

Board Members Present:

Ursula Lidbetter – Chair (UL); David Dexter – Deputy Chair (DD); Chris Baron (CB); Andy Orrey (AO); Pat Doody (PD); Herman Kok (HK); Cllr Colin Davie (CD); Steve Middlebrough (SM); Mark Tinsley (MT); Cllr Lady Liz Redfern (LR); Cllr Dave Watson (DW).

Apologies from Board Members:

Cllr Ray Oxby; Cllr Bob Adams; Andy Orrey; Prof Mary Stuart; Dr Tony Hill; Richard Wills

Observers:

Sarah Hendry (SH); Angela Blake (AB); Marcus Walker (MW)

LEP

Ruth Carver (RC), Jon Burgess (JB); Cathy Jones (CJ)

Apologies

Pete Holmes (PH – Cities & Local Growth Unit)

Item 1

Welcome and Introductions

UL welcomed Steve Middlebrough from Siemens to his first Board meeting and the opportunity for Steve to provide the Board with particular expertise and knowledge of the manufacturing and engineering sector in Greater Lincolnshire.

Minutes of 28th January 2016 agreed as a true record and can be published.

Matters Arising

RC confirmed that the Greater Lincolnshire Growth Hub has received funding of £250K per annum for the next two years. This will be further complemented by a £5million bid for European funding, which is being progressed through the local ESIF Committee. RC advised the Board that lead officers are working with the Humber LEP to ensure that there are clear pathways to access support and no duplication of provision in our overlap areas.

Board Members expressed concern over the Government's challenge to make Growth Hubs sustainable in the longer term (post 2018), given the inability of local areas to raise income or recover costs through their delivery.

RC advised Board Members that the LEP team have started to map out a programme of "big debates" with local business leaders, which will focus on raising awareness and discussion on key strategic items. The first session in May will focus on the Midlands Engine, followed by a food debate and two devolution debates in July. The aim is to involve a keynote speaker and MP support at each event, with a target audience of the top 170 businesses across Greater Lincolnshire.

Action:

- **RC to Email confirmed dates and format of briefing sessions to Board Members**

<p>Item 2</p>	<p><u>Spring Budget</u></p> <p>It was noted that £1.8bn will be released by HM Treasury as the final tranche of the Growth Deal funding for LEP areas to bid for. Full bids are expected to be required by mid-July. It is expected that LEP and combined authority areas will be able to bid for programme funding, rather than individual projects – but further details on the application process are due to be released. The final allocation of Growth Deal monies is less than expected, but has enabled HM Treasury to also announce a new £2bn home building fund (to be made available on a loan basis).</p> <p>Funding support for the Midlands Engine also confirmed. This includes the provision of a new £250m Midlands Engine Investment Fund, of which £5m will be specifically ring fenced for Greater Lincolnshire businesses. Members noted that a Midlands-wide Fund was critical to securing additional match funding from the European Investment Bank and British Business Bank. However, Members also recognised the importance of ensuring local influence of provision and access to delivery (replicating the success of the University of Lincoln in managing a wider Regional Growth Fund project for Greater Lincolnshire businesses).</p> <p>£700m also announced for future flood defence schemes – approximately half of which is to be earmarked for areas hardest hit by December 2015 floods. Allocation of the remaining funds will be informed by the pending National Flood Resilience Review. Board Members noted the challenge of existing funding formulas, which are in favour of protecting existing housing and businesses rather than facilitating new growth. It was recognised however that Local Plans must be supportive of growth in Greater Lincolnshire, and that the Environment Agency are keen to ensure that objectives for future protection and growth of the economy are mutually aligned.</p> <p>DD welcomed recognition of the importance of small businesses in the Chancellor's Statement, which the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board has actively encouraged since its inception.</p>
<p>Item 3</p>	<p><u>Devolution – Roundtable Discussion</u></p> <p>The Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire was confirmed in the Spring Budget. Lead officers must now work to produce and agree an implementation plan with HM Treasury, to a tight timescale.</p> <p>Members confirmed their support for the Greater Lincolnshire deal and expressed confidence in the focus on generating increased wealth through business growth, which will then create the new jobs, skills and housing that are needed. UL praised the work of everyone involved in bringing the deal document together, particularly the pragmatic and conciliatory manner in which lead politicians and officers across all local authorities have worked to bring forward a deal which is also aligned with the ambitions and geographic entity of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP.</p> <p>It was agreed that maintaining momentum is key to successful delivery, and that the deal document provides an opportunity for all areas of the public sector to follow the scale of ambition for service delivery across Greater Lincolnshire. It should also provide a catalyst to join up support through future bidding rounds, such as Growth Deal III.</p> <p>The Autumn Statement was noted as providing the next opportunity to expand local</p>

	<p>decision making and spending powers through an extended deal, and work will continue on identifying areas for inclusion in the next iteration of our deal document. SH advised that Greater Lincolnshire is seen as a trailblazer in water management and that civil servants are keen to work with local officers to develop these concepts further.</p> <p>It was noted that the formal relationship between the LEP and new combined authority is not fully developed and will trigger a review of the LEP's own governance structures. Further information on Mayoral control and powers will be provided before the scheduled election in May 2017. Board Members agreed that the election of a Mayor with expertise in commerce and business and an ability to influence the electorate and cross-party working will be critical to the success of the devolution deal and combined authority.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution to be added as a standing item to future LEP Board agendas
<p><u>Item 4</u></p>	<p><u>Management Report</u></p> <p>It was noted that the recent Annual Conversation with Central Government and local audit arrangements have provided the LEP with a clean bill of health and positive endorsement of the operational mechanisms in place.</p> <p>It was noted that the Greater Lincolnshire is currently represented on all seven of the working groups which have been established to drive the Midlands Engine forward. Nominations are also being sought from the private sector for an independent Chair of the Midlands Engine Steering Group.</p> <p>The scale of the Midlands region was again recognised as important in terms of attracting future investment opportunities. However, it was agreed that continued work is required to raise the profile and importance of Greater Lincolnshire as being able to maximise the economic benefits of delivering the Midlands Engine, Northern Powerhouse and emerging links with New Anglia. As part of this wider picture, it was noted that there was a number of positive references made to Greater Lincolnshire at the recent LEP Annual Conference in London.</p> <p>HK confirmed that the Employment and Skills Board have been looking at different solutions to bring forward careers advice to schools, building on the successful model of using local ambassadors within the construction sector. It was confirmed that a bid from the Lincolnshire's Education and Business Partnership has been approved by the Careers and Enterprise Company to extend this provision across Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to bring a review of the LEP's Assurance Framework back to the Board for sign off at a future meeting; • LEP team to publish more information on website (including non-confidential Board papers; • LEP team to draft response to Government on the Apprenticeship Levy, to push for broadening out of its use to support key sector ambassadors working with local primary and secondary schools.

<p><u>Item 5</u></p>	<p><u>Business Plan 2016/17</u></p> <p>Paper tabled at the meeting. Discussion focussed on the proposed breakdown of the activity budgets. Members were requested to feed any comments back to RC by the 1st April. CB requested that a future allocation is reserved for the visitor economy.</p> <p>MT thanked RC and her team for the support which is provided to the LEP Board, despite the relatively limited resources available. RC also acknowledged the support of local authority partners in supporting delivery of the LEP objectives.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Plan for 2016/17 approved by Board, subject to final comments back to RC by the 1st April
<p><u>Item 6</u></p>	<p><u>Place Marketing Proposal</u></p> <p>It was acknowledged that place marketing is much broader than supporting the visitor economy, by intending to raise the profile of the area for increased investment and business/employee recruitment.</p> <p>The proposed interventions and work programme were endorsed by the Board. It was also agreed that the LEP should take the initial lead in implementing the actions identified, which would then be available for all local partners and businesses to use.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the local authority allocations identified in the paper were indicative at this stage and have not been subject to any formal approach or agreement (other than the £30K pa which CD has approved from LCC budgets). It was noted that some local partners may be willing to provide in-kind support to ensure the level of total resource required.</p> <p>LEP officers are also talking to colleagues in the Humber LEP to consider any scope for replicating the Hull and East Yorkshire Bondholders scheme.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP approved allocation of £60,000 over two years to support the actions identified; • CD and CB nominated to lead input and implementation of the work programme, on behalf of the LEP Board.
<p><u>Item 7</u></p>	<p><u>Housing Policy</u></p> <p>HK advised the Board that there is currently a great deal of uncertainty within the construction and housing industry, with an urgent need to drive up housing supply at the same time as fundamental changes in Government policy are seeming to delay the development and delivery of new schemes.</p> <p>HK is working with local Housing Associations towards identifying better ways of building homes, particularly around innovation in flood resilient design. It was considered that this could help to offset expenditure on land values, which is typically the largest cost constraint on new schemes.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Members endorsed the priorities outlined in the paper for future intervention

	<p>and action;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agreed priorities should be reflected in the final round of Growth Deal bids and ongoing devolution discussions.
<u>Meeting Closed at 13:00</u>	

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Chairperson

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Date

