



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board Minutes

21st March 2014

Siemens, Teal Park, Lincoln

<p>Present: Ursula Lidbetter (Chair) , David Dexter (Deputy Chair), Cllr Davie, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Ray Oxby, Mark Tinsley, Marc Cole, Neil Corner, Prof Mary Stuart, Maria Lyle, Herman Kok, Andy Orrey, Richard Wills, Andy Baxendale, Dr Tony Hill, Marc Cole</p> <p>Observers: University of Lincoln Guests: Justin Brown, Emma Tatlow Officers: Ruth Carver, Kate Storey, Jon Burgess</p>	<p>Actions</p>
<p><u>Welcome by the Chair – Ursula Lidbetter</u> <u>Apologies, Declarations, Minutes and Matters Arising</u> Chris Baron, Cllr Liz Redfern, Leendert den Hollander , Rowena Limb sent their apologies</p> <p>Declarations were recorded as follows:</p> <p>Ursula Lidbetter –Lincolnshire Co-operative Society has an interest in the passenger transport interchange Lincoln and Boole centre at Science park. Mary Stuart – member of Visit Lincoln, member of Lincoln art and cultural partnership/ Magna Carta all of whom have an interest in the paper on visitor economy Herman Kok - director of Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and therefore has an interest in the visitor economy paper Mark Tinsley - runs a farm and food company and therefore has an interest in the paper on development of the agri-food sector Cllr Doreen Stephenson – is a member of the East Lincolnshire Destination Management Organisation and therefore has an interest in the Visitor Economy paper, member of Arts Council Board and therefore has interest in the Strategic Economic Plan and its impact on the arts and culture sector</p> <p>Minutes –</p> <p>Task and Finish section on Housing – the agreement was to use a short term resource on housing and bring a paper on the subject back to a future meeting. RC to amend minutes.</p> <p>Matters arising -</p> <p>Quality of road infrastructure. It was noted that there have been discussions about extending the M11/dualling the A15 + other road improvements. Should the LEP push for improvements? RW to incorporate in subsequent transport paper.</p> <p>A number of strong applications had been received for the board vacancy that arose after Neil Turton's resignation. Andy Orrey, chief executive of North Lincolnshire Homes, had made a strong application and can bring a detailed</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RW</p>

<p>knowledge of housing, plus a business perspective from North Lincolnshire. Andy's was endorsed, and Ursula formally welcomed him to the greater Lincolnshire LEP board.</p> <p>Welcome to Jon Burgess –LEP officer seconded from East Lindsey District Council to work on infrastructure schemes and on communication/liaison with district councils.</p>	
<p>Operational report LEP Network has requested 5K from each LEP for annual contribution to administrative finances and lobbying. Payment to be made out of core funding. Government match to add £5k. Endorsed by board.</p>	
<p>Financial On target to spend core and growth plan funding. Legacy funding remains unallocated – awaiting business loan scheme previously presented by Samantha Harrison (LCC) on financial instrument options – pending. David Hart at Lincolnshire Enterprise kept up to date. RC to update.</p> <p>1yr funding remaining. Application made in Feb 2014 and awaiting dates for confirmation.</p> <p>MT – Q on future resources for delivery spend/ funding.</p> <p>ML – No decisions have yet been made on future funding of LEPs but ministers are looking at options. (ie. top slicing growth funding or current capacity funding TBC.) ML to follow up. RC to bring LEP Business Plan showing match and resource funding to May board. Use of timesheets for board to capture match time – all agreed.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RC</p>
<p>MIPIM promotional film Shown and to be circulated. Also create a shortened version into soundbites for use publically.</p>	<p>RC</p>
<p>SEP UL gave thanks to the team. The plan had 24hrs remaining prior to final submission. Cllr S had asked for additional reference to visitor economy and culture to be included. DD asked for more emphasis on SMEs/ business start-ups.</p> <p>Detailed Technical Appendix will accompany the plan and contains more detail. (ie. Transport plans, Business cases, governance etc.)</p> <p>UL confirmed that the government exercise recently moved away from SEP strategy to projects and therefore the focus was now on that. RW added that this is an evidence driven plan which we need to ensure is credible. MS recommended that it should be kept punchy and not to add / change at this late date.</p> <p>AB added congratulations to work done and to maintain a clear line of projects and outcomes and to tighten up on deliverability.</p> <p>Cllr Oxby confirmed that deliverability and reliability are the tests. Cllr Davie agreed that the key message needs to be that the projects are deliverable. Any</p>	

<p>and detail will be provided at the next board.</p> <p>The proposal is to reach out to wider expert groups as a way of bringing sub group voices in. This has begun with the Skills board as a mechanism for feeding in. RW supports this option. Other bodies can be added in the same way (ie. FSB/ Chamber). These could be co-commissioners of work (subject to procurement regs). We could miss out on a potential resource and voice if not included. RC to look at members of other private companies for additional involvement. MT suggested focusing on the aim of sub boards/ steering groups and whether formal / informal., as well as assessing existing bodies and creating new ones where necessary. RC to add to the diagram that she presented to the meeting. Cllr S asked whether the infrastructure board is included and that the model needs districts in mix.</p> <p>RC to think of memberships/ inclusion of bodies. AO confirmed that formal groups exist within housing but are not coordinated. HK suggested inviting developers into housing groups to add weight to the private sector. Cllr Davie warned of care not to duplicate tiers. (ie drainage bodies work together in partnership. Careful to link in and not duplicate.) AB added as the LEP board integrates wider that we need to bring together and not create. UL confirmed we need to adapt and use existing bodies/ groups first.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>RC</p>
<p>Transport</p> <p>RW fed back on attendance at the Transport select committee. Birmingham Chamber, Hampshire LEP and Greater Manchester transport made up the additional panel. Comparing proposed ways of working with old. Martin Vickers MP queried competing LEP interests (ie. A15 dualling) and how we deal with priorities. RC confirmed they were seeking to address what local decision making means/ works. The select committee agreed that the financial decision still doesn't rest with us. Therefore we can prioritise and bid but don't hold the purse strings. Our LEP with 3 LAs for transport need agreement on priorities and this needs to feed into local and credible plans. Resource to develop plans is not funded but we need to have a good strategic long term view pushing beyond the 4yrly terms.</p> <p>Rail</p> <p>The SEP specific rail proposal for Nottm to Lincoln benefits mainly the Nottingham area. Therefore Lincolnshire councils voted not to fund at this time. It was agreed that the Greater Lincolnshire LEP would endorse the D2N2 bid for the full amount as the lead LEP on this project. In the future part 2 could be part funded if benefits could be shown to relate to Greater Lincolnshire as well as to Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>LCC will continue to campaign for further improvements in rail infrastructure, and would welcome support from the LEP.</p> <p>Cllr S stated that at the Castle line summit the cost basis ratio met minimum requirements for Lincs. However time savings are insignificant (7>3 mins.) RW confirmed that the current project wouldn't hit our delivery criteria and had higher chance and benefits as the D2N2 bid. Board support this option.</p> <p>Roads</p> <p>MT warned of dismissing M11 case until an economic assessment was done. We need to look at what is beneficial to Lincolnshire in the long term. RW confirmed that in the context of questions being asked, the timescale and probability for this extension are slim. For Lincolnshire smaller projects are likely to give bigger</p>	

<p>benefits (ie. junction strategies.) Could bring benefits on stream quicker through other projects. UL queried whether the M11 was on the LCC agenda? RC confirmed that Scrutiny at LCC had looked at transport benefitting economy in the 1990's and opposed this as had local MPs. Return to road strategy in future.</p>	
<p>Agri food sector plan JB's team were thanked for supporting the Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture.</p> <p>This sector has the capacity to do much more if we can achieve improvements in productivity and tackle the barriers that are holding the sector back. Need to set up a board/ steering group to focus on added value sector. Help businesses to stay and thrive. – offer advice and funding. MT will set up if it is agreed. Will work with neighbouring LEPs on arable/ horticulture activity –seeking transnational EU potential funding streams.</p> <p>Martin Collinson consultancy to lead work with Tom Ladds (LCC) as development needs resourcing. Martin Collinson has the necessary business experience in Lincolnshire and great contacts. Funding will be required without which it is unlikely to deliver the plan. UL requested MT come back at the next board with worked up figures and resources required. MS confirmed Univ innovation and high end technology agenda in robotics / commercial sciences links into the future of farming. TSB money is also available but needs a steering group to drive money into the county.</p> <p>Actions in paper include building an economic case for investment in infrastructure. MT clarified water management and road infrastructure are critical to agrifoods but needs to link to county/ district level.</p> <p>MC welcomed work with adjacent LEPs. Humber offer strong trading opportunities. MC agreed to facilitate. Input from the major private sector businesses is required. SH to assist as the N/ North Yorks sponsor.</p> <p>Cllr Davie supports the need for market advantage via innovation. SH suggested Mark Nockman from DEFRA could support MT's work. She will share the report with her colleagues.</p> <p>DD queried small business support and agri energy. MT confirmed that is covered by the renewables priority so is linked.</p> <p>The board endorsed the plans that were proposed by MT. RC to build funding into FY core funding.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MC SH</p> <p>RC</p>
<p>Visitor Economy/ Marketing – Magna Carta 2015 Emma Tatlow from Visit Lincoln presented the paper.</p> <p>The redevelopment of Lincoln Castle, led by LCC and to be opened in 2015, is recognised as a once in lifetime opportunity on a national scale. Benefits are recognised locally, but perceptions of Lincoln are very low outside of the county. The challenge is that there is no national presence for Lincoln/ Lincolnshire.</p> <p>2015 seen as the driver of marketing activity on a national scale. No funds have been committed yet. ET requests a seed corn funding contribution to stimulate further investment and act as assurance for other key stakeholders. Key players have also indicated interest and support.</p>	

Cllr D recognised this as an amazing opportunity around Magna Carta. LCC are working on a major opportunity /programme to put Lincoln on the map. LCC have committed own funds.

A discussion was held around the LEP providing funding for this one off event. RC advised that the LEP does not have funding for grants to projects, other than those it can access through government and EU sources. Therefore, any funding would have to come from the LEP's core budget; the primary role of that budget is to establish the LEP as a strong entity and then to fund the preparation of plans and engagement with the business community.

Wider benefits and longer term strategy to attract skills will take longer, but events and the reopening of the castle in 2015 could put Lincoln "on the map". However the LEPs strategic approach doesn't support this and providing funding to one area would set a precedent. MS strongly advocated that this can't be seen as a one-off piecemeal event but life changing and key. She stated that we will be judged on our ability to deliver collectively, and the 2015 opportunity was a very good example of that.

ET explained that the critical issue is lack of marketing funds.

Discussion amongst board members agreed that the LEP's role should be strategic and should not support items that could be perceived as piecemeal. It was felt that the LEP needs to take broader approach, and that it would be better to fit any funding to some strategic activity with specific outcomes/ outputs. RW explained that there is a draft destination management strategy, and that this should provide the basis for the LEP's investment in the visitor economy.

Cllr S agreed the need for consistency. MC stated the LEP is not a grant giving organisation. HK echoed this but stated the £10k ask is relatively small against ET's proposed budget of £1m for two years. However, HK recommended that the LEP should use its influence to persuade partners to contribute.

The board agreed not to support the specific funding request and to maintain a consistent approach. Instead it will support delivery, strategic activity and use influence to persuade others to finance.

MS noted that it is regrettable that the LEP can't find another way to support the biggest tourism opportunity in a lifetime.

Any other business

There was no other business.