



# LEP DIRECTORS BOARD

21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

SIEMENS, TEAL PARK ROAD, NORTH  
HYKEHAM, LINCOLN, LN6 3AD

Minutes

**Present:** Board Directors: Ursula Lidbetter (Chair) (Lincs Co-op), David Dexter (Vice Chair FSB) , Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Ric Metcalfe (CLC) Cllr Peter Wheatley (NELC), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Chris Baron (Butlins), Prof Mary Stuart (UoL), Pat Doody (Nat West); Dean Fathers (Health), Richard Wills (LCC AB), Herman Kok (Lindum), , Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Steve Middlebrough (Siemens)

**LEP Executive:** Ruth Carver, Clare Hughes, Lauren King (Note Taker)

**Observers:** Pete Moore LCC, (S151 Officer at LCC), Pete Holmes (BEIS), Graham Pendlebury (DfT Senior Sponsor),

**Attendees:** Gary Headland (Lincoln College and ESB), Graham Metcalf (JCP and ESB), Ian Fytche (NKDC), Phil Roberts (NKDC) , Simon Green (NLC), Angela Blake (NELC)

Steve Middleborough, Siemens, welcomed the LEP Board to the Teal Park site of Siemens, and gave a short overview of the activity on the site.

**Welcome by the Chair -** UL welcomed the LEP Board, and acknowledge Richard Wills' retirement from LCC and the LEP Board, and on behalf of the Board thanked him for his invaluable contribution to the LEP board since its formation. Richard was presented with a gift and card.

**Apologies and Declarations of Interest -** There were no apologies, and there were no declarations of interest received for the agenda items. Full declarations of interest can be found at:  
[https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/LEP\\_Rols\\_LIVE\\_list\\_March\\_2018\\_.pdf](https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/LEP_Rols_LIVE_list_March_2018_.pdf)

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 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (Paper 1) were accepted as a true record with one request to amend the wording in the paragraph of the final agenda point - from 'Team Lincolnshire' to 'Lincolnshire County Council'.

Board Actions: DF updated the Board on the formation of a Health Board, and a LIS roundtable on Health.

Forward Plan (Paper 1.2) - the Board discussed/noted the forward planner and reiterated the need to support local businesses leading up to and beyond the planned exit of the EU. RC informed the Board that a series of workshops was being organised with the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and a BREXIT action plan would be discussed at the November 2018 (relating to Brexit). Creative Lincolnshire Project findings to be added to a future LEP Board meeting.

### **LEP Directors' Report (Paper 2)**

RC introduced this paper, and highlighted the growth deal performance, and the new scale up programme being launched at the LEP's annual conference.

The LEP Board endorsed the appointment of Keith Ireland CX at LCC, to take the place of Richard Wills as the representative of the Accountable Body on the Board

### Strengthening of LEP Review and Geographic Proposals (Paper 3)

The Chair updated the Board following the publication of the Strengthening LEP policy at the end of July 2018. The policy review was multi-faceted, with central government intending to devolve more resources/powers to LEPs through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The board discussed some of the principles of the LEP Review, but focused on the proposals for geography.

UL gave an overview of the findings of the Board's task and finish group. RC gave an overview of the views of local public and private stakeholders. Each of the Board gave a view on the timing and content of the overarching LEP Review, it was agreed that the Lincolnshire LEP proposal would embrace the LEP review, and be bold and positive.. All board members were supportive of the proposals, with North East Lincolnshire recognising the functional economic geography of Greater Lincolnshire, but preferring to operate within a Humber model.

#### After much discussion, it was agreed that

- All members of the LEP Board recognised that Greater Lincolnshire was a strong functional economic geography, as supported by the evidence - a case for Greater Lincolnshire.
- Rutland, be accepted, into the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, in principle and be included in the LEP Review proposals.
- That the preferred option for the functioning economic geography was at a Greater Lincolnshire Level.
- That a second option be submitted considering a wider geography- a merger between Humber and Lincolnshire LEPs.
- That the LEP board agreed to the direction of travel from a dormant company limited by guarantee to an active company limited by guarantee.
- That the LEP Board delegate to the LEP Review Task and finish Group, the signing off of the proposal to government on implementation of the LEP review.

### Employment and Skills (Paper 4)

Paper presented by Clare Hughes (LEP) and Herman Kok (Chair of the Employment and Skills Board), Graham Metcalf (JCP) and Gary Headland (Lincoln College) on the achievements of the employment and skills board and its future plans.

Clare shared a poster of Skills activities currently being undertaken by the ESB, broken down into the main (but not only) issues that are being addressed, namely;

- Lower than the UK average of skills within the existing workforce
- Applicants for jobs not having the right skills and competencies for the roles
- Young people not recognising range of career opportunities locally
- Employers struggling to recruit outside of Greater Lincolnshire
- Investment in education infrastructure to ensure the delivery of training for the future workforce

Clare highlighted the ambition of the ESB to stimulate more 'Work Inspiration' opportunities for young people (and adults) and the recent recruitment of our enterprise co-ordinator, and the support towards the made in Gainsborough project.

#### Action

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<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Board members congratulated the employment and skills board on the work it has undertaken to date, and asked to further communicate this through various channels.</p> <p>Board Members highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role that primary and secondary education plays in preparing young people for the workplace.</li> <li>• The opportunities to promote self-employment within that preparation, and through the work of the Enterprise Coordinator.</li> <li>• How the LEP can help smaller businesses to promote themselves, and engage, so that young people and adults are more aware of the diverse range of opportunities.</li> <li>• Lack of aspiration is often a localised issue, and that a perception of what is available can be directly correlated with the number of schools leavers and NEET.</li> <li>• Changing the narrative about some of our sectors so that low paid workers have something to aspire to.</li> <li>• The need to be clear about the problem(s) or barriers so that the LEP can understand what solutions it can develop, against a backdrop of not controlling much of the budget of education and training.</li> <li>• That more should be done to encourage teachers into industry.</li> <li>• The need to consider some of the challenges ahead: preparing Colleges, particularly given the funding cuts for training for both young people and adults, how we develop the right people in light of the speed of advancements in technology/digital.</li> <li>• the need to do more for those with disabilities, or caring responsibilities coming back into the workplace.</li> <li>• How important 'soft' skills are, and that it's not necessarily about qualifications.</li> <li>• That the paper provides has only touched the surface of the skills agenda eg, T levels; and how small initiatives can be scaled up with additional investment (eg, Made in Gainsborough).</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>UKSPF and Future Funding for Greater Lincolnshire (Paper 5)</u></b></p> <p>Pat Doody Chair of the ESIF committee gave an update on the current European programmes (paper 2) and highlighted the intention for further calls for activity in PA 1, PA 3, PA 4, PA 5 and PA 6. Pat went on to discuss how Greater Lincolnshire should shape future funding, and the new opportunities post European funding there may be for our area. The paper has developed with a wide stakeholder group and had identified a number of specific themes that Lincolnshire would want addressing in a new funding programme, such as physical regeneration of place, making sense of state aids, 100% funding where needed, investment in businesses directly, intervention in the provision of utilities, forward funding activity, recognition of local economic conditions such as land values or population.</p> <p>It was agreed that the report would be shared with local partners ahead of the national consultation on UKSPF.</p>	

<p><b><u>Housing &amp; Infrastructure Delivery across Greater Lincolnshire (Paper 6)</u></b>  Ian Fytche and Phil Roberts (Chief Executive and Corporate Director at North Kesteven District Council) gave an update on housing delivery and recent changes to the planning and housing policy environment. They reported that in 2017/18 Greater Lincolnshire only delivered 65% of the homes which have been assessed as needed, and only 37% of the affordable housing required. They summarised the activities underway to address the housing delivery challenge and circulated the draft District Housing Network action plan.</p> <p>Board members noted the report and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need for housing to be more effectively aligned with other areas, including health planning, energy strategy and infrastructure developments.</li> <li>• potential gains from focusing more on SME builders rather than the Big 6.</li> <li>• opportunities to work on R&amp;D with the university in modern methods of construction (MMC) and elder care.</li> <li>• the need to explore a new approach to state aid.</li> <li>• the link to Greater Lincolnshire's generally low land values.</li> <li>• the need to think about how this is presented ie, housing versus homes: housing can be an abstract concept whereas homes are things we live in, which we all need. Referring to homes rather than housing may help to overcome objections to new development.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Growth Deal Quarterly Dashboard (Papers 7, 7.1 and 7.2)</u></b>  The two growth deal dashboards for the LEP's SLGF were approved, namely Quarter 4 2017/2018 and Quarter 1 2018/19.</p>	
<p><b><u>AOB</u></b>  None.</p>	
<p><b><u>The meeting was closed.</u></b></p>	