



Greater Lincolnshire LEP

Board

29th June 2021

Via MS Teams

Draft Minutes

Present: Board Directors:

Pat Doody - Chair (Non-Executive Director), Sarah Louise Fairburn (Imp and Maker) and Deputy Chair, Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Oliver Hemsley (RCC), Alison Ballard (BAE Systems), Darren Cunningham (Phillips 66), Dean Fathers (Health), Gary Headland (Lincoln College, IOD and Lincs Chamber), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Nick Worboys (Longhurst),

Apologies from Directors:

Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Suraya Marshall (RAF Cranwell), Julian Free (UoL), Zoe King (Epix Media), Andrew Hunter (UoL), Simon Bird (ABP), Debbie Barnes (CX LCC)

Observers: Peter Holmes (BEIS)

Apologies from Observers:

Andrew Crookham (Accountable Body & S151 Officer), Stephen Fidler (DfT), Clive Tritton (NELC), Simon Green (NLC)

LEP Officers: Ruth Carver, Clare Hughes, James Baty, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

For Agenda items: Karen Seal (LCC)

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.

Minutes & Matters Arising (Paper 1) - Pat Doody/Ruth Carver

The minutes from the Board meeting held on 28th May 2021 were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- Virtual Business Roundtable for Small Business -arranged for 12th July 2021
- Strategic Review and supply chain opportunities when will the Board be updated - to be included on the Forward Plan

Action: Ask Simon Bird to give an update on what type of investors are interested in the Humber Freeport at next meeting.

Action Log (Paper 1.1) and Decision Log (Paper 1.2) - No comments.

Chair and CX Report (Paper 2) - Ruth Carver CX presented this item.

Agenda is a consensus agenda, but RC highlighted a number of areas:

1 Labour Market across GL

- On economic conditions, there is increasing data, and intelligence being received at the LEP's Intelligence unit on recruitment challenges, particularly in the health and care, visitor economy and food sectors, driver shortages etc. Currently Greater Lincolnshire has the highest number of vacancies and unemployed for the last 5 years - and this is reflecting the national situation.
- Also conscious that furlough ends in the near future, with approximately 44,000 furloughed across Greater Lincolnshire at end of April, the majority of which are young people or those over 60.
- On driver shortages, GLLEP is already working with the Chamber of Commerce, DWP and Growth Hub Advisers who are assessing the scale and complexity of the issue in Greater Lincolnshire (stage one), briefing local partners and national lobbying (stage two), and have already started to look at how the challenges could be overcome (stage three).
- ESAP are overseeing a piece of work on HGV shortages with local partners, and will take the same approach on VE and Food.

Comments from Board Directors

- The impact of a tight labour market, is already seeing wage inflation, particularly in areas that have a high degree of vacancies, example HGV and Food Sector.
- MW and Clare Hughes had discussed this, but people are not coming to Lincolnshire as there are vacancies UK-wide. NW said that it is the same in the construction industry.
- There are still a number of people in Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland without settled status, with a number who have not applied and ends on the 1st July, but has been extended by 28 days and potentially be extended to December.
- Some suggestions that ex-visitor economy/hospitality staff have now re-trained into more year round roles/jobs and asked what the LEP could help on the impact. CH - Regarding driver re-training, there is a task force looking at existing and new short and longer term options, meeting again this week and next week, gathering evidence, with a final impact report to follow. DWP carrying out a bespoke pilot on HGV training.

2 Levelling Up

- GLLEP is commissioning a discussion paper on the topic currently focussing on what would levelling up should focus on in GL with the first shaping discussion at the July or September 2021 Board for the Greater Lincolnshire area.

3 LEP Review

- LEP Review is still ongoing, and an indication may be announced before summer recess, but the outcome may be delayed so that it links with the Levelling Up, therefore towards the end of 2021

4 Spending Review

- LEP to write to all partners on Spending Review may now only a 1 year spending review, therefore need to start looking at asking partners what the LEP should be requesting, ie, UK Food Valley programme, working with East Midlands colleagues on a Made Smarter programme for manufacturing businesses, also supported by the Midlands Engine.

Actions:

- ❖ LEP to feed initial intelligence to Government regarding challenges around recruitment etc, and then undertake additional work in the scale and scope. interim report to be brought to the July meeting -focus on HGV (underway), Food (SLF and Mandy and Clare) and Visitor Economy (Jo Hardy, Nicky van der drift and Ruth)
- ❖ SG to look for physical venues for 1/4ly meetings across GL

Appointments Committee Progress - Gary Headland

- Electronic approvals given by the Board since the last meeting:
 - Appointment of Jo Hardy as a Director of the LEP Board, and deputy chair of the Visitor Economy Board
 - Appointment of Simon Bird as a permanent director of the GLLEP Board
 - Appointment of Sarah Louise Fairburn and Nick Worboys for a second term of office of three years from January 2022 GLLEP Board
 - Appointment of Professor Andrew Hunter as the new Chair of the Innovation Council, succeeding Professor Mary Stuart.
 - Appointment of Nicky Van der Drift as chair of the Visitor Economy Board

Action: Board members to proactively look for future Board members for future vacancies.

Employment and Skills Advisory Panel Update (Paper 3) - Clare Hughes, Executive Manager **Employment and Skills at the LEP presented this paper, in the ESAP Chairs absence.**

- Presented some real examples of the work that ESAP is carrying out. There are 7 published priorities in the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel's Action Plan that directly correlate to People Section of the Economic Growth Plan. The priorities were endorsed by the LEP Board
- The first priority is to publish the evidence base as required by DfE has been carried out,
- A live example of the "Maximise the impact of national employment and skills initiatives" priority is working with the deliverers of the Government's programme called Restart, which is due to start

imminently. This is a 4½ year programme to help unemployed back into work. The contract for this work has been awarded to a national company and LEPs around the country are supporting them to integrate with local services to ensure maximum impact. CH informed the Board of 2 delivery activities being undertaken to address the priority "Informing Young People and Adults about the careers available on their doorstep" (because we want to inspire them to stay locally, achieve their potential and to find out what is available locally). 1. The work on the Jobs and Careers Fair, next Jobs fair 30th June and Career Fair for 14-19 year olds on the 14th July, in partnership with Linc Higher. 2. The work with secondary schools and Colleges through the Enterprise Adviser Network, which is part funded by DfE, to help them work towards the 8 national career standards. Live examples were given of Kyoto Futons Ltd and Lincoln City Football Club.

Comments:

- Going forward, the way people are taught is going to be crucial because they only know about those sectors that are available locally. It could be that the curriculum needs to change so that younger generation know what is available.
- A number of businesses have already volunteered to work with schools and Colleges, but we need more to come forward to inspire children by going into schools, how do we get more businesses to engage?
- Children would benefit if businesses engaged and interacted with schools to ensure that they have a pipeline of future employees.
- Careers & Jobs Fairs - what is achieved, ie, how many people have been employed because of this. Survey being carried out to understand level of impact. Repeat employer exhibitors find the platform easy to use and beneficial.
- Work being carried out the EBP who are developing a virtual Work Experience programme (Discovery Reality), which enable schools to support children through virtual headsets. They are asking for private investors. LEP aware of this, but as it is a commercial venture (schools are required to pay for loan of headsets), public funding cannot be used, but working with EBP in other ways for Greater Lincolnshire. All of the filming that EBP do is in VR 3D and doesn't play on 2D platforms. The Chamber of Commerce has approached EBP to see if we can collectively use any video footage from the haulage industry in our careers fair but this is looking unlikely.
- In the technical sector, they are using Skill Sprints - could these be trialled. There are a number of digital vacancies, but unable to recruit to these highly paid and skilled positions.
- There is ongoing digital analysis and sector growth in the Delivery Plan.
- Funding - All Councils have funding that has not be used for Covid recovery could this be a solution.

Actions:

- ❖ The Board was asked to champion the role of the Employment and Skills Advisory Panel and its position as the central forum for collaborative and detailed discussions on the employment and skills agenda, and for setting the direction and the employment and skills plan for Greater Lincolnshire.
- ❖ Endorsed the Priorities of the ESAP as outlined in the action plan
- ❖ Seek to strengthen links between the Strategic Advisory Boards and the ESAP.
- ❖ Undertake a survey of employer exhibitors attending the Online Jobs Fair and provide a report to the next LEP Board on impact

Pete Holmes joined the meeting

Inward Investment & Place Marketing (Paper 4) - Karen Seal, lead investment officer for LCC presented this item on performance and activities

- Regarding the FDI Account management, over the last year, 141 businesses have been supported, with 43 being new relationships created. 693 jobs have been created and 70 jobs have been safeguarded. The value of Foreign Direct Investment is over £4.2bn, which includes mergers and acquisitions.
- Inward investments from 1st January, 33 FDI and UK enquiries have been received, 20 FDI and 13 UK from a variety of sectors, but mostly from the Food sector. FDI enquiries have been from a number of countries.

- Over the last year, additional activities have been carried out to attract investment into the region. With a number of successful High Potential Opportunities, ie, Automation in Food Processing, with a presentation in a global webinar taking place in May, and Offshore Wind Ports Hub.
- Have been working with DIT carrying out virtual tours on Agrifood and this has resulted in further enquiries.
- Looking at developing a Humber Freeport offer in the Humber Industrial Decarbonisation pitch, working with partners.
- Ongoing work with OCO Global Target Investing.

The board congratulated Karen and the Team on the activities and particularly the results on investment across Greater Lincolnshire.

- Cllr Davie updated the board on Holbeach FEZ that GLLEP financed and supported, the update on marketing is that all but one unit is sold or under contract/under offer. Second phase has significant interest.
- The board discussed the untapped potential for the the Defence Sector in Greater Lincolnshire an contribute with the support of the Defence and Security Advisory Board. Suggested that following a letter already sent to the Chief of Air Staff, another letter be sent to the Deputy Commander for Capability would be worthwhile as it seems that the RAF is regionalising its relationships with defence, need to understand what the RAF's strategic intent is and perhaps invite the Deputy Commander to a meeting.

Recommendations :

- ❖ Board Directors were asked to use the sector propositions in discussions on investment opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire.

Cllr Philip Jackson left the meeting

Industrial Decarbonisation (Verbal) - Darren Cunningham Phillips 66 gave an overview of current industrial decarbonisation opportunities across the humber, and focussed on Greater Lincolnshire.

- PD - In the process of inviting Sir John Peace (Chair of Midlands Engine) to the region in the near future to learn about Industrial Carbonisation, one of the LEP's game changers, and it is hoped that Robert Jenrick will join this meeting.
- Half of the Humber Cluster is in Lincolnshire.
- The Humber Cluster is the largest CO² emitting cluster (approximately 12m tonnes per year) in the country and in the northern part of Lincolnshire; there are two of Britain's six oil refineries (Phillips 66 and Prax Lindsey), and one of Britain's two steelworks at Scunthorpe.
- The Government has provided funding for preliminary engineering studies and Phillips 66, along with others, is spending millions on engineering Humber Zero to look to see it takes to capture CO².
- There is also something called a Cluster Sequencing competition by the Government and wanted to make the Board aware of a couple of schemes that impact on potential opportunities for inward investment into Lincolnshire:
 - Zero Carbon Humber, which looks at building a large hydrogen plant on the south bank at Salt End, running a hydrogen pipeline and a CO² pipeline from Drax Power Station to the west of the region, past the steelworks, past the refineries, across the river, then using the Endurance Aquifer. This consortium is bidding to build transportation of storage infrastructure for CO² which Phillips 66 could tie into, along with others.
 - On the south bank, there is a bid which Phillips 66 is supporting, led by Harbour Energy who has bought the Theddlethorpe Terminal and the old Conoco Phillips assets which are depleted gas well fields, but are an excellent storage location for CO². Phillips 66 are working with Harbour Energy to support their bid to build a pipeline from Immingham, along an existing right of way to Theddlethorpe, and use Theddlethorpe as a re-purposed terminal to inject CO² for storage under the re-developed infrastructure in the southern North Sea.
- Proposals are due to Government by 9th July and the Government will then run a competition, but if successful could mean up to 2,000 jobs in construction and a few hundred jobs when operational.
- Will be in competition with Teesside and other clusters, so the LEP needs to ensure that Greater

Lincolnshire works in conjunction with the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP as the industrial decarbonisation affects both banks of the Humber.

Comments

- North Lincolnshire Council is working on bringing all the local authorities together to stand behind this proposal, so being discussed at Humber Leadership Board and Marketing Humber about support and needs a more coherent voice.
- Teesside and the north bank of the Humber are joining forces as the East Coast Cluster, which is positive, but the south bank could be built at a lower cost and quicker, and is just as important.

Action:

- ❖ Will discuss this at the next MP briefing to garner support for decarbonisation
- ❖ Invite LEP Board members for a briefing visit
- ❖ RC to discuss with Board members about an inviting influential people to briefing meeting to enable an understanding of what opportunities this area has, ie, ME, NP, LA, CBI, IOD etc

Mandy Watson left the meeting

Greater Lincolnshire Plan for Growth and Progress Reporting (Presentation) - James Baty

Presentation is about the Economic Recovery Plan and how issues would be reported to the Board, will be circulated electronically for any comments.

GLLEP Board Forward Plan (Paper 10) - All

- ❖ No comments - any forward items to be discussed

Any Other Business

None.

Next meeting - 30th July