

10 September 2015

Civic Centre, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe

LEP Directors present :

Ursula Lidbetter (UL) Chair), Richard Wills (RW), Dr Tony Hill (TH), Mark Tinsley (MT),
Cllr Colin Davie (CllrD), Cllr Rob Waltham (CllrW), Cllr Dave Watson (CllrWa),
Cllr Bob Adams (CllrA), Herman Kok (HK), David Dexter (DD), Andy Orrey (AO), Pat Doody (PD)

Apologies from Directors:

Cllr Liz Redfern (CllrR), Marcus Walker (MW), Prof Mary Stuart (MS), Ian Munnery (IM), Chris Baron (CB)

Apologies from Others

Sarah Hendry (SH)

Observers:

Pete Holmes (PH), BIS

LEP

Ruth Carver (RC), Jon Burgess (JBu) and Sue Groves (SG) Note Taker

In Attendance for specific items:

Maria Machancoses (MM), Midlands Connect, Lee Summersgill (LS), Gleeds, Ian Harrison (IH)
and Richard Colley (RC), UKTI, Clare Hughes (CH), LEP

Officers:

Angela Blake (AB), (North East Lincolnshire Council)

Actions

Welcome by the Chair – Ursula Lidbetter

The Chair welcomed everyone.

Declarations, Minutes and Matters Arising

The Chair stated that if Lincoln Transport Hub, Tentercroft Street East West Link and Enterprise Zones were to be discussed, she would have to declare an interest and leave the meeting. Declarations to be recorded within the minutes.

Representatives from North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils also declared an interest in Enterprise Zones.

Directors Business

See separate Directors Minutes.

Board Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9 July 2015 were agreed as drafted, subject to amendments. Both these and the agenda are to be published on the LEP website – all present agreed they were happy for these to be published.

<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future meetings to be arranged for next year, with two possibly being on a Friday so that local MPs would be able to attend. Letters have been sent to local MPs to inform them of ongoing LEP work. • The Innovation Council is being moved forward by MS and the first meeting is due to be held in October and will report to the Board in November. • European funding to be discussed at the November meeting. • A date for the Strategy Away Day to focus on strategic priorities for SEP update, future Growth Deal, EU funding and devolutions is still to be set. 	
<p><u>Formal Directors Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Carver updated the Board on activities undertaken since the last Board meeting. • Cllr Bob Adams and Cllr Dave Watson to be fully incorporated onto the Board. • Due to an increased workload, Neil Corner from Siemens, has resigned from the Board. An open recruitment process is being carried out to find a replacement and it is hoped that the new member will attend the November meeting. The Chair and Board wishes to extend their gratitude and wish him all the best for the future. • Following the retirement of Andy Baxendale, it was agreed that Pat Doody be invited to take up the vacancy, this was approved by the LEPs Appointment Committee. This will improve the links through to the ESIF Committee, which Pat chairs. • It was agreed at the last meeting that Streets would carry out a verification exercise of the core accounts for 2014/15. This will take place during September. 	
<p><u>Operational Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC highlighted the fact that LEP Business Live is to take place on 23 October. • Midlands LEPs have lobbied Government previously for Government backed Growth Commission to be included in the Autumn statement. There are 6 key items that have been announced, ie, skills, finance, etc. • The Minister for Business Innovation and Skills has taken an interest in the Midlands Engine and is keen to drive forward, LEP have been asked what their ideas are and how they can be developed, ie, manufactory, visitor economy. It is important that local partners stress the importance of the Midlands Engine potential and encourage MPs to participate in lobbying for this. There is also a need to stress the important of connectivity to ports and food corridors within Greater Lincolnshire as part of the key economic impact within the Midlands Region. • The Board approved a GLLEP contribution of £20k to design a prospectus and evidence base to build up a business case for the Treasury on the Midlands Engine (all 11 LEPs in the Midlands Region have agreed to this). • PH said that initial proposals should be submitted to the Government, including finance, innovation, transport, connectivity, etc, and that formal bids are to be received by 22 October. He suggested that a prospectus be developed for GLLEP (by December) and that he would be willing to meet up to discuss beforehand. • UL said we should ensure that GLLEP is heard and RC said that priority should be given to take this forward. • CD said that GLLEP would need to be prepared to have a central role and MT stated that resources would be needed if we went alone and that work would need to be done to justify the costs. 	

<p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p><u>Transport Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was acknowledged that powers to do transport sit with local authorities or statutory transport bodies, but the key role for LEP in helping local authorities should take into account the needs for growth as part of future transport plans. More work is needed to understand the future role of rail, ports and airports. • The LEP transport strategy should pick up localised priorities for future improvement through future Growth Deal investment and should include focus of exiting junction improvements as a means of reducing congestion. • The Board endorsed the transport plan as an agreement on local strategic priorities and agreed to receive the full rail report at the November meeting. • It was also agreed that the strategy should link to the devolution deal. <p><u>Midlands Connect</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Machancoses gave a presentation to the board which focusses across the East and West Midlands on transport priorities, arising out of Midlands Connect. • The medium term focus is looking to influence new infrastructure commitments from 2020 – with technical detail on scheme requirements by the end of 2016. • The Government has been critical of previous "wish list" approach to transport schemes. • Future business case work needs to focus on what drives the demand for faster journeys and shorter travelling times (beyond presentation of network usage data), and also needs to clarify what economic impact future improvements to the network will deliver for the region and UK as a whole, ie, what is needed, where, why and by when. • It is important that Greater Lincolnshire is recognised as providing access to ports and rural markets/supply chains. East-West connectivity also needs to be improved. • Strategic Corridor (number 4) included for Lincolnshire as Nottingham-Newark-Lincoln-Ports. • Need to talk to neighbouring LEPs as part of building up strategic case for investment, ie, development of Midlands infrastructure also key to successful delivery and connectivity of growth in South East and Northern Powerhouse. • Midlands Connect due to be launched on 22nd October, following completion of technical studies by the end of September. There are plans for a summit in December 2015 to improve engagement with LEPs, local authorities and businesses • £5m that was allocated to Midlands Connect in July Budget was to help build up business cases for future investment. Future funding will be allocated nationally, on a competitive basis. 	
<p><u>Enterprise Zones</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was chaired by MT as UL, RWa, AB and DW had left the room after declaring an interest. • Lee Summersgill from Gleeds attended the meeting for this item. • Advice has been commissioned through Gleeds to determine commercial viability of sites in Greater Lincolnshire to progress as an Enterprise Zone. • A number of Expressions of Interest were received in August and was shortlisted, with the assistance of Gleeds. • Recommendations were based on the detailed guidance, provided by DCLG, on assessment criteria and application process. • The Board approved the submission of two full applications; Lincoln Science and Innovation Park (including Brayford Campus) and Food Cluster. The Lincoln Science and Innovation Park is to be prioritised due to it offering greater additionality. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges around supporting district authorities to develop plans for future investment opportunities noted due to lack of capacity at the local level to progress schemes. The final date for the bid is 18 September 2015. PH said that the Enterprise Zone Team at BIS are willing to look at draft bids before they are submitted. Those who declared an interest then re-joined the meeting for the following items. 	
<p><u>Devolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was acknowledged that the document, that had been previously circulated, is a means of starting a conversation with Government and not binding on any of the partners who signed it. The LEP Board endorsed the submission, which was welcomed as a positive sign of intent and ambition that will be recognised by the Government. The timing of the submission will also help with future negotiations as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The future process is currently being discussed by Ministers. PH stated that it may be useful to have private sector members of the Board available at a moment's notice to travel to meet with Ministers when requested, as they may want to talk or have a presentation regarding the geographical spread of public and private sector. He also stated that the bid should have a clear position on governance as this is important. There will be a need to evidence strong local agreement on policies, priorities, cost of the overall ask and subsequent outcomes for both the local place and Government as part of our offer. Support and clarity of consensus from private sector is also critical. Government will be keen to understand and test the proposed models of governance that will be offered. PH stated that proposals should be ambitious and that Devolution leads are encouraged to meeting with DCLG to develop the thinking on governance structures and will also need to be clear on understanding the quantum of financial asks, eg, multi-year settlement, and what this will deliver to Government as part of our negotiations. PH to arrange a meeting. Some existing structures may form part of the overall governance model, eg, LEP, Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, with different groups taking on responsibility for different areas. MT believes that a combined Economic Development Group is critical to cover the Greater Lincolnshire area. BA said that the District Councils believe the bid should not be county only, but must have the District Councils of Board and that all issues must be agreed by Legal Services. CLLD stated that he chairs the Economic Development Committee and that City of Lincoln are always ready to progress schemes whereas some District Councils are not always ready. 	
<p><u>UKTI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian Harrison and Richard Colley from UKTI gave a presentation on UKTI services and activity in the East Midlands. UKTI targets include double the value of UK exports to £1 trillion by 2020. Services include export advice, trade promotions, trade advisors (3 covering Lincolnshire), market intelligence/research, sales leads and distribution support. Keen to deliver new activity which supports Strategic Economic Plan. Memorandum of Understanding signed between lead partners which outlines out future investment priorities. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised that local firms need targeted support around raising awareness and confidence to export, as well as identifying specific sales leads; • UKTI team worked with 229 unique companies in Lincolnshire in 2014. Further events planned with Chamber and LEP (including Business Live on 23rd October); • Major publicity also expected around Exporting is Great campaign; • Links with signing of recent trade deal with Lincolnshire and Hunan province. • It was agreed that they would supply further information that can be circulated. • MT stated that working examples are needed to show the food industry that it is important and that they need to export more and they need to get the confidence of industry and needs to be driven and supported. 	
<p><u>Skills Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP endorsed development of updated skills strategy, which is due to be signed of at next Employment and Skills Board. • LEP is keen to encourage better links between skills and education providers. • Strategy identifies good delivery against realistic targets – especially apprenticeships. • More work is needed to explain the value of visitor and care economy to tackle perception of low wage, low skilled employment. • Also agreed to change the language used in relation to high and low skills, to more accurately reflect nature of specialist skills required within different industry groups. • Additional insert to be added to reflect newly released guidance on Area Based Reviews, which will help local areas to shape and reshape what services are offered to businesses through a review of current provision and the institutional health of existing providers. • Also need to clarify actions and how strategy will take forward government's emerging policy landscape to determine the future skills offer. • Skills Board to meet again with devolution team to ensure all future needs and plans are captured. • Recognised that productivity is number one priority of new parliament. 	
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><u>The meeting was closed</u></p>	

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Chairperson

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Date

