



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

23rd March 2021

Via MS Teams

Draft Minutes

Present:

Board Directors:

Pat Doody - Chair (Non-Executive Director), Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Oliver Hemsley (RCC), Alison Ballard (BAE Systems). Alric Blake (Alltech), Darren Cunningham (Phillips 66), Debbie Barnes (CX LCC), Dean Fathers (Health), Gary Headland (Lincoln College, IOD and Lincs Chamber), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Nick Worboys (Longhurst), Simon Bird (ABP), Zoe King (Epix Media), Andrew Hunter (UoL)

Apologies:

Andrew Crookham (Accountable Body & S151 Officer), Suraya Marshall (RAF Cranwell), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Julian Free (UoL), Yvonne Adam (Youngs Seafood), Sarah Louise Fairburn - Vice Chair (Imp & Maker), Stephen Fidler (DfT)

Observers:

Peter Holmes (BEIS), Simon Green (NLC), Clive Tritton (NELC)

LEP Officers:

Ruth Carver, Kate Storey, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

For specific agenda items: Clare Hughes (LEP), Kevin Fanning (Metro Dynamics), Sally Crawford (Metro Dynamics)

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.

The Chair welcomed Simon Bird, Director of ABP to his first Board meeting

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

The minutes from the Board meeting held on 26th February 2021 were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- UK Food Valley - briefings have been given to Lincoln Uni, LCC, NELC, and NLC they welcome the concept and are supportive with detailed plans and governance proposals being developed further.
- Midlands Engine Digital Map - An interactive assets map is being developed by Midlands Engine and partners LCC have been asked to provide a map. Cllr Davie said that LCC is making a commitment in their manifesto on Broadband Strategy and will be available after the 6th May.
- The Humber Freeport bid was successful.

Appointments Committee (Item 2) - Gary Headland

- ❖ The following were approved by the Appointments Committee, but ratification by the Board sought:
 - Appoint Dean Fathers for a 3 year term as Private Director
 - Extend co-opted Director Suraya Marshall for 6 months to 31st August
 - James Pinchbeck appointed as Chair of Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Board, vice chair Mark Webb.
- ❖ Interviews for the Defence Board have been held with Julian Free appointed as Chair, and Alison Ballard as Vice Chair.

LEP Board Decision

- All the above were ratified.

Equality & Diversity Action Plan (Paper 2.1) - Dean Fathers, Equality and Diversity Champion

- ❖ The equality and diversity action plan was endorsed by the Appointments Committee, and recommended for approval by the Board
- ❖ Draft aims and objectives are to be representative of the communities that we serve and to have a positive impact and show them what the LEP is trying to achieve in Greater Lincolnshire.
- ❖ Want to be more visible and transparent, ie, increase visibility via social media with the support of the Board.
- ❖ Ensure that all the Advisory Boards and Sub-Committees are taking this message forward.
- ❖ Key activities and objectives have been identified which are far-reaching and comprehensive, as shown in the Plan.
- ❖ Improvements on diversity of the LEP Board have already taken place.
- ❖ Recommendations have been made to enable future targets can be met to ensure that the LEP is demonstrating future targets by practice.

LEP Board Decision:

The Equality & Diversity Plan accepted by the LEP Board and the executive tasked with implementation

Chair & CX Report (Item 3) - Pat Doody and Ruth Carver

Round up of activity since the last meeting - Pat Doody

- ❖ Four business roundtables have been held with larger businesses across GL, with a focus on the economic impact of the pandemic, and brexit, and what leveling up means for the Business Community - three to be held. Businesses are enjoying the involvement and have plenty to contribute and definitely vehicles for the LEP to hear of any issues that businesses would like to raise and any priorities that they have. A summary of points raised or actions will be discussed at the next meeting.
- ❖ Inward investment enquiries currently at a high level primarily in two areas: 1) Freeport interest 2) Lincolnshires growing reputation in fresh food and fish
- ❖ Opportunity for government departments to expand into the regions, the chair is exploring this with the East Midlands Head of Place.
- ❖ MP engagement is regular and ongoing.

National LEP Review - Ruth Carver

- ❖ The draft terms of reference for a review of LEP's has been shared with the board, with the LEP network taking a lead with national government.
- ❖ Government is committed to considering the evolving role of the LEP and will undertake a LEP Review and detailed proposals will be available before the summer. The government will seek the views of local businesses and other stakeholders, and ensure that there is clear representation of businesses on LEPs going forward. They will also be looking at geography, but it is believed that this is that there are some overlaps still to be resolved, but could also be to do with number of LEPs nationally. ACTION: RC to add to monthly agenda and keep the Board updated as it evolves.
- ❖ Within the draft Terms of Reference, capital funding or future funding from both the Leveling Up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund will be going to local authorities, which will change part of the role of the LEP.

Actions:

Add LEP Review as a Standing Agenda Item
Summary of business roundtables to be discussed at the LEP Board

LEP Visions & Priorities (Item 4 - presentation) - Alric Blake & Zoe King

- ❖ CX delivered a previously circulated presentation on the LEP Vision and Priorities for the forthcoming year. The vision had been agreed at the last meeting, and the board working group has developed the priorities with the CX
Priority 1 game changers are: UK Food Valley, Humber Freeport, Green Growth, Defence
Priority 2 is Covid Revival
Priority 3 is International Trade and Profile
Priority 4 is Strengthening the LEP

The Board debated the priorities and supported the work being undertaken by the team, and agreed the priorities. The next steps would be to apply the priorities to the budget, after year end. An interim budget for the first few months of the new financial year is on the agenda for approval today.

Comments:

- The Board asked the LEP Team to consider the use of external secondees in developing capacity in the core LEP Team.
- The Board reiterated that there are significant opportunities in defence, cyber and space, plus opportunities for Freeports and logistics that should be developed into opportunities for research and innovation, education and attracting inward investment.
- The Board felt the approach was much more integrated and is an opportunity to see the golden threads that work through Greater Lincolnshire that ties all the Strategic Advisory Groups together which led to a discussion on strengthening links with SAB's. They are already included on the main board agenda, however a collective meeting of chairs on priorities would be welcome.
- Infrastructure priorities for the areas such as South Bank of the Humber rail links and A46/A15, and UK Food Valley link were discussed and it was agreed that the team would develop campaign and lobby partners for infrastructure improvements that support the game changing sectors
- Lastly, the priorities should be across and exploiting Government strategies - Build Back Better: our plan for growth and what is following - Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, Defence Strategy, Innovation Strategy, Net Zero, Hydrogen and Space as they emerge.
- RC - the document is to be refined and will be shared again. Needed agreement to the direction of strategic priorities and the resources/finances etc.

Decision : The priorities were agreed, with scope for refinement and ultimately this would be developed by the role of the LEP in driving some actions, and lobbying for others, or supporting partners.

Actions:

- Amendment to Slide 19 required.
- Document to be refined, developed and circulated for comment.
- Collective meeting of sector board chairs to be arranged.

Gary Headland left the meeting

Andrew Hunter left the meeting

Budget Setting 2021/2022 (Paper 6) - Ruth Carver

- ❖ The finance and audit committee had met to review the proposed budget for 21/22 for the LEP team, and recommended that the Board approve the budget.
- ❖ CX seeking approval of an interim operating budget for the LEP Team 21/22. A complete review will be undertaken in May/June which will include a review of spend for the current financial year, what is left in reserves and what resources there are for the next financial year.
- ❖ The Chair set out some of the changes to the financial operating model, in particular the management fee charged to schemes, that covered staff costs and costs of the accountable body and interest generated on capital programme.

Decision:

- The LEP Board approved the Interim Budget and under the scheme of delegation, asked the CX to implement.

DRAFT