

9 July 2015

Siemens, Feilden House, Teal Park, Teal Park Road, Lincoln, LN6 3AD

LEP Directors present :

Ursula Lidbetter (UL) Chair), Richard Wills (RW), Dr Tony Hill (TH), Mark Tinsley (MT), Cllr Colin David (CllrD), Cllr Rob Waltham (CllrW), Cllr Dave Watson (CllrWa), Cllr Bob Adams (CllrA), Professor Mary Stuart (MS), Neil Corner (NC), Chris Baron (CB), Herman Kok (HK), Ian Munnery (IM)

Actions

Apologies from Directors:

David Dexter (DD), Andy Orrey (AO), Cllr Liz Redfern (CllrR),

Apologies from Others

Justin Brown (JBr), Sarah Hendry (SH) Marcus Walker (MW)

Observers:

Pete Holmes (PH), BIS

LEP

Ruth Carver (RC), Jon Burgess (JBu)and Sue Groves (SG) Note Taker

In Attendance for specific items:

Clare Hughes (CH), LEP, Vicky Addison (VH), University of Lincoln

Officers:

Angela Blake (AB), (North East Lincolnshire Council)

Welcome by the Chair – Ursula Lidbetter

The Chair welcomed everyone to Siemens.

Declarations, Minutes and Matters Arising

The Chair stated that if Boole Technology Centre, Lincoln Transport Hub and Tentercroft Street East West Link were to be discussed, she would have to declare an interest and leave the meeting. Declarations to be recorded within the minutes.

Professor Mary Stuart declared an interest in Boole Technology Centre

Directors Business

See separate Directors Minutes.

Board Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 12 May 2015 were agreed as drafted. Both these and the agenda are to be published on the LEP website – all present agreed they were happy for these to be published.

The Board agreed that future meetings are to be arranged for a Friday so that MPs would have the opportunity to attend. The chair to write to local MPs inviting them to the Board and to engage with the LEP.

Matters Arising None	
Operational Report <p>Ruth Carver updated the Board on activities undertaken since the last Board meeting.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the Summer budget announcements and how it would affect the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and its Directors, ie, the new Living Wage and changes to benefits.</p> <p>A second round of investment means that transport priorities need to be ready for submission.</p> <p>There is to be an increase in number and quality of apprenticeships during this parliament.</p> <p>New Enterprise Zones have been highlighted and that there is to be another round announced later in the year. James Wharton will be writing to all LEPs next week regarding criteria and bids and encouraging multi-site bids, involving small towns and districts and be more geographical. LEPs need to submit Expressions of Interest by mid-August and apply by mid-September. It was discussed that Enterprise Zones near to be clear how objectives are to be achieved, ie attracting businesses. RC said that best practice/criteria for applications should be pulled together, ie size and scale, whether the scheme is commercially viable in the first place. It was agreed that the LEP would invite expression of interest from places across Greater Lincolnshire, and shortlist accordingly to the criteria. A decision on whether to submit will be taken at the LEP Board in September.</p> <p>National Colleges have received significant funding. Also that Coastal Community funding had been extended by £90million up to 2020 and that ambitious bids would be needed.</p> <p>Ian Munnery and Mark Tinsley stated that the government had not perceived Agri-Food correctly and that they would writing to the government. MT also said that Enterprise Zones need to be clear how objectives are to be achieved, ie, attracting businesses etc.</p> <p>Apprenticeships are being discussed with meetings taking place with the SFA and other Skills Boards. Currently Lincolnshire and Derbyshire forecast outstanding numbers compared to Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.</p> <p>The new Living Wage was discussed along with its impact; likely to be great on the coastal strip and that research is needed focusing on a real drive on productivity. This will also have an impact on the Food industry.</p> <p>Defence budget had been held at 2%, which would be good for Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Midlands Engine – all of the 11 Midlands LEPs met with Anna Soubry, BIS Minister and Marcus Jones, DCLG Minister on 24 June 2015 and had a helpful and constructive discussion. The support for the concept of the Midlands Engine was strong and should work in tandem with the Northern Powerhouse to re-balance the UK economy. Approval is sought from the Board to bid for funds to work with other LEPs on commissioned work. Lincolnshire need to be proactive as Lincolnshire contributes highly to GDP.</p> <p>The map for the Midlands currently excludes North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils, but must ensure that they are included. North Lincolnshire and North East</p>	

<p>Lincolnshire Councils contribute both the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. The Board also stated that ports are also an important part and must not be boundary-led. Midlands Engine is a priority but objectives need to be agreed. RW is heavily involved in transport priorities and represents the GLLEP at Midlands Connects.</p> <p>Midlands Universities are working together, but need to work extra hard to be heard. BIS stated that an announcement by George Osborne on Growth is imminent.</p>	
<p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>The Board agreed to sign off the financial report for the financial year 2014/15. A fuller version of the report had been considered by the Finance and Audit Committee on 30 June 2015 and was approved.</p>	
<p><u>Proposals for a Greater Lincolnshire Innovation Council</u></p> <p>Vicky Addison attended the meeting.</p> <p>Emphasis on productivity through innovation; a survey has been carried out and stakeholders have been interviewed. Martin French had been commissioned to work with stakeholders, helping businesses and processes etc.</p> <p>The new Innovation Council would contribute to the SEP and GLLEP Board, with the Chair being from the Board. Once the group had been formed, it would meet quarterly. It would be useful to have members who are already involved in other groups. Some members should be invited and some should be recruited. It was suggested that Further Education Centres and Schools be involved.</p> <p>The Council would be a platform to open collaboration, business growth, business engagement, stimulate innovation, have realistic expectations and cover all areas, with champions in specific areas.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the LEP strategy is not embedded within the ESIF Committee and that the Committee does not report back to the LEP Board. He also stated that communication of opportunities for EU funding needs to be improved, which is a complex issue.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mary Stuart will lead on forming an Innovation Council for the LEP, appointments would be made via the Appointments Committee.</p> <p>It was agreed that a special session on EU funding be held at the next Board meeting and that Justin Brown's (Head of Commissioning) team be invited.</p>	
<p><u>Update from the Greater Lincolnshire Employment & Skills Board</u></p> <p>Clare Hughes attended the meeting.</p> <p>The Greater Lincolnshire Employment & Skills Board was created before the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board and is well represented by the private sector with FE Colleges and Universities. The next meeting is to be held on 15 July 2015 and there are a number of pilot schemes, with robust interaction with Further Education Colleges and two senior Principals on board. There is a proposal to set up a skills programme.</p> <p>A fund of £300m that Further Education Colleges used to apply for towards capital support has now been awarded to LEPs for Growth Deals. The LEP Board was asked if they would</p>	

<p>allow the Greater Lincolnshire Employment & Skills Board to put together a programme for applications for bids, linked to specific criteria as the Growth Deal is now their only access to capital funds. The Board responded that this would be approved. Government systems are already in place, but we must be able to respond to initiatives quickly. Available funds will be announced within the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>The Board agreed that colleges often struggle for funding, but education should be for the real world. Local Further Education Colleges should listen to local businesses as to what their requirements are. The fund could be used by vocational deliverers, but this depends on how much money is available and making the best use of it. All should think about loans, not just receiving funding. All programmes and their outcomes will be considered, but Colleges cannot expect to get what they used to receive.</p>	
<p><u>Devolution</u></p> <p>BIS updated the board on government's current thinking, including the involvement of LEPs in any devolution deals stating that the first Bill is currently being discussed in Lords. Government is currently considering Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield etc, which include private and public sectors. The government is active in many areas and is keen to encourage ambitious proposals for all areas that include housing, transport, skills, economic development. BIS is more than happy to support.</p> <p>The LEP Board discussed that they have an important role to play in shaping devolution and that the status quo will not be accepted; services need to be refined/streamlined. All Councils (Districts and Town) need to be engaged with a Letter of Intent that needs to be submitted by mid-August, but a decision as to what we actually want could be made afterwards. Communities and private partners also need to get involved, but need to start with what the GLLEP would like to achieve.</p> <p>A collaborative structure will be needed and the Board agreed that we all need to work together, but must not rush into anything, lots of discussion needed. LCC Chief Executive has already discussed with other authorities. A great deal of commitment is needed to talk about devolution to make it work. The footprint of Greater Lincolnshire is good and will link to more specialist places. Common themes in Greater Lincolnshire could be agreed, but further discussions would be required where agreement is needed.</p> <p>Background work has already been carried out and the GLLEP will be putting a report together. If anyone has any thoughts as to what should be devolved, please forward to RC. BIS agreed that a Letter of Intent is a good start and useful.</p>	
<p><u>LEP Strategies</u></p> <p>RC gave an update on where we are on Strategies and that the SEP is to be updated.</p> <p>A Performance Review is to be carried out and a Framework developed with the assistance of LRO.</p>	
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><u>The meeting was closed</u></p>	