



LEP DIRECTORS BOARD

23rd March 2018

International Bomber Command Centre,
Canwick Hill, Lincoln, LN4 2RF

Draft Minutes

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Present:

Board Directors: Ursula Lidbetter (Chair) (Lincs Co-op), David Dexter (FSB) , Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Cllr Ric Metcalfe (CLC), Prof Mary Stuart (UoL), Pat Doody (Nat West); Dean Fathers (Health), Steve Middlebrough (Siemens), Richard Wills (LCC)

LEP Executive: Ruth Carver, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

Observers: Pete Holmes (BEIS), Simon Green (NLC)

Apologies: Herman Kok (Lindums), Cllr Peter Wheatley (NELC), Chris Baron (Butlines)

Guests: Adam Peacock, James Baty, Andy Brooks, Liz Shutt

Welcome by the Chair

Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Formal apologies were received from the following Directors:
Herman Kok (Lindums), Cllr Peter Wheatley, Chris Baron

Declarations of Interest:

Full declarations of interest can be found at

<https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/documents/declarations-of-interest-register-nov-2016/>

The board were reminded that declarations of interest are required as part of LEP governance and must be submitted at least annually, and if anything changes to the LEP office at the earliest convenience.

DF stated that he now attends the Parliamentary Health Ombudsman meetings,.

Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 31st January 2018 were accepted as a true record and can be published on the website. Any matters arising are included on this Board's agenda.

LEP Executive

Matters Arising

- Judicial Review - RC stated that GLLEP is still awaiting a decision on whether the Judicial Review will take place, but should hear in the next two weeks and will keep the Board informed on any updates.

Governance & Performance Update

As reported previously, the LEP Review has taken place and the Mary Ney recommendations have been implemented. The Government's focus is on strengthening LEPs and considering their role in relation to the Industrial Strategy. There is a Ministerial Review of LEPs currently taking place, three meetings have already taken place, with a fourth meeting imminent. Although it is due to conclude in the late Spring, it is likely that the report will not be published until after the local elections in May.

The review is to:

- Define with greater clarity the strategic role of LEPs' in driving growth and productivity for business, people, ideas, infrastructure and palce.

- Strengthen business leadership and corporate governance to ensure that LEPs remain diverse private sector-led organisations that can shape and challenge local economic decision making, through the adoption of best practice.
- Establish clear accountability through rigorous financial reporting and enforcement of transparency in decision making.
- Access the impacts of boundary overlaps to ensure clarify, transparency and representation of functional economic areas, information on this is needed from the business community. Cllr D stated that the Port of Immingham is an important area, not only for Greater Lincolnshire, but the West Midlands also. The Government is not particularly supportive of overlaps and these should be managed locally, ie, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire could look the Humber LEP for support in certain projects if it works well. This is working well in some areas, but not in others.
- Improve organisational capability and planning certainty, including looking at options for a common incorporation model, how LEPs are resourced and the standardisation of organisational structures and reporting.
- Define the relationship between LEPs and Local Authorities, as well as new organisational structures such as Mayoral Combined Authorities.

As the review may have fundamental implications for the role and operation of the LEP, the LEP Executive will prepare a submission in respect of overlaps from the Board. The Lincolnshire Local Authorities are also asked to make a submission to the Review on the impacts of the overlap issue. CD asked whether it could show that different sectors could access double funding.

PH stated the reasons behind the Review were for clarity of business and accountability and said that the GLLEP should think how collaboration could be enhanced with overlaps and what the benefits would be. All evidence should be collated and sent to the Government with the response.

DD reminded everyone that residents of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire were asked whether they wished to stay as Humberside or to change to Lincolnshire, they chose Lincolnshire.

Growth Deal Update

RC informed the Board members that the Investment Board had been cancelled due to the lack of projects needing to be discussed. The Board was also informed that of the £15m that needed to be spent prior to year-end, there is between £400k and £900k still to be allocated, the final figure will be known once all claims for this year have been received, so freedoms and flexibilities will be put in place and GLLEP is still on track for Growth Deal allocation.

Cllr D gave an update on MIPIM and said that it had been a huge success and that there were a number of potential investors for Lincolnshire and that it showed how well GLLEP was working with the Midlands Engine. He also said that this showed how collaborative working is well received, ie, Manchester does not work with the Northern Powerhouse as they had separate areas. Also the launch of Team Lincolnshire at a London event was also very well received with over 100 people attending.

Annual Conversation

PH stated that the annual process is almost complete, with the process completed with letters sent to all LEPs regarding performance. The GLLEP's performance is generally considered although there was a requirement for some improvements, which have now been carried out, ie, publishing of Register of Interest, Code of Conduct etc. One key area of potential improvement was identified, ie, to address the gender and age diversity on its main Board during the recruitment of new members.

The provisional 3 year use of Freedoms and Flexibilities will be redressed next year.

After the Annual Conversation, match funding has been agreed, but next year may be issue, and that performance was very positive.

UL stated that issues with government agencies were usually the issue with not being able to reach the targets of spending growth deal funding within the expected timeframe. At the recent annual dinner, she had spoken with Ministers of the frustrations.

The LEP Executive understands that the GLLEP is one of a number of LEPs in the middle category of "requiring improvement", particularly in delivery area. The following actions were as follows:

- Governance - The LEP agreed to actively address gender and age diversity on its main board during the recruitment of new members - Ongoing.
- Delivery - Reduce the ongoing reliance on Section 31 flexibilities, maximising all opportunities to accelerate spend by Growth Deal projects and ensuring that due diligence, approval and contracting is undertaken and completed as soon as possible - Ongoing.
- Delivery - LEP and Accountable Body to maintain a proactive approach to risk management, providing regular detailed reports for key risk projects to the Board, and review pipeline schemes, examine scope and case for expanding existing projects, invite other projects to come forward at risk, and produce, agree and publish a single prioritised pipeline list - Ongoing.
- Strategy - The LEP should maintain its focus and pace on evidence gathering and analysis to enable the development of an ambitious strategy - Ongoing.
- Strategy - On skills, it is noted that the LEP has embraced its invitation to participate in the Skills Advisory Panel and career Learning Cost and Outreach pilots and should use the opportunity to develop its skills strategy and refresh its Employment and Skills Board.
- Strategy - On engagement and collaboration, the LEP should continue to maximise efforts to convene and engage partners and stakeholders (including the implementation of an MP engagement plan) and enhance collaborative work with neighbouring LEP areas across the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse.

All identified points have either already been addressed or are scheduled to be addressed this year as part of the LEP Business Plan. The LEP Executive is confident that the successful implementation of these plans will enable the LEP to obtain at least "good" overall rating in the 2018/19 Annual Conversation.

Productivity Report

A presentation was given by Adam Peacock and James Baty and provided an update on the original data of "Productivity in Greater Lincolnshire" which was given in 2016. Since then, more data has been published by the ONS and this was explained.

In some areas, the UK average was compared with other LEPs where Greater Lincolnshire was 33rd out of all 38 LEPs. Comparison with the more local LEPs, the nearest to Greater Lincolnshire was D2N2 who were 26th. A discussion took place and agreed that productivity in Lincolnshire was lower due to infrastructure.

This information was useful, but it needs to be contested and take this to each of the sectors and perhaps test these at Roundtables. GLLEP should focus on small specialist areas.

The next research will include Brexit and will be brought to the next Board in May.

UL asked what is driving the difference in efficiency, ie, geography and can we do anything about it.

RC stated that within the food sector could be more efficient with the use of robotics as they are too reliant on labour.

MS said that most of the issues were to do with connectivity.

DD asked whether the self-employed were included within the data and JB responded that they are working with HMRC to gather this data and should be available within the next 18 months.

Cllr D said that skills and vacancies are an issue nationally.

Cllr Wa said that the shortage of labour will make employers become innovative and find other ways of doing things.

Cllr L said that with the new Medical School and making improvements to infrastructure were steps in the right direction and that this should be built upon.

RC stated that the local economy should be understood.

Implementing the outcomes of the Utility Study

AB stated that this had fulfilled the feasibility expectations of the Studies.

This research had opened doors to other issues and was taken to MPs, who asked what the agenda is for GL.

Estimates for the utility capacity upgrades looked at 25 strategic sites across Greater Lincolnshire. Costs for abnormal reinforcement works were estimated to be around £125m in total and if this figure was applied to all development planned in Greater Lincolnshire in the next 20 years, ie, the SEP period, it would equate to abnormal utilities costs of around £250m, a significant upfront investment for development.

<p>Greater Lincolnshire needs to find a solution to its long term utilities needs in order to fulfil its potential for the UK and locally. This will involve working on a number of areas.</p> <p>Agreed that there is a need to develop the study and that a chapter on Utilities should be included in the LIS.</p> <p>AB said that the summit held in July, where more than 70 companies, OFGEM, utilities and MPs attended proved challenging, with a number of issues being raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current framework • Regulator that is given directions from the Government • Electric cars being promoted, but this could be in an issue in rural areas where energy is more difficult to provide as Utilities are reluctant on proposed sites and should look at the Local Plan. • Links to productivity <p>It was suggested that the Utility study and the information therein be used to provide a series of facts sheets and that a further study should be undertaken to provide more detail on Greater Lincolnshire's utility demand, with a particular emphasis on the affordability of different solutions at specific sites.</p> <p>Agreed.</p>	
<p><u>Update on progress with the Local Industrial Strategy</u></p> <p>LS gave an update on the continuing work to develop a Local Industrial Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>More focus has been given on sectors n discussions with Officials about the LIS process. GLLEP will need to draw on exiting work in relation to the sectors set out in the SEP, including sector plans. The evidence gathering phase of the LIS process is already considering sectors as part of the research programme, including productivity, inclusive growth and Brexit. These pieces of work will forma solid contextual foundation, establishing the changes which have occurred since the SEP was written and how these areas may impact our sectors and sub-sectors in varying ways.</p> <p>Work is currently being undertaken on Brexit, with sign off on the project due in late April. This research puts some of our priority sectors under a microscope in order to understand the potential opportunities and risks associate with leaving the EU. This research will factor in varying types of Brexit deal and deliver a range of impacts.</p> <p>LS is currently drafting a letter to Greg Clarke, MP regarding the LIS to address the challenges facing the GL LIS and this will be co-authored by Government and LEP. This will show that GLLEP is open to be a trial area and demonstrate that we can focus on areas.</p> <p>PH said that the ambition should be to extend the current focus and demonstrate clear ambitions showing which areas need the support of Government.</p>	
<p><u>Update on LEP Strategies</u></p> <p>RC gave an update on the LEP Strategies</p>	

<p>Members were asked to note the update provided and to reconfirm Local Authority and Board Lead responsibilities where appropriate, which had previously been circulated. Members were asked to volunteer to be LEP Leads in certain areas, but these could be filled by new Directors which are currently being recruited.</p> <p>Once this has been completed, it will be published.</p> <p>Query raised regarding where "completed" and this is to be amended to read a "refresh date".</p>	
<p><u>Update from the Food Board and Work Plan for the year</u></p> <p>An update was given on the activities currently being undertaken by the Food Board and what the priorities are. At the Spring meeting, priorities and actions are agreed and another meeting, which is held in the Autumn, an event is proposed in November 2018 to update Government Ministers to raise the profile of Greater Lincolnshire and the Food Board.</p> <p>PH stated that engagement with partners and Government is needed and that the date for the Spring meeting is needed to be able to invite the Minister.</p>	
<p><u>Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the Growth Hub Board</u></p> <p>MS said that the Growth Hub Governance Board was established in March 2015 and that it is now to be re-named the Business Lincolnshire Board to reflect its role, ie, now asking more strategic questions.</p> <p>The aim of this Board is to boost economic growth by creating more appropriate, relevant business support officers and its role is to shape and influence future business support products to meet the needs of businesses in Greater Lincolnshire. The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hu is the business support of the LEP and provides a single access point for business support, bringing together both national offers and local offers, so that businesses get what they need wherever they start their growth journey. The Growth Hub also brings together public and private sector support, ie, the support offered by local authorities, universities, Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small businesses and enterprise agencies.</p> <p>The Board accepted the change.</p>	
<p><u>Revised Terms and Reference and Work Plan for the Employment & Skills Board</u></p> <p>Refreshed Terms of Reference and Work Plan previously circulated.</p> <p>Discussion took place and it all agreed that Skills is a national issue.</p> <p>More resources and effort next year on Apprenticeships, Careers and Life Long learning, and will be included in the revised Business Plan and the need to build on the Skills Pilots awarded to Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>SM stated that at all the Manufacturing Boards that he has chaired, the main issue is apprenticeships. Trainers do not appear to be communicating with local businesses to see what their needs are and some businesses are now providing their own training.</p>	

<p>MS said that there had been a call for bids from the IoT for levels 4 and 5 of Higher Education. Businesses will be providing information on what skills are required. The bid that UoL has submitted has gone through Stage 1 and waiting to see if they go further.</p> <p>PH said that GLLEP should start thinking about the Skills Advisory Pilot and start telling Skills Partners and Ministers about their ambitions and priorities and how they could be more effective.</p>	
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>RC - Visitor Economy Board is to develop an Expression of Interest bid from the Coastal Communities Fund - approved.</p> <p>MS informed the Board that the University of Lincoln is developing a peer to peer business network.</p> <p>MS - Announcement of Medical School, now recruiting for 80 students to start next year.</p>	

Items to come back to board

<u>GLLEP Board Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Carried Out</u>
20 July 2017	Progress relationship with HCA	Pete Holmes/Ian Fytche	ongoing
	Explore options for smart/futuristic homes	Cllr Davie	Report May 2018
29 September 2017	Agree small number of messages that GLLEP wants to give to Government, avoid being diverted by Government announcing different policies on LIS	Strategy Away Day	Jan 2018 - complete
	Assurance Framework training for LEP Board and Investment Board members	Linsay HillPritchard	May 2018
	PR on Skills Capital Fund, use the grants being given to Lincoln and Stamford as a way you can demonstrate that GLLEP is investing in the digital agenda	Ruth Carver/Clare Hughes/Halina Davies	ongoing
24 November 2017	Update on progress and a report on enhancing scrutiny arrangements	Richard Wills	Jan 2018 – complete – detailed report May 2018
	Decarbonisation Project – Humber LEP & GLLEP to share	Humber LEP & GLLEP - Simon Green	
	Self-Employment Project – figures captured Growth Hub	Samantha Harrison	
	Actions from the Digital Action Plan being implemented.	Angela Driver	
31st January 2018	Visitor Economy website and national profile	Ruth Carver	
23rd March 2018			