impact of key external factors such as COVID-19, the Ukraine-Russian war and Brexit.</p> <p>CR demonstrated how the interactive map worked and how Dorset LEP now has a valuable baseline dataset of the Dorset business landscape and further deep dives that could be possible as a result.</p>	
2.2	<p>Rural Economy White Paper</p> <p>LR explained the report was commissioned by the Rural APPG, sponsored by the Council for Protection of Rural England. The report updates work undertaken in 2017 and highlights a suite of rural issues.</p> <p>LR stated it was important to note that Dorset LEP is part of a population that is rural and whilst the majority of the land is managed or farmed, the majority of the jobs are not in this sector.</p> <p>TF stated that Dorset needs to do more to argue the case with government that the rural agenda is a key part of Levelling Up.</p> <p>SF mentioned the report talks to planning and the Levelling Up White Paper has a review of planning in it. He stated there is a need to pursue a different approach to our local planning in Dorset, which is more strategic and not just about the number of houses.</p>	

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2.2	<p>Rural Economy White Paper Cont'd</p> <p>Action: The Board notes the paper, and members support further partners in evidence based activity in due course to support the rural agenda.</p>	All noted
2.3	<p>Update from AUB</p> <p>PG gave an update on the Arts University Bournemouth (AUB). Since joining AUB, the university has created a 10-year strategy. In past 18 months AUB has seen a 12% growth in student numbers. They have also seen a significant growth on-line and have gone into partnership to provide an on-line offering for some Masters courses. They also validate and support a number of FE colleges across the UK. Student and alumni successes (from London Graduate Fashion Week to the Oscars) in HE and FE were still a major component of AUB's global success and standing.</p> <p>PG mentioned there is a huge demand in the UK higher and further education arena internationally and this has a significant economic impact for the area. He continued with the example that a recent HEPI report estimated that the Bournemouth East area will generate £42.9m in GVA through 420 full-free international students. (HEPI report, 2021)</p> <p>He stated that the distance travelled by students to university is now estimated to be diminishing by 5 miles a year and a key challenge is the magnet of London but the coastline and festival environment in Dorset is very powerful. The lack of infrastructure, lack of an industrial building base, remains an issue but the nascent cultural compact and cultural strategies will aim to address that. AUB's investment in the Innovation Studio (supported by LEP) would generate new business and wider creative tech engagement and delivery.</p> <p>In addition to AUB's recent high achievement in research excellence (REF), graduate achievements (GOS) and global teaching outcomes, PG advised the Board that the creative economy generates £115.9 billion of GVA which means 6% of the UK GVA is in this area. As well as its national standing and international impact, he stated AUB also has a major civic role and had bought the Palace Court Theatre which will be education focused during the day and community focused in the evenings. He informed that AUB have also leased space in Bobby's Department Store in Bournemouth and have studio space in The Avenue.</p> <p>JB asked how to solve the problem of graduate retention, in terms of the digital and creative industries. PG explained that graduates need to have a place to work and making that space is very important. We need to build an attractive place to live in the city region with activities to participate in for those that live here all year round.</p>	
3.	For Decision / Discussion	
3.1	<p>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO took the paper as read.</p> <p>Action: The Board approves the 2021/22 financial outturn position Action: The Board approves the 2021/22 2022/23 financial position to date Action: The Board notes the 2022/23 budget. Action: The Board notes the Corporate Risk Register.</p>	<p>All approved</p> <p>All approved</p> <p>All approved</p> <p>All approved</p>

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3.2	<p>Nominations and Remuneration Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO took the paper as read. She explained that since joining the Board as a co-opted member seven months ago, MP has demonstrated considerable value and commitment. She is Chair of the FACR Committee and has fully engaged in other corporate activity, such as the Director recruitment and representing Dorset LEP at events. She has considerable experience and understanding of local infrastructure issues, as well as the corporate function of running a business. Her term as a co-opted member expires this year and it is, therefore, recommended that May is appointed as a full Board member from August 2022.</p> <p>11.27 - MP left the meeting.</p> <p>Action: The Board approve appointing May Palmer as a full Board member.</p> <p>11.29 MP re-joined the meeting</p> <p>CO went on to explain that there are 2 vacancies on the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and Board members Liz Williams and Nick Gaines have volunteered. It is recommended that these two Board members are appointed.</p> <p>11.29 NG and LW left the meeting.</p> <p>Action: The Board approve appointing Liz and Nick onto the NR Committee.</p> <p>11.31 NG and LW re-joined the meeting</p> <p>11.31 NN left the meeting</p> <p>Action: The Board approve appointing Nicola to join FACR Committee.</p> <p>11.32 NN re-joined the meeting</p> <p>CO explained that, as we mention in our delivery plan, a Board governance review will be undertaken via the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.</p>	<p>All approved</p> <p>All approved</p> <p>All approved</p>
4.	For Information / To Note	
4.1	<p>Interim Director's Update (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO took her paper as read.</p> <p>Action: The Board notes the funding successes detailed in the paper.</p> <p>Action: The Board endorses the updated Local Assurance Framework.</p> <p>CB asked CO what progress was being made regarding influencing infrastructure decisions. CO explained that local infrastructure is now fully the responsibility of the Local Authorities and the LEP is working with officers in the Local Authorities as to how the business voice can feed into these decisions.</p>	<p>All noted</p> <p>All approved</p>

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4.2	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>CB updated on the GSW and that work will now start on the programmes that are in the GSW prospectus.</p>	
4.3	<p>Performance and Investment Committee (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>NN took the paper as read and advised there is one more meeting taking place before the Committee closes. It has been a triumph, with all members very committed to get the money well spent and the outcomes achieved.</p> <p>Action: The Board noted the recommendations in the paper.</p>	All noted
4.4	<p>Enterprise Zone (Confidential - Commercially Sensitive)</p> <p>CO took the paper as read. She mentioned that the official BattleLab launch event took place on 18 May 2022 and a new interactive website has been launched but wanted to specifically highlight that the Dorset Council Cabinet approved a significant investment for the site.</p>	
4.5	<p>Business Growth and Inward Investment Committee</p> <p>FM took the paper as read.</p> <p>FM explained all funds allocated to Dorset SME's under the Department for International Trade (DIT) SME Internationalisation Fund have been used. He informed that DIT are looking at areas of underspend and to reallocate that funding which means hopefully Dorset companies can still apply for funding.</p> <p>FM mentioned that the National Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Results 2021/22 and that these are back to pre-pandemic levels in terms of overseas investment in the region which reflects a great deal of hard work by colleagues in Dorset LEP, BCP, Dorset Council and DIT.</p> <p>Action: The Board noted the following recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the update regarding future funding for business support activity. • Notes the most recent success of Dorset LEP's funded bid writing support service. • Notes the National Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Results 2021/22. • Notes the progress of the SME Internationalisation Fund which is being supported by Dorset Gateway. 	<p>All noted</p> <p>All noted</p> <p>All noted</p> <p>All noted</p>
4.6	<p>Skills Advisory Panel and Board</p> <p>LR took the paper as read and mentioned all the good work undertaken by RD and the LMI report produced by Mira Koseva.</p> <p>RD explained that the Labour Market Insights (LMI) report is helpful in supporting both councils and that, for example, it shows that 27% of people in the Dorset Council area earn less than the living wage.</p>	

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	<p>Skills Advisory Panel and Board Cont'd</p> <p>LR informed that the Careers and Enterprise Hub funding has been secured, so we can continue that excellent work.</p> <p>RD mentioned that when she started the LEP won a small piece of funding for the Mid Life MOT and that now the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) have just announced that following the 10 LEP area feasibility projects, they have adopted the learning into policy and will be investing £multimillions in Mid-life MOT delivery across the UK with Mid-Life coaches in all Job Centre Plus.</p> <p>Action: The Board noted the strategic input and operational delivery of skills.</p>	All noted
4.7	<p>Overview and Scrutiny</p> <p>CO explained this Committee is made up of completely independent members and the last meeting included information on Government capital funding allocations, a review of Dorset LEP 2021/22 activity and an update on LEP review. It also discussed the Terms of Reference and the Committee's future workplan.</p> <p>She advised that the Committee stated it was impressed with the breath of activities, achievements and the return on investment by Dorset LEP.</p>	
4.8	<p>Advisory Group Updates</p> <p>Rural Enterprise Group - LR informed the secretariat of this Committee is moving to Dorset Council. He explained that he was also the Chair of the Local Nature Partnership, where the membership is made up of Dorset Council and other members. He said that they have recently renewed their strategy and a key ambition is to be bigger, better, more connected and work further with the LEP.</p>	
4.9	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	All agreed
5.	Any Other Business	
	<p>NG mentioned that he had recently attended a session organised by BCP in low carbon partnership. He stated this was a great piece of work and needs to be as broad as possible and it would be good to have Dorset Council represented in the room.</p>	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 27 September 2022 at 1.30 pm