



Minutes of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

29th October 2019

The Showroom, Tritton Road, Lincoln, LN5
7QY

Minutes

Present: Board Directors:

Ursula Lidbetter (Chair) (Lincs Co-op), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Cllr Philip Jackson (NELC), Chris Baron (Butlins, Skegness), Dean Fathers (Health), Gary Headland (Lincs Chamber & IoD), Zoe King (Epix Media), Nick Worboys (Longhurst Group), Pat Doody (Nat West), Sarah Louise Fairburn (L J Fairburn & Sons Ltd)

Observers:

Cllr Oliver Hemsley (Rutland CC), Helen Mitchell (BEIS), Andy Gutherson (LCC)

Apologies:

Mary Stuart (UoL), Cllr Ric Metcalfe (CoL), Debbie Barnes (LCC), Peter Holmes (Observer)

LEP Executive:

Ruth Carver, James Baty, Cathy Jones Kate Storey, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

For Agenda Items:

Alex Gardiner (Metro Dynamics)

Apologies and Declarations of Interest -

Apologies were noted from Mary Stuart, Cllr Ric Metcalfe, Debbie Barnes and Pete Holmes

Full declarations of interest for each individual Board Director can be found at:

<https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/about/boards/>

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

Approval of the Local Industrial Strategy - Alex Gardiner (Metro Dynamics)/James Baty (LEP)

RC introduced this item, explaining the priorities. Any comments received so far have been reflected in the working version of the Local Industrial Strategy and once this has been discussed today with Board Directors, it is hoped to be submitted to Government in early November. Engagement has already taken place with Chief Executives of Local Authorities, the University, further engagement is to take place with other GLLEP Boards and Colleges.

Presentation given by Alex Gardiner

Overview of the LIS

The ambition is futureproof the UK's major agrifood economy, creating a productive and resilient economy built on natural capital and inclusivity. Strategic opportunities include Energy & Water, Health & Care, Agrifood, Defence and Visitor Economy with the foundations or productivity being Business Environment, Ideas, Place, People and Infrastructure.

- PD - Query raised as to why Ports and Logistics were not included in the strategic opportunities. It was explained that they are a smaller sector, but are included in the document.
- GH - In the evidence, what clear evidence is given by SMEs and are they enough to be a priority, this was answered by saying that they are part of the Business Environment sector.
- GH - There is a need to include micro-businesses.
- PJ - Ports & Logistics need to be featured more strongly as part of the coastal community.
- DF - Airports should also be included, ie, Immingham, Doncaster etc.

RC explained the process in that GLLEP will work with the Government on the draft LIS before it can be published. LEPs that have already published are now working on Implementation/Action Plans.

The Importance of Place to the LIS:

The LIS is for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire and looks to maximise the gains for all places.

Strategic Opportunities:

This includes Ambition, Summary of Opportunity and Actions, which should be developed across Greater Lincolnshire area and should focus on skills.

Comments:

- ❖ Ambition/Mission Statement - this will not be the same in 10 years' time
- ❖ RC - What do we want to be known for, what are the key ingredients, need a couple of paragraphs to be distinctive on three to five priorities/key areas
- ❖ NW - Infrastructure - Belief is that Greater Lincolnshire is not accessible, it needs to be shown in a more positive light.
- ❖ CL/GH - Land (Wind/water)
- ❖ CCL - Locational history (geography)
- ❖ CD - The Executive Summary needs to be robust and distinctive

If the changes are made following comments received, the Board were asked to endorse the submission to Government, a draft will be circulated.

Board Directors were asked if they had any more information on various sectors, please forward to James Baty/Cathy Jones.

Q2 Financial Report and Scenarios - Ruth Carver

Core funding from BEIS/MHCLG is £500,000 per year, with an additional one-off fund of £100,000 for capacity funding for the Local Industrial Strategy production and implementation.

Because funding of £200,000 from the 2 year capacity fund has been withheld from Greater Lincolnshire due to the unresolved overlapping geography, budget re-alignment has taken place and it is recommended that the following activities identified within the Delivery Plan, which was approved in May 2019, are not undertaken in this financial year:

- Independent Governance Review Agreed in January 2019 - £25,000
- Intern to support additional comms and networking - £10,000 - £15,000 * important and could be progressed as secondment.
- Brexit Consultancy - £12,000 - not needed currently due to impact report being undertaken
- Domain/software upgrade £3,288
- Chair executive search £5,000

In terms of activity for this financial year, the LEP can deliver a near balanced budget of £870,000 utilising Core funding, Capacity funding, interest from growth deal, SAP and partner contributions.

Action:

- **The Board Directors noted the budget realignment exercise undertaken and the skills budget from Lincolnshire County Council and therefore agreed to the changes to the Delivery Plan, and the recommendations of the realignment.**

Board Directors were asked to note the declining income and expenditure, this is due to end of a number of fixed term contracts within 2021/22 coming to an end, and partner contributions ceasing.

In 2019/20, after the budget re-alignment and identifying partner contributions, it is envisaged putting approximately £28,936 onto reserve to help fund gaps in future years. There is a gap to fund basic core activity in 20/21 and 21/22 of £96k, assuming core funding remains at £500,000 per annum.

We do still hold other small reserves circa £20,000 and an exercise will be undertaken to review likely hood of utilisation of the reserves in time for the third quarter report.

Action:

- **Board Directors noted the three year forecasts, and agreed to delegate to the Chief Executive to seek additional funding from local partners, fully utilise reserves, seek secondments and to lobby government for additional core funding for future years.**

As the LEP has grown in activity and influence, the core structure of the team has remained static due to available resources of core funding at £500,000. More recently in the last eighteen months the LEP has been utilising reserves and partner contributions to a budget of circa £800,000 in 2019/20. The current structure is 10.2 FTE and costs circa £357,130 per annum currently. There is approval and budget for two additional posts in the skills areas which are undergoing recruitment and job evaluation, taking FTE to 12.2 and additional costs of circa £90,000. Attachment 3.2 sets out a proposed future structure that would be needed to meet existing workloads and ambitions for the LEP, and provide the resilience that is needed currently. The proposed structure is 15.2 FTE and anticipated costs are approximately £597,000 per annum with 6 of the 15 being on two-year fixed term post.

Action:

Board Directors discussed the suitability of the proposed staffing structure (Attachment 2.2) subject to additional resources being sought from local partners, fully utilising reserves, seeking secondments and to lobby government for additional core funding for future years.

LCC Corporate Plan 2020 to2030 - Andy Gutherson, Executive Director for Place at LCC.

The LCC Corporate Plan was started during the summer following a Peer Review carried out by the LGA.

Comments:

- ❖ Supporting those who need extra help, especially older residents - this should be opportunities
- ❖ Define what success means for Lincolnshire
- ❖ Plan will be discussed at Full Council in September
- ❖ Engage with key strategic partners up to November, not including residents
- ❖ GH - Non-use levy to be used on HR and Wellbeing
- ❖ GH - Policy on climate change - need to be more assertive - AG responded stating that the Directorate will include this in the Action Plan, being Carbon Neutral by 2050.
- ❖ PD - Include older people
- ❖ CD - LCC will continue to reduce the carbon footprint, but will take time and cost
- ❖ NW - Partnership - working collaboratively

The meeting was closed.