

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

24 SEPTEMBER 2024 FROM 1.00 PM TO 4.30 PM

HELD AT THE BATTLELAB, DORSET INNOVATION PARK, WOOL, DT2 8GB

MINUTES

Board Attendees:

Cecilia Buffon (CB) (Chair)
Keith Phalp (KP)
Cllr Millie Earl (ME)
Nick Gaines (NG)
Phil Sayles (PS)
Selina White (SW)
Cllr Simon Clifford (SC)

Also Present:

Chris Shepherd (CS) (BCP Council)
Kathryn Hill (KH) (Dorset LEP)
Rebecca Davies (RD) (Dorset LEP)
Vinita Nawathe (VN) (Dorset LEP)

Apologies:

Aidan Dunn (AD) (Dorset Council)
Ian Girling (IG)
Neil Skelland (NS)
Nicola Newman (NN)
Paul Gough (PG)
Cllr Richard Biggs (RB)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies were received for: Ian Girling, Neil Skelland, Nicola Newman, Paul Gough, Richard Biggs and Aidan Dunn</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: no declarations of interest were declared.</p>	
2.	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>CB gave an update on the recent Great South West (GSW) event. It was a very successful day for networking and support with over 500 delegates in attendance. It is less than 2 years since receiving recognition for the GSW, so it is doing very well. Three years recognition was received and a £1.5 m budget. There are also new members to the All Party Parliamentary Group with the new MPs in the area. The Economic Intelligence Report for the GSW has also recently been launched and VN was involved in that piece of work. NS, ME and Alison Honor, Vice-Chancellor of Bournemouth University, are on the GSW Board.</p> <p>There was a Dorset Ambassadors event that took place on 17 October and we had the two Bournemouth MPs attend. These MPs are getting more involved. We had some feedback on the day for the Strategy and businesses on the day showed that they want to be involved.</p> <p>CB informed the Board that the Dorset Career Hub is in the top 10 careers hubs in the country and is getting national recognition for their work.</p> <p>She also updated that the LEP Network has recently rebranded and is now called the Business Board Network.</p>	
3.	<p>CIC Business</p>	
3.1	<p>Nominations And Remuneration Committee</p> <p>CB welcomed Professor Keith Phalp to the LEP Board and explained that he is replacing Jim Andrews as the Bournemouth University Board Member. KP has taken over from Jim Andrews as Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee</p> <p>She went on to welcome Selina White to the LEP Board and explained she has replaced Paul Read as the Housing representative on the Board. She thanked SW for stepping in, even though we only have a small time left.</p> <p>CB mentioned that Aaron Lawes was the Business British Bank representative for the LEP and as he has left the Board, we might need someone to cover that role.</p>	
3.2	<p>Finance, Audit and Corporate Risk (FACR) Committee</p> <p>NG spoke to the finance paper and accounts. He informed that the outturn position will be close to the budget. He assured the Board that the FACR Committee go through the accounts line by line.</p>	

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3.3	<p>LEP Functions Integration</p> <p>A discussion took place on the integration of the LEP functions into the local authorities. CB said that the intention is to hand over in March 2025 to another Business Board and for them to utilise the funds for economic growth in Dorset. We need to make sure we have a Business Board to hand over to.</p> <p>VN explained to the Board how the Somerset and Wiltshire LEP went forward and reiterated what the guidance from Government has been.</p> <p>CB said we need to provide a paper explaining how we will complete the work as described so the Board can see what is going to happen. We need to give this Board assurance that we can hand over in an orderly fashion.</p> <p>Action: ME said they would provide assurance for the Board as to what that looks like.</p> <p>Action: VN to set up an Extra Ordinary Board meeting the second week of October to go through the papers explaining how to take forward the closing of the company.</p>	<p>ME</p> <p>VN</p>
3.4	<p>Dorset LEP Skills Update</p> <p>RD spoke to her paper and highlighted a couple of items.</p> <p>She informed that the Dorset Careers Hub was ranked in the top 10 in the country for careers hubs last year and this reflects all the hard work being done in the area.</p> <p>She updated on the Boscombe Digital Skills Hub and that there are really good outputs in the community.</p>	
3.5	<p>Dorset LEP Business Update</p> <p>RD updated on the business support and that all our programmes are full. There are businesses based in both the BCP and Dorset Council areas attending these programmes.</p> <p>PS stated that the Skills and Business Update reports are good reports are a useful summary of all the work happening within the team.</p>	
4.	Policy	
	<p>Strategic Economic Planning – Consultation Draft</p> <p>VN updated on the Strategic plan. She highted that Dorset is the third worst for growth over the last 20 years. Our working age population is aging faster than others. At the Homes and Economy conference we heard from employers struggling with attracting and keeping staff because of problems with housing. SW informed that the average age of the first time buyer is now 41.</p> <p>PS mentioned that the graph on the age of the population is really powerful. It is important to get the right programmes in the colleges and universities to attract people for right jobs. Overall, the document is really helpful and provides a good base of evidence and information that will feed through.</p>	

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4.1	<p>Strategic Economic Planning – Consultation Draft Cont'd</p> <p>JS informed that the mayoral combined authority areas will be asked to submit their industrial strategies soon. Guidance will be published for the non-mayoral combined authorities for their industrial strategies over next few months.</p> <p>SW stated that part of this is about the population. We have a problem with housing in this area at the moment and that will affect productivity. She informed that with house prices, the lowest is 7 x house price to earnings and the highest is 20 x house price to earnings.</p> <p>In both productivity solutions, the local region economy is affected by lack of housing.</p> <p>ME explained that BCP have a lot of approved homes, 15,000 homes, but it is the viability that is the problem. We have places where homes can go and plans that have been approved but making it viable is a problem for BCP.</p> <p>Action: all confirmed they were happy for VN to socialise the document further and she asked for people to send any more comments to her.</p>	VN
4.2	<p>Portland Port – Developments And Opportunities</p> <p>Ian McQuaide, General Manager of Commercial at Portland Port, gave a presentation and overview of the port to the Board. Portland Port stands out due to its deep waters and it can accommodate the biggest ships along the south coast, other than Southampton. Their development of a new deep water berth was completed in 2023/24. He went on to present on the future projects planned at the port.</p> <p>CB up to us locally to pull together all this information to join up with the Great South West. We need to make sure we are front and centre for projects for Government.</p>	
5.	Minutes from the Last Meeting	
	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.	
6.	Any Other Business	
	There was no other business raised.	

Note: Date of Next Meeting - 28 November 2024 at 10.00 am