

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE

Local Enterprise Partnership

	<p>previously circulated and further discussed.</p> <p>It was agreed that smaller businesses would be represented and invited to sit on the proposed board.</p> <p>The proposals were agreed for the application, and it was agreed that there would be further discussion and agreement should the bid be successful.</p>	
4.	<p><u>The Future of Business Support</u></p> <p>Justin Brown, Head of Enterprise at LCC, presented this item. He gave an overview of the business support reforms and reductions being introduced by Government, and the proposed support post business link and RDA programmes.</p> <p>Detailed maps were shown, highlighting areas of start-up, business operation and value, employment numbers and growth across Lincolnshire. The maps showed higher levels of businesses in functioning economic zones/already developed towns.</p> <p>North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire volunteered to get their statistics from Business Link to assist in producing greater Lincolnshire maps.</p> <p>Questions raised regarding policy issues were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Will the website be sufficient?- Is there a role for the public sector to fill in any gaps?- What does the LEP see as a priority? <p>The board asked what each area were doing regarding business support?</p> <p>North East Lincolnshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focus has been on larger areas.- Been using a private company – Efactor – pre-start up and start up which has proven to be very successful.- Exporting is a concern.- Websites and call centres wouldn't particularly help. <p>North Lincolnshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Have received £4m from grants and have £3m more coming in. They have the money and have employed Business Link staff. <p>Lincolnshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Innovation support is important.- Promotions around specific sectors i.e. Select Lincolnshire and Tastes of Lincolnshire.- Improving financial applications and supporting smaller businesses. <p>Districts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Smaller businesses don't have time to pull information; it's useful for them to be provided with information as opposed to having to find it.- Low value businesses don't network unless they are encouraged. Mentors may be a good idea. Encouraging smaller businesses to talk to other larger businesses would be beneficial. The expertise is there but support networks are required. <p>The LEP should be creating the environment – bigger businesses that are doing well in an area already should mean that smaller businesses will benefit and get a better start. It was agreed that more intelligence was needed before the LEP could agree its role - what does businesses need from the LEP? How do we go about doing it? There is a need to find out what's happening now before moving on.</p> <p>The Chair concluded that the focus on the LEP should be young business survival and</p>	

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	<p>supporting medium sized companies to grow.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>It was agreed that Herman Kok, supported by David Dexter would champion this issue. Heman Kok, supported by David Dexter, will investigate the issue in more detail with a view to reporting back to the board in the Autumn. In particular, work with Justin Brown to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake an audit of publicity funded business support across Greater Lincolnshire, including level of coverage. - Establish what intervention has worked previously and produced the greatest results - Establish where the gaps in provision are - Ask business what they require - Discusses and agree the business support policies that the LEP should promote. <p>This item is kept it as a matter arising on the next few agenda.</p>	<p>JB and HK</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Connectivity</u></p> <p>The board had two proposals to consider. Richard Wills outlined the current situation in regard to the Department of Transport, reduction in budgets and the role of LEPs. It was questioned what value the LEP would add to this process. The Board were assured that support from the LEP would significantly improve a scheme's chance.</p> <p>It was questioned whether the economic benefit of the new roads had been considered. Richard Wills explained the transport model used by the DoT.</p> <p>The board discussed the A18 – 180, and the significant economic benefits of expanding the Port of Immingham, and access for the Enterprise Zone. Questions were asked over the route, and the options considered. Through traffic from Immingham dock needs to be diverted as it can't continue to go through Immingham. The air-quality needs to be improved. The route opens up more development plans including access to the Europark site.</p> <p>The Lincoln Eastern Bypass was considered in more detail at the June meeting, and LCC had drafted a letter of support that demonstrated the economic impact, and the impact across Greater Lincolnshire. This is a £90m scheme. A minimum contribution of 10% will come from the local authority. The submission is for a single carriage way however there are hopes that this will change. The benefit to cost ratio for this is 8:1, a positive factor for this scheme.</p> <p>The LEP board was happy to endorse both of these schemes, and the applicants will work with the applicant to draft strong letters of support.</p> <p>The Transport seminar is planned for 21st September 2011, and details of this will be circulated.</p>	<p>LCC and NEL</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Sector Task and Finish Groups</u></p> <p>This item was a progress report for the task and finish groups. Each group will develop its own way of working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agri-food (Mark Tinsley): There are two key meetings coming up in September, one of which is with the south of the county and the other with the North and West of the county. Both of these meetings will involve the University of Lincoln. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewables (Winston Phillips): Renewables a new industry. There has already been a lot of engagement with the wind sector which is a priority at the moment. Bio-mass, Solar and Geothermal are also areas that are going to be researched further. The plan is to create individual teams, starting with wind, which will focus on each specific area. There has already been an offer from the Humber’s renewables partnership. Mark Tinsley offered help with Bio-mass information. North Lincolnshire mentioned that they have a presentation regarding renewable energy which they are happy to share with other areas if they feel it would be beneficial. It was suggested that this should be the subject of a further workshops. - Manufacturing - Neil Corner is planning to utilise existing groups such as the University of Lincoln, and the Engineering breakfast club. It would be useful to get the views and opinions of SME, and he will write to key groups to get opinion. - Care (Tony Hill): Feels that ageing is an important issue for Greater Lincolnshire. Market development has been poor so far, and there is currently an opportunity to provide support. Care has been identified as an issue – North Lincolnshire is using it to look at employment and business opportunities. It’s not only physical care that the elderly need, they also need people to do day to day tasks such as gardening etc. - Ports and Logistics – It was agreed that this sector group would be led by North and North East Lincolnshire via the Humber LEP. - SME’s – David Dexter fed back that he had started this engagement process and that communication was key. - North East Lincolnshire asked businesses about RGF to find out if they knew about it and whether they felt that help with applications would be beneficial. They already have a presentation prepared if anyone would like to use it. <p>Recommendation The overall approach was noted, and NELC and NLC were asked to feed in information on their own local business contacts, and potential engagement venues.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NLC and NELC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NELC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NELC, NEL and All</p>
<p>7. <u>Communications Plan</u></p> <p>Ruth Carver talked through the draft communications and engagement plan. All agreed that this was a crucial area, which requires significant attention.</p> <p>The chair volunteered to lead on communications, and wanted to ask business how they wanted to be communicated with/to? Workshops, presentations, events etc? What’s the best method of communication to make people aware of the key facts about LEP? What is the best way to market greater Lincoln?</p> <p>Board members suggested an event would be a useful focus for communications.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Secretariat and Chair</p>
<p>8. <u>8. AOB</u></p> <p>The Chair proposed that a public/private sector workshop be organised that would get both parties talking about their needs and working together to meet these - Getting businesses to talk to the public sector, including statutory authorities about creating jobs, i.e. discuss barriers and question why they can take so long to do things. How best to have this debate without taking sides?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Secretariat</p>

