# **Local Enterprise Partnership**

Present: Ursula Lidbetter – Chairman, David Dexter - Deputy Chairman, Neil Corner, Mark Tinsley, Cllr Eddy Poll, Richard Wills, Dr Tony Hill, Winston Phillips, Cllr Liz Redfern, Nick Herzberg, Michele Cusack, Marcus Walker, Alison Penn, Ruth Carver (LEP Secretariat) Hannah Walker (LEP Secretariat).

	Wednesday 13	3 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
1.	Apologies, Declarations, Minutes and Matters Arising.	ACTION
	Apologies were received from Andy Baxendale, Herman Kok, Mary Stuart, Cllr Mick Burnett, Cllr Doreen Stephenson and Chris Baron. Alison Penn was representing the Lincolnshire Districts.	
	The Chairman welcomed Nick Herzberg, Regional Vice-Chairman from FSB Lincolnshire and Cllr Liz Redfern, North Lincolnshire Council to the board meeting. The Chair spoke about ensuring cross-LEP working and communication.	Secretariat
	It was agreed that there would be no substitutes at meetings for board Members, if they were unable to make a specific meeting. Points could be fed in via e-mail.	
	There were no declarations of interest given at this point.	
	The minutes from the board meeting of 6 <sup>th</sup> June were agreed, with the following correction – Item 3 should read North East Lincolnshire.	
	Matters arising Point 3 should read: North East BDUK - The deadline is the $8^{\rm th}$ July, and Lincolnshire and North Lincs/North East Lincolnshire Teams have submitted separate bids.	
2	Operational Brief	
	The proposals for written procedures were agreed – the board asked written procedures are only sought by exception, and for matters that require a timely decision. The secretariat should consult with the chair before utilising written procedures.	
	When the Board are familiar with their roles and the processes then, champions/experts could be introduced to deal with specific subjects.	
	The framework for endorsing funding applications was agreed. The prioritisation of the Capacity fund was agreed, and now be commissioned by the Secretariat over the summer. LCC was agreed as the Accountable Body for the Capacity Fund, and the operating rules were agreed. The implementation fund will be allocated following the findings of the task and finish groups, and the board members need to put in bids for the fund. The Board noted the submission of the bid for the start-up fund.	
	The Board discussed the role of the LEP in round two of the Regional Growth Fund. Government had asked for LEP's to endorse the Bids, yet it was not part of the evaluation criteria. The Board felt that a letter of endorsement should be considered a more robust process. North East Lincolnshire had worked with businesses during round two, and should there be round 3, they have a prepared presentation, which they will circulate.	NEL
3.	Enterprise Zone	
	The proposals for governance of the EZ and the distribution of financial benefits were	

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previously circulated and further discussed.

It was agreed that smaller businesses would be represented and invited to sit on the proposed board.

The proposals were agreed for the application, and it was agreed that there would be further discussion and agreement should the bid be successful.

## 4. The Future of Business Support

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.

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.

North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire volunteered to get their statistics from Business Link to assist in producing greater Lincolnshire maps.

Questions raised regarding policy issues were:

- 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?

The board asked what each area were doing regarding business support?

### North East Lincolnshire:

- 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.

#### North Lincolnshire:

- Have received £4m from grants and have £3m more coming in. They have the money and have employed Business Link staff.

### Lincolnshire:

- Innovation support is important.
- Promotions around specific sectors i.e. Select Lincolnshire and Tastes of Lincolnshire.
- Improving financial applications and supporting smaller businesses.

#### Districts:

- 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.

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.

The Chair concluded that the focus on the LEP should be young business survival and

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supporting medium sized companies to grow.

#### **Recommendations**

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:

JB and HK

- 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.

This item is kept it as a matter arising on the next few agenda.

#### 5. **Connectivity**

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.

It was questioned whether the economic benefit of the new roads had been considered. Richard Wills explained the transport model used by the DoT.

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.

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.

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.

The Transport seminar is planned for 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, and details of this will be circulated.

LCC and NEL

Secretariat

#### 6. Sector Task and Finish Groups

This item was a progress report for the task and finish groups. Each group will develop its own way of working:

- 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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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. Biomass, 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.	
<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>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.     </li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Ports and Logistics – It was agreed that this sector group would be led by North and North East Lincolnshire via the Humber LEP.</li> </ul>	NLC and NELC
<ul> <li>SME's – David Dexter fed back that he had started this engagement process and that communication was key.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>North East Lincolnshire asked businesses about RGF to find out if the 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.</li> </ul>	NELC
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.  Communications Plan	NELC, NEL and All
Ruth Carver talked through the draft communications and engagement plan. All agreed that this was a crucial area, which requires significant attention.	
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?	Secretariat and Chair
Board members suggested an event would be a useful focus for communications.	
8. AOB	
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?	Secretariat

8.

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	The Secretariat were asked to scope an event, and involve MP's.	
	Dick Hetzberg asked the LEP about their views on the government review of the Humber Bridge. The toll can be a real barrier for exporting North as well as providing a lack of incentive for skills and jobs. It was agreed to circulate papers to seek a view from the LEP-	All
	The deadline for responses was 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2011.	
	The Chair had received a letter from John Haynes, MP for South Holland and The Deepings, and the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills, requesting a meeting.	
	The Chair has received an invitation to the LEP National Network inaugural event on the 15 September; she would be attending, but was looking for an additional private sector member to attend.	All
9.	The Date of the next meeting	
	The next meeting has been moved to 30.09.2011 at 10am.	