

Board Members Present:

Ursula Lidbetter – Chair (UL) David Dexter – Deputy Chair (DD) Chris Baron (CB), Andy Orrey (AO), Pat Doody (PD), Herman Kok (HK), Richard Wills (RW), Dr Tony Hill (TH), Cllr Colin David (CD), Cllr Ray Oxby (RO), Councillor Bob Adams (BA), Cllr Rob Waltham (RWa)

Apologies from Board Members:

Cllr Lady Redfern, Prof Mary Stuart, Mark Tinsley, Steve Middlebrough

Observers:

Pete Holmes (PH, Chris Duffill (CDu)

LEP

Ruth Carver (RC), Jon Burgess (JB)

In attendance for specific items:

Lydia Rusling (LCC)

Item 1

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes of 4 November 2015 agreed as a true record and can be published with no matters arising.

Item 2

Management Report

Board members welcomed the trajectory of GVA growth for Greater Lincolnshire, which is on track with the wider East Midlands region. A quarterly one page report on the economy will be produced alongside performance indicators for the LEP.

Positive progress on the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub was noted. A mid-February announcement is expected on future funding opportunities to support the continued delivery of Growth Hubs. Local officers are also working on a £4.5m bid to deliver new support services within Greater Lincolnshire, which will go to the ESIF committee for formal approval. It was noted that some gaps may still exist in terms of local provision following the closure of the national Manufacturing Advisory Service and Growth Accelerator.

PH advised the Board that DCLG have agreed a formal response to the positive annual conversation with the LEP. It is expected that an official note will be circulated by the end of February with payments to follow in early April. This would be circulated to the LEP Board members and the members of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Actions:

- A quarterly one page report on the economy will be produced for the Board alongside performance indicators for the LEP.
- Circulate the note of the Annual Conversation to the LEP Board members and the members of the Finance and Audit Committee.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish how Growth Hub operates and what services are offered in the Humber LEP and GCGP.
Item 3	<p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>Members were advised that the LEP is currently spending to the operational budget. Members were informed of progress with the Single Local Growth Fund and the challenges around the Local Transport Board Allocation for in year spend. PH encouraged accelerated spend across the Growth Deal programme in future years.</p>
Item 4	<p><u>Devolution</u></p> <p>Members were advised that two further meetings have been set up in February to progress negotiations with Government around a Greater Lincolnshire deal. It was confirmed that partners and the LEP Board remains fully committed to negotiating a deal for Greater Lincolnshire, that will enable partners to facilitate increased business growth.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to think about how our proposals for a devolution deal have moved on since the original prospectus for Greater Lincolnshire was launched. As part of this process, local partners need to be clear on our priorities and what we bring to the table, alongside the fiscal requirements of any deal. Discussion also focussed on the local governance review and likely structures that would be required to support our bid.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEP Board endorsed the development of a combined authority model based on the Greater Lincolnshire LEP geography as part of any devolution deal. Board members agreed that business breakfasts should be arranged in Greater Lincolnshire to focus on raising awareness of the outcomes and benefits to local businesses. PH encouraged representatives from Greater Lincolnshire to take up the offer of a meeting with DCLG officials (led by Pete Rowsell) to discuss technicalities flowing out of the local governance review process.
Item 5	<p><u>Strategic Economic Plan</u></p> <p>Members were keen to link evidence of achievements with the SEP to subsequent growth in local businesses, employees and GVA.</p> <p>The Board also supported the work of officers to maintain an active pipeline of future growth schemes across the LEP area. Managing this database effectively will allow the LEP to progress future bidding opportunities and manage any underspend on the current Growth Deal programme.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members agreed to sign off the updated SEP, subject to inclusion of final comments received from local authority partners. Officers to develop a suite of key indicators that can be used to promote the local economy and demonstrate positive change since the LEP's inception. Officers will launch a call for Transformational projects during February.
Item 6	<p><u>Partnership Working</u></p> <p>Detailed consideration was given to the emerging alliances between Greater Lincolnshire authorities and neighbouring LEPs. Members recognised the importance of maintaining permeable boundaries to support business growth, alongside the opportunities for LEPs to jointly support and fund mutually beneficial projects in our respective areas.</p>

	<p>Members noted complexities and difficulties associated with any endorsing any formal changes to the existing structures and overlap areas, which would require local business, LEP and Secretary of State approval. It would also be extremely difficult to unpick existing funding arrangements, through EU Structural Investment Funds in particular.</p> <p>Members also felt that supporting a formal alliance with another LEP area could undermine the business case that is being developed to promote devolution and that Greater Lincolnshire is a robust and coherent economic geography.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEP Board welcomed and supported the development of strategic alliances with neighbouring areas that are being progressed by West Lindsey District Council and South Kesteven District Council. • The LEP Board were not able to support or encourage a formal alliance between South Holland District Council and the Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough LEP. • Representatives from South Holland District Council to be invited to articulate any specific investment priorities which they felt are inconsistent or could not be pursued under the current LEP structures
<u>Item 7</u>	<p><u>Place Marketing</u></p> <p>Board members welcomed the presentation and work to date in formulating a plan to market Greater Lincolnshire to a wider audience. Members considered it to be a core role of the LEP to develop and promote a core brand for Greater Lincolnshire. It was also noted that there is a huge willingness across the public and private sectors to work together on this agenda, which has been backed up by various offers of in kind and direct support to progress the key areas identified.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed that the LEP should take initial ownership of coordinating the Place Marketing priorities and deliverables for Greater Lincolnshire. • The team should focus on developing three areas, namely, a hotel study, a partnership to develop an ambassador scheme engaging all partners and an online campaign and portal to capture the story of Greater Lincolnshire and its growth. • A request for initial funds and proposals for delivery will be brought back to the next meeting.
<u>Item 8</u>	<p><u>Rail Study</u></p> <p>The LEP Board considered the Greater Lincolnshire Rail Study and thanked the officers involved.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEP Board agreed to accept and endorse the Rail Study as a leveraging/lobbying tool, subject to final comment from local authority colleagues by the end of February. • The final Rail Study to be submitted to the Midlands Engine Working Group. • Consultants to be asked to produce an Executive Summary of the Rail Study. • Officers to be asked to prepare a strategy for next steps, ie, key activity for local authorities and the LEP to work on over the next two years and the priorities for intervention. This would return to the next LEP Board meeting.

Item 9	<p><u>Water Management Plan</u></p> <p>Members recognised that the development of a Water Management Plan for Greater Lincolnshire has been a collaborative effort across local industry and the public sector to establish a clear business case for future intervention in this area. Members of the Water Management Board, under the leadership of Mark Tinsley and the Water Management Officers Group, were thanked for their contributions.</p> <p>It was also acknowledged as an important opportunity to promote Greater Lincolnshire on a national scale, given the innovative approach that has been taken to establish economic impact as the key driver underpinning the case for future investment.</p> <p>It was noted that the priority themes are not sequential or listed in priority order, which would allow future presentation of the plan to be tailored to the respective audience.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members agreed to accept and endorse the Water Management Plan for Greater Lincolnshire with the amendments suggested. • Officers were asked to ensure alignment of the priority asks with the ongoing devolution negotiations. • The Water Management Board was asked to consider the next steps, and in particular the actions needed in delivery the Water Management Plan and a launch of the Plan. • A national infrastructure sub group is to be established.
Item 10	<p><u>Area Reviews</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Government Review to consolidate activities is likely to start in September 2016. The reviews for Greater Lincolnshire and Humber are currently scheduled to run at the same time and will also gather the same data. Arising out of this process, members were advised that LEPs could take on responsibility for approving local college curriculum.</p> <p>It was also noted that sixth form colleges will form part of the review, although it will be for the respective schools/colleges to decide which area review they will be part of in overlap areas.</p> <p>HK advised the Board that conversations are being held with neighbouring LEP areas to maximise opportunities for collaborative learning and joint working on the area reviews.</p> <p>Members were asked to consider volunteers from both the LEP Board and Employment and Skills Board to join the local working group to ensure a focus on quality of future delivery from a local business perspective.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Greater Lincolnshire LEP and ESB's statement on area reviews was agreed for publication.
Item 11	<p><u>Science and Innovation Audits</u></p> <p>It was noted that universities across the Midlands have agreed that they would like to work together as part of one single Science and Innovation Audit, as part of the Midlands Engine region.</p> <p>Actions</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members welcomed and endorsed the approach for a collaborative Science and Innovation Audit involving all universities across the Midlands Engine region. • Prof Mary Stuart to provide further updates on progress for both the Innovation Council and the SIA for Board members at the next meeting.
Item 12	<p><u>Midland Engine</u></p> <p>It was noted that lots of work has been progressing to develop a final prospectus for the Midlands Engine. It was recognised that the main drivers endorsed, within the prospectus, to provide Greater Lincolnshire with a huge opportunity to be a strong voice in the shaping and implementing the Government's ambitions.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP officers to produce a fact sheet for Board members on the Midlands Engine key asks and opportunities for Greater Lincolnshire. • Board members were asked to continue to promote the Midlands Engine through their various networks and meetings.
Item 13	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Papers were requested on the impact of the Business Rates Policy changes and local government finances across Greater Lincolnshire, and housing policy and delivery were requested for the next Board.</p>
<u>Meeting Closed</u>	

