



# Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Via MS Teams

**Present: Board Directors:**

Pat Doody (Non-Executive Director and Chair), Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Sarah Louise Fairburn - Vice Chair (IMP and Maker), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Oliver Hemsley (Rutland CC), Alison Ballard (BAE Systems), Dean Fathers (Health), Debbie Barnes (CX LCC), Simon Bird (ABP), Darren Cunningham (Phillips 66), Julian Free (UoL), Jo Hardy (Hardy's Farm), Gary Headland (Lincoln College, IoD & Lincs Chamber), Zoe King (Epix Media), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Nick Worboys (Longhurst)

**Apologies from Directors:** Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Andrew Hunter (UoL)

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

**Apologies from Observers:** Stephen Fidler (DfT), Mick Lazarus (BEIS), Simon Green (NELC)

**LEP Officers:** Ruth Carver, Caroline Illingworth, Halina Davies, Sue Groves (Note Taker) -

**For Agenda items:** Rachael Greenwood (Midlands Engine Director)

**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:

- ❖ Simon Bird (Item 4 -Freeport)
- ❖ Dean Fathers has now joined the Board of Access, a defence company, so wished it to be noted that any future items on Defence, a Declaration of Interest should be noted

**Minutes & Matters Arising (Paper 1) - Chair**

- Minutes from the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 accepted as a true record, and the CX ran through the matters arising.

Matters arising:

- ❖ Directors Dashboard - Chair asked when this would be available. CX responded that this is to replace the quarterly performance report and a draft should be ready for discussion at the February/March Board in time for the next delivery year.
- ❖ Update requested as to when the Labour Market Challenge Fund would be launched. Response: Once the Clean Growth Accelerator Fund closes on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, the Labour Market Challenge Fund will be launched.

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

- ❖ Action Log of 24<sup>th</sup> April states that the review of Strategic Advisory Board is completed, but it is ongoing - will be amended.

**Chair & CX Report (Paper 2) - Ruth Carver**

- ❖ Also from the Action Log regarding the Board meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October, transport was discussed, particularly around freight and the East West Link between Immingham, Doncaster and Liverpool. Some of the transport elements are incorporated within the Freeport bid which is being submitted, the need to find out what data requirements Midlands Connect requires to understand how a business case can be put together for an improve freight arrangement between Immingham and Liverpool is underway.

## Comments

- Simon Bird met the MC team to explain that it is much broader than just Immingham, Doncaster and Liverpool, it needs to include the whole of the Humber and the Pennines, so need to make a case for investment to ensure there is sufficient rail capacity either side of the Humber and to get over the Pennines.
- ❖ Levelling Up Paper - still awaiting publication. CX to keep the Board updated and will provide a summary of key points and circulate.
- ❖ Delivery Plan - would normally have been produced, but Chair and CX currently holding one to one meetings with Directors where feedback will be included in the Delivery Plan and a draft will be discussed at the March Board meeting so that LEP activity in April can be considered. Meetings are also being held with each Chair of Strategic Advisory Boards for their feedback.
- ❖ LEPs have been asked by the Department for Education to submit proposals for Skills Bootcamps by mid-February of up to £1m being led by LEPs, working with delivery partners to scope out broad areas of interest. Meeting arranged next week with employers and providers to take forward. Great opportunity to bring activity into the region, but asked that Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland based providers are procured. The Lincolnshire IoT could bring together nearly all the FE providers across Greater Lincolnshire, which may enable a stronger bid to be submitted and would also be beneficial to the IoT.

The Chair updated the Board on the formation of the Humber Energy Board - companies from both sides of the Humber who are involved in the energy sector are represented, ie, Equinor, Phillips66, Drax, National Grid etc, who will provide a single voice to government to ensure that the area makes the most of energy sector opportunities. One meeting has been held, with the next due in February.

Update on ABP from Simon Bird - Immingham complex is the largest in the country for tonnages, twice the size of anybody else in the country. If you look at the geography, it is well placed to serve the northwest, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, down to the Midlands and further north as a consequence and currently, container operations are very strong. To accommodate the growth, new facilities are to be built, looking at £100m investment to build four new berths on the eastern side of Immingham into the estuary and currently seeking the developed consent order.

### Actions:

- Board Directors will receive information on various items, ie, to attend any opportunities for photo shoots for example, Grantham Southern Relief Road, etc.
- CX to incorporate all good news stories and investments are included in the report going forward.

## **Proposal to underwrite the costs of the LEP 2022/2023 (Paper 3) - LEP Futures Group**

CX led this item and presented recommendations from the sub group LEP Futures. Following on from last board meeting where six options were considered, the Board asked that further work be undertaken on LEP Board underwriting the costs of the LEP until March 2023 prior to the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper.

CX explained the current balance of reserves and the ways in which reserves could increase during the financial year from interest, loans repaid etc.

There are 3 options for consideration:

- Full funding at the same level from national government of £500k
- Partial funding from national government of £250k
- No funding from national government

### Recommendations

- ❖ That the LEP Board agrees to underwrite the costs of running the LEP until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to the maximum value of £557k, if required.
- ❖ Recognition that if the underwrite provision is utilised, this severely impacts the delivery plan for the LEP and Greater Lincolnshire.

- ❖ Post White Paper that the LEP Team are asked to develop a delivery plan and agree with partners for 2022/2023 with three funding scenarios, no core funding, 50% core funding (£250,000) or 100% core funding from government (£500,000k)
- ❖ Seek in principle funding for 2022/2023 academic year for the Greater Lincolnshire Career Hub - circa £120,000 -LCC £84,000, NELC £18,000, NLC £18,000.
- ❖ LEP team to undertake a mid-term finance options paper to bring back to board for discussion

Decision:

- The LEP Board supported the proposals to underwrite the costs for the next 12 months or to March 2023 and if there are any changes, the Board will be consulted.

**Simon Bird left the meeting**

**Allocation of Resources for Freeport (Paper 4) - Halina Davies**

- ❖ This is to support the inception costs of submission to government of the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case. All partners have been asked to contribute on behalf of the Freeport, ie, the two LEPs, 4 local authorities and local business and also the government is contributing. The final cost will be known by the end of February.
- ❖ Asking the Board to approval delegated authority to the Chief Executive for up to £35k from GLLEP, with HEYLEP contributing the same amount, pending the outcome of the White Paper.
- ❖ £35k is part of a much larger contribution of up to £700k, of which the local authorities are paying into and GLLEP would contribute if (a) it is affordable or (b) that the Freeport can demonstrate that it is necessary to pay for the business case development and set-up costs, therefore the delegated authority would only be actioned if it is needed.

Decision:

- Board approved delegated authority with the caveat of only contributing on evidence of need.

**Approval of Business Plan and Allocation of Resources for UK Food Valley (Paper 5) - Sarah Louise Fairburn**

- ❖ An outline business plan was presented for year one of the UK Food Valley activity. This is more a sense of direction and is not the final plan. This is a chance for the board to challenge and understand what the plans are for the Food Board at this point and have a say in how much support and what shape that should take.
- ❖ The UK Food Valley is one of the LEP's game-changers and it is the ambition for the food sector to be in the top 10 cluster in the world by 2030 and is progressing well and there is a lot of interest from the private sector.
- ❖ The proposal to the Board is to seek an outline budget of £221k for year one activity covering programme management, comms and engagement, research and developing business cases.

Decision

- The Board approved up to £75k for the UKFV Programme Manager within the LEP team as a one-year fixed term post and asked that the full business plan be developed to consider activities and a longer term model of operation.

**Midlands Engine Priorities (Presentation) - Rachael Greenwood**

- ❖ Rachael gave a presentation on the work of the Midlands Engine.
- ❖ The Midlands Engine is linked to the scale that they represent and have an important voice into government in a UK context and economy and is comparable to the size of Denmark's economy of approximately £250bn.
- ❖ 102 MPs in the Midlands Engine region,  $\frac{1}{6}$ <sup>th</sup> of the voice in the House of Commons, which is really important and influential.
- ❖ Observatory work continues, working with 16 or 17 of the region's universities carrying out research.
- ❖ State of the Region report was published in December.

- ❖ Green Growth 10-point plan - Growth Board has mobilised over ¼ of the actions in the Action Plan, ie, the launch of the Hydrogen Technology Strategy.
- ❖ Digital Connected map, GLEP were a pilot and provide a video piece on the importance of the Connected Map. The Map shows broadband, which is fairly well connected, but also shows where the significant gaps are in areas, particularly in rural areas. DCMS approached Midlands Engine to work on a Giga hubs project which will be taken predominantly to rural areas, including Lincolnshire and also health, schools, other public buildings that are not going to be served.
- ❖ Recently held a Midlands Digital event, with a minister as a speaker who talked about the collaboration around Giga hubs and at about the £18 million investment that the government will make in the region as the start of a of a Gigabit connection project, working with Lincolnshire to ensure that it is included.
- ❖ Considerable work been carried out getting an investment portfolio, some based on investment propositions that Greater Lincolnshire has put forward. This was really a bit of an antidote from the DIT proposal to take 15, some of which weren't virgin sites to the global investment summit, representing the Midlands. Having spoken with partners, LEPs, local authorities, 170 investible propositions have been identified with a total value of over £40.2bn. The portfolio will be put under the Midlands Engine umbrella and will be accessible via the Midlands Engine website with a dynamic portal where that will be searchable and that will have your information and take that to a bigger market.
- ❖ Health - led Midlands Life Sciences and Health symposium in November, the first time that a spotlight has been put on regional health and life sciences, medical technologies and was a very successful event.

#### Areas of Focus with Midlands Engine/Greater Lincolnshire LEP

- Food, defence and green growth/energy
- Transport corridors - freight and A46/A16/A17
- Female leaders across the midlands - is there something that the Midlands can join together on - SLF to discuss with Dean Fathers
- Discussion on whether the Humber hydrogen work is as well connected across the Midlands Engine and the Green Growth Board as it should or could be. More could be done here.
- RC said that once the White Paper has been launched, need to take to Midlands Engine about the Humber Energy Board/Humber Opportunity to make those connections.

#### Scheme of Delegation and Local Assurance Framework (Paper 6) - Caroline Illingworth

- ❖ This is the beginning of the full review of the governance documentation being undertaken.
- ❖ Local Assurance Framework - update is that it is in line with the most recent version of the National Assurance Framework and ensures that the information contained there in is up to date. **Approved.**
- ❖ Scheme of Delegation - revision to ensure that some of the more operational areas of governance can be delegated down to the Executive team where required and to make some of the elements within the scheme are more specific. **Approved.**

#### Decision

- The Scheme of Delegation and LAF were approved by the Board subject to the amendment above and can be published.

#### Forward Plan (Paper 7)

- ❖ All Board Directors asked to think about any topics for discussion at future Board meetings, ie, productivity, housing etc.

#### Any Other Business

None

**The meeting closed at 1700 hours.**