



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

Minutes of 22nd February 2022

Via MS Teams

Present: Board Directors:

Pat Doody (Non-Executive Director and Chair), Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Oliver Hemsley (Rutland CC), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Dean Fathers (Health), Debbie Barnes (CX LCC), Simon Bird (ABP), Darren Cunningham (Phillips 66), Air Commodore Dickens (RAF Cranwell), Julian Free (UoL), Jo Hardy (Hardy's Farm), Gary Headland (Lincoln College, IoD & Lincs Chamber), Andrew Hunter (UoL), Zoe King (Epix Media), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Nick Worboys (Longhurst), Stephen Fidler (DfT)

Apologies from Directors: Alison Ballard (BAE Systems), Sarah Louise Fairburn (Vice Chair, IMP and Maker),

Observers: Pete Holmes (BEIS), Katherine Cousins (BEIS), Clive Tritton (NLC), Andrew Crookham (Accountable Body & S151 Officer), Simon Green (NELC)

LEP Officers: Ruth Carver, Caroline Illingworth, James Baty, Janice Owen (Observer), Sue Groves (Note Taker) -

For Agenda items: Neal Juster (UoL), Caroline Low (UoL)

Apologies and Declarations of Interest - Apologies were noted as above.

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.

Declarations of Interest:

Dean Fathers - Chair of the Centre for Organization Resilience and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Lincoln International Institute for Rural Health Care.

Chair welcomed Air Commodore Andrew (Chas) Dickens to his first Board meeting, who went on to give a resume of his career, currently the new Commandant at RAF Cranwell since November 2021, taking over from now AVM Suraya Marshall.

Minutes & Matters Arising (Paper 1) - Chair

- ❖ Update on Skills Bootcamp - CX have an overview of the proposal for skills bootcamps in GL working with colleges and businesses for approximately £1.7m across Greater Lincolnshire. The bid for bespoke courses for Greater Lincolnshire focuses on the following sectors: visitor economy, green skills, manufacturing, care and food and expect to hear by the end of the month, operationally, the funding has to be spent by March 2023, so will have to go into a procurement phase.
- ❖ Forward Plan - CX would welcome any topics from Board members for future agendas, ie, policy, strategy etc.

Actions:

- CX to circulate a summary of the skills bootcamp proposal for info - Complete

Decision Log & Review of Actions (Papers 1.1 and 1.2)

- ❖ No comments made.

Chair & CX Report (Item 2 - Verbal) - Ruth Carver

- ❖ CX gave an update on the two LEP challenge funds, two funds up to £2m were made available for GL. Low carbon challenge fund for businesses and sectors to apply for

innovative low carbon solutions and closes on the 28th February and there have been 5 or 6 interesting proposals for this fund. The second was for Labour Market Support Fund, this will be launched on the 15th March and will be open for 6 weeks, but waiting for the outcome of the Skills Bootcamps bid, particularly as educational authorities will be looking at these as an connected opportunity.

- ❖ Agenda now shows a number of key dates for the Year, ie, Annual LEP Conference, Defence Dinner, Annual Lunch, Manufacturing Conference etc.
- ❖ Action from the last Board meeting regarding the issue of rail freight. A team from Midlands Connect have had a physical visit to see what the challenges and opportunities are, with a follow up meeting with officers, Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Connect to be arranged. Discussions have also taken place with Transport for the North and Midlands Connect but need to get them to agree joint actions. SF said the approach of having a conversation with Transport for the North and Midlands Connect to get a shared view at senior level would be helpful and will connect the right DfT policy people to take the conversation forward.
- ❖ Annual Performance Review held with BEIS where the LEP is judged on 3 criteria: governance, delivery and strategy. This was a positive review.
- ❖ Continuing with one-to-one meetings with Directors, which is part of the annual review to assist with producing the strategy. Also included the Chairs of Strategic Advisory Boards. A report will be put together and to be discussed at the next meeting.

Actions:

- Would like Cllr Waltham to give a lead and to potentially have a roundtable with both the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Connect to take further cross working for northern lincolnshire - Halina ACTION.
- Summary and action from the formal notes from the Annual Performance Review to be circulated - CX ACTION

Quarterly Performance Report (Paper 3) - Caroline Illingworth

- ❖ The Board approved the recommendation from the F and A Committee to appoint Duncan and Toplis be appointed for a further 3 years for Audit work for the LEP
- ❖ Quarter 3 Performance Report shows most areas as green (on track) and to stay that way by the end of the year. There are also 4 areas which are marked as amber, one area being the game changers, ie, Clean Growth, working with the Energy Council to take this forward, UK Food Valley revised business case, which will be discussed at the next Board meeting, strength of the LEP is amber due to the lack of progress on collaboration with bureaus, due to the LEP Review and Covid, which has prevented this moving forward and GBF due to some of the projects running slightly over into the next financial year and Governance, team working through the actions within the Delivery plan and will take forward into the next year's version.
- ❖ The Board was asked to discuss the layout, contents, and level of detail of the proposed Dashboard and feedback any changes required. The Dashboard will also provide a summary of LEP core financial information and risks, based on the information reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee.
- ❖ Work has started to develop a new way of reporting and showing the information in a much simpler way, via a dashboard. James gave a demonstration and overview to show the functionality of the proposed dashboard and the plan is to launch this with next year's Delivery Plan. The dashboard will be a live document.

Comments:

- DF - If the dashboard gives information on how well the LEP is doing, asked whether if it could also project forwards and backwards for comparison and suggested project targets over the next four years and would also help with evaluation analysis.
- PD asked if the dashboard should focus on areas that the LEP is measured against for the Peer Review, ie, delivery, governance and strategy in order to know that the LEP is on track for the Annual Performance Review.
- RC stated that the dashboard will be used as an internal team tool as well as a directors tool.

Decision:

- Board agreed with the recommendation of re-appointing Duncan and Toplis as external auditors.

Quarterly Finance Report (Paper 3.1) - Ruth Carver

This is a report from the Accountable Body and the CX talked through the headlines information:

- ❖ Revenue budget for this financial year is £1.3m to run and operate the team and to deliver some programmes and the spend target so far is £820k. Mostly on track although there were some delays in strengthening the core team due to recruitment to 2-year fixed posts and planned activity due to the pandemic, any uncommitted budget funds will be utilised next year.
- ❖ In terms of the capital funding (SLGF and GBF), the LEP is at the tail end of the programme. The majority of the capital programmes are on track There have been some delays due to the pandemic and supply chain issues and may go into the next couple months of the new financial year.
- ❖ Usually at the end of the year, a detailed review of reserves is reported, but the Board has already made a number of commitments ahead of this. A full review will be undertaken at year end.

Decision:

- The Board agreed and noted the report
- The Board asked for a more user friendly finance report for future quarters

Plan for Growth for Progress (Paper 3.2) - James Baty

- ❖ This is a 5-year plan of actions that was agreed with partners as part of the Covid response and to tie it into the strategic objectives within the Local Industrial Strategy with the actions coming from the local partners and local authorities, with monitoring taking place. Hoping to be able to update in dashboard form in future.
- ❖ The report shows the status as to whether the thematic area has seen any change from the previous quarter. The only change in status is the Defence sector around the defence cluster moving forward.
- ❖ The amber areas are as previously set out and may not be delivered, this is due to some projects that may need a change potentially, so there are some risks going forward, ie, expected investment at the Able Marine Park not going ahead. As this is a 5-year plan, happy that amber areas will turn green.

Comments:

- ❖ DC - There are encouraging signs with the likes of Opportunity Humber and the Humber Energy Board but raised concerns as how joined up the two entities are or whether they will be two separate groups with good intentions. PD responded to say that the Humber Energy Board meets next week and collectively, the local Authorities, HEYLEP and GLLEP have written to government to say that conversations need to be held with Opportunity Humber to be able to work together going forward.
- ❖ PD - regarding Able Marine Park, and the loss of an anchor company, a meeting with ABLE is being scheduled to look at the wider issues, impact and various significant other opportunities.
- ❖ PH - government perspective would like to ensure that Opportunity Humber and sponsors align with the Humber Energy Board, rather than duplicate the work or overlap.

Levelling Up White Paper Opportunities - James Baty

- ❖ LEP Chair provided context regarding devolution and importance for the business community due to the opportunities it provides in terms of government funding, share of voice, pilot schemes and the fact that is the chance to spend on key areas, such as skills. It was noted that areas surrounding Lincolnshire have been offered a deal. Leaders from the Unitary Authorities met with the Prime Minister last week when he visited Lincolnshire and believes government are responsive to the Lincolnshire offer.
- ❖ It was noted that Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee meets on the 11th March where the bid could be ratified, followed by a consultation with businesses to see if it can be endorsed. The board could reach a position that would enable the LEP to take forward business engagement to support the devolution or to support the ambitions.

Comment:

PH Made the offer of being the conduit to ministers on latest status of the devolution proposals and happy to take part in meetings where appropriate and keep ministers fully briefed on the detail of the proposal and consensus that is being built. Emphasis on community led regeneration and how the LEP works with those communities.

- ❖ Liz Shutt presented an overview of the opportunities presented by the Levelling Up White Paper for Greater Lincolnshire.
- ❖ LEP CX stated that work is underway to understand where the most significant opportunities would be for the Place and for the LEP as an organisation, what the role could be within those opportunities and moving them forward.
- ❖ It was noted that the White Paper signalled the end of the LEP Review but waiting to hear from government the scope of LEPs nationally going forward and what the core offer will be, ie, the business voice, economic strategy policy and research delivery elements, which is Growth Hub, Business Lincolnshire, Skills programmes and careers.
- ❖ Potential future roles for LEPs were explored, with a commitment to explore further following Government mandate at a strategy session with Board members.

Comments:

- There was a discussion around responsiveness and capacity for short term funding calls and the stages of devolution.

Actions:

- Board director strategy session to be organised to shape LEP direction in the new policy landscape and opportunities emerging from the Levelling Up agenda.

University of Lincoln 5-Year Strategy (Presentation) - Neal Juster & Caroline Low

- **University of Lincoln 5-Year Strategy (Presentation) - Neal Juster & Caroline Low**
 - Neal Juster presented the University of Lincoln 5-year strategy - staff have been consulted and ask the LEP to consider how to continue to work in partnership.
 - The University has a diversity in a number of learning modes, ie, apprenticeships, micro credentials, online, specific educational contracts, etc and is seeing a growing international demand. 700 new international students joined Lincoln recently, diversifying the make-up of the city and university.
 - There are 6 specific industry research clusters where the university would like to invest in in the future as they align with the strengths internally and the needs of the region.
 - There are three large campus areas - Lincoln, Holbeach (Food Enterprise Zone) and Riseholme (farm and agri-tech).
 - Also increasingly getting involved in other parts in the region and over the next few years will need to answer collaborate with our partners to enable more of physical presence in some of other regions, to help the development of the food manufacturing, food manufacturing up in Grimsby for seafood working particularly on the innovation hub in, in the Freeport, the Connected Coast and Mablethorpe and the campus for future Living, in Scunthorpe with their manufacturing and also carbon capture energy.
 - University has its own carbon targets but how do they become a leader in the region to help everybody reduce their carbon footprints?
 - Opportunity to work together with the LEP on the levelling up agenda is the challenge mission of helping people live longer, have healthier lives, ie, helping the whole sustainability agenda and working collaboratively to provide an ecosystem that creates companies, skill sets and draws companies to the region, making sure we have a really strong intersection between the research we're doing in the university, the research that's being done in companies in the region creating that innovation ecosystem and creating the skills that are needed.

Comments:

- The White Paper associated with health and social care bill has been delayed, but with the creation of new integrated care partnerships (ICP) are going to start to generate more and the LEP will need to engage with each of those in a co-ordinated stakeholder focused way to get

alignment.

- RC interested in the graduate outcomes and graduate retention for the Greater Lincolnshire area and how collectively, this can be achieved for either opportunities or placements.
- Element around innovation and R&D for energy and green skills, would like to see more training that future generations on green skills as currently heavily skewed by business. NJ responded some of these are embedded in some of the courses but need to work with other education providers in the region to ensure that the right skills education is being achieved, but there may be an opportunity to run name courses at master level or at undergraduate level in sustainability green skills.

Actions:

- Neal to provide a draft strategy by the end of March, share the action plan and investment framework.
- Offer of assistance of wider stakeholder engagement needed.

Forward Plan (Item 6)

- ❖ All Board Directors asked to think about any topics for discussion at future Board meetings, ie, productivity, housing etc.
- ❖ RC - waiting for the government scope of LEPs and to know what the core funding will be before the strategy session is arranged, probably in the summer.

Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 1700 hours.