



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Council Chamber, North Kesteven District  
Council Offices, Kesteven Street, Sleaford

Board Members: Ursula Lidbetter – Chair, David Dexter – Deputy Chair, Cllr Colin Davie, Cllr Peter Wheatley, Cllr Rob Waltham, Cllr Craig Leyland, Herman Kok, Pat Doody, Mark Tinsley, Mary Stuart, Dean Fathers, Richard Wills

Secretariat: Ruth Carver, Clare Hughes, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

Observers: Pete Holmes - BEIS

Apologies: Chris Baron, Steve Middlebrough, Andy Orrey

Guests: John Latham, Ian Fytche (CX NKDC), Cllr Richard Wright (Leader NKDC)

### **Welcome by the Chair – Ursula Lidbetter**

#### **Apologies, Declarations, Minutes and Matters Arising**

The Chair welcomed Dean Fathers and Cllr Craig Leyland as new members of the Board.

The minutes of July 2017 were accepted as a true record following minor amendments and it was agreed they could be published.

#### **Updates and Actions from previous minutes:**

- HCA's Highways Infrastructure Fund – 2 bids have been made – Lincoln Southern Bypass and Grantham Southern Relief Road for forward funding. 7 applications for marginal funding have been made – Herman Kok and Andy Orrey to provide letters of support on behalf of the LEP.
- Board Directors reported on the recent visit of Tom Walker, BEIS, and moving to the HCA, to Lincoln.

#### **Action**

- Minutes of previous meeting to be published, once amended.

### **Paper 2 – Refresh of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board and Terms of Reference**

A draft terms of reference and a policy for the appointment of Directors, the chair and vice chair were considered and discussed. After discussion, the Board agreed both the Terms of Reference and the policy.

A proposal was tabled that outlined the terms of the current directors, and proposed staggered terms for directors to ensure that the board is refreshed and churned, with a range of one year, two year and three year terms proposed. Those directors, whose terms are ending in September, are asked to write into the LEP Director stating whether they wish to be reconsidered for a further term. Those directors are Richard Wills, Ursula Lidbetter, Prof Mary Stuart, Chris Baron, Andy Orrey and Mark Tinsley. The new process of recruitment and appointment to be in place for the January Board. The Mary New Review and the LEP review may have an impact on the role of directors. Pete Holmes said that the Mary Ney Review (DCLG) will be published imminently.

**Actions:**

- The terms of reference for the Board of Directors were approved.
- The process for selection of Board Directors, and the chair and vice chair was agreed.
- Both will be published on the website, and be part of the recruitment and induction process for new board directors.

**Paper 3 – LEP Directors Report**

Cllr Craig Leyland is the new District representative of the Board. There is a vacancy for a public sector Director and nominations will be sought from the leaders of the District Councils. Nominations have been requested by mid-October.

The Board discussed the Business Live event to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October at the Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground. The theme is "Embrace the Future" and demonstrations of robotics and automation will take place. Speakers will be Ursula Lidbetter, Mike Wilson, the Chairman of the British Automation and Robot Association (BARA) and sales and marketing manager at ABB, Ann Daniels (Polar explorer and motivational speaker) and Sir John Peace of Midlands Engine.

Midlands Engine – The first £120m tranche of Midlands Engine Investment Fund has been launched and is designed to provide greater support to the region's smaller businesses accelerate economic growth and promote job creation in line with the Government's Midlands Engine Strategy. Midlands Engine Investment Fund of £250m is to be launched in October.

Coastal Communities Fund – the fifth round of this fund for 2019 to 2021 is to be launched in the near future and will be open for applications in early 2018. Any schemes that are eligible should be ready for the next round of bids. Agreed that the County Council, District Councils and private sector should be better co-ordinated on making any bids.

David Dexter attended the opening of Chapman Court in Skegness (Retirement Homes/Apartments) Growth Deal and David Dexter attended the re-signing of the RAF Armed Forces Covenant.

**Paper 4 – Emerging Policy Considerations for the LEP**

A discussion took place about the development of a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) to enable the LEP to be in a position to produce a LIS by 2019 and to understand the local economy. All were requested to think about what evidence is needed, ie, how to grow industry etc. A date for all to discuss this has been arranged for the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Ruth informed the Board that the Strategic Economic Plan would stay the same, but the LIS would sit beneath it. The framework for the LIS should be available by the time the Autumn Budget is announced.

Mary Stuart agreed with what Ruth had said and said the LIS should be cross-cutting across all areas and that effort into how research for evidence should be shown within the sectors, ie, Agri-food, health, visitor economy and robotics etc. At the Innovation Council, it was agreed that a plan needs to be in place for the skills transformation and what it means. Looking at the Institute of Technology scheme, this should include future skills, not just present skills.

Dean Fathers said that the Manufacturing section needs looking at nationally. He asked what "industrial" means and what are the parameters and the need to differentiate between local economies.

Pete Holmes said that the White Paper will define "Industrial", ie, Place, innovation, etc.

Herman Kok said that the focus should be on defending (adapting/evolving) existing businesses as well as growth and that the timescale could be challenging.

Cllr Davie believes that Utilities should be focused on in the LIS, seeking local and national solutions.

Pete Holmes said that all LEPs are keen to unlock hardships as part of the LIS.

The GLLEP team is currently working on the LIS and progress will be brought to the next Board meeting.

The Board were informed that the Annual Conversation will take place in December.

There is currently a LEP Review process ongoing, which is being led by DCLG and BEIS – Ursula and Ruth to draft a response and will circulate to Board members for approval.

Institute of Technology – Expressions of Interest are due by the 31<sup>st</sup> October. The LEPs role is to support bids.

#### **Paper 5.1 – Food Board**

Mark Tinsley gave an update on the work of the Food Board and the sector plan.

Issues include businesses not investing/expanding: schools should look at focusing on careers and not to focus on exams; productivity needs improving which in turn would drive exports; Broadband; A17 is still a barrier to growth and the population of South Lincolnshire.

He wished to congratulate Mary Stuart for the work on innovation.

Looking beyond Greater Lincolnshire, GLLEP is ahead of their neighbours regarding food.

The next Food Board is to be held at the House of Commons on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 and the majority of Greater Lincolnshire MPs and some Civil Servants will be attending.

Mary Stuart said that the Holbeach Academy is working with the local community.

Councillor Leyland wished to pass on Councillor Worth's praise to Mark for all his work.

Richard Wills stated that there is to be a major route review, possibly the A17.

East Midlands Councils are looking at the route network and it is believed that local areas should be able to decide on which are major routes, based on economy.

#### **Actions:**

- The Sector plan was agreed.

#### **Paper 6 – Team Lincolnshire**

Team Lincolnshire is a partnership between LCC and GLLEP, but is driven by the private sector. LCC and GLLEP will be match-funding this to take it forward.

Councillor Davie said that this was hugely important in the Construction Industry and would well with other sectors.

Dean Fathers asked if it is just for construction and Ruth responded by saying that any business can be involved and is open to anyone and that Team Lincolnshire is an ambassador for Greater Lincolnshire. She also said that

this could include public sector interests, including Health providers.

Ruth Carver also stated that the Place Marketing toolkit will be launched Business Live 2017.

**Actions:**

- The Board endorsed this approach.

**Skills Strategy**

A presentation was given by Clare Hughes.

There are 200,000 predicted job vacancies over the next 10 years. The survey that gives this information is in doubt for the future.

There is increased demand for qualifications that are higher than those currently held by the local population and whilst this is a national challenge, it is a bigger one for Greater Lincolnshire. There are fewer jobs for those with no qualifications. This is a UK-wide phenomenon, but more acute in Greater Lincolnshire as it has a higher proportion of 16-34 year olds with no qualifications.

There is an increased demand for machine operatives and skilled trade occupations, and for a range of Level 3 technical and associate professional technical roles.

The challenge of filling skilled trade occupations is cross-sector. Almost two out of three vacancies (64%) for skilled trade roles were hard to fill due to a lack of skilled applicants in Greater Lincolnshire. This was far higher than the UK average of 43%.

An additional 126,000 workers with qualifications at Level 4 and above over the next ten years will be needed and only 128,000 18 year olds will be leaving school in that timeframe.

16-24 year olds	Greater Lincolnshire	England	Difference
No qualifications	12%	10%	+2%
Level 1	20%	17%	+3%
Level 2	30%	27%	+3%
Level 3	23%	26%	-3%
Level 4	9%	14%	-5%

25-34 year olds	Greater Lincolnshire	England	Difference
No qualifications	11%	9%	+2%
Level 1	15%	12%	+3%
Level 2	20%	15%	+5%
Level 3	19%	15%	+4%
Level 4	27%	41%	-14%

Discussion took place regarding statistics, Dean Fathers stated that students leave Greater Lincolnshire to get qualifications and do not return, Mary Stuart said that this happens nationally.

23% of the Greater Lincolnshire working age population is classed as economically inactive. Almost 30% or 43,000 would like to get a job, a higher proportion than the East Midlands and the UK.

### Local Themes

Hard to fill vacancies	Lack of technical and skilled labour, eg, food technology
Supervisory and management skills of technical staff	Difficult to grow your own
Perception of sectors/opportunities within them make for a reluctant labour market	Lack of awareness amongst learners, parents and schools or career paths and technological advancements
Business skills of owners	Owner/manage lacking skills to run the business, including recruitment and HR knowledge
Work Readiness	Percentage of young people and adults lacking a willingness to learn

50% of workers work in a business with less than 50 people.

How can we influence?

### EU Funded Projects

- Skills Support to the Workforce: training for employees to help them progress within the workplace
- The World of Work: the new website, due to be launched next month, that will provide information about local employers, sectors and industry
- Specialist Skills Advisor Programme: In-depth practical support for employers to help them articulate their skill needs, and to solve some of the problems they have in overcoming persistent skills gaps
- Industry Teaching Programme: providing employers with the skills they need to deliver industry masterclasses in local Colleges, enhancing the curriculum, ensuring that training is up to date and relevant
- Apprenticeship Growth Programme to help SMEs take on an apprentice for the first time
- Skills Support to the Unemployed providing training to unemployed people to help them get into jobs
- Career Net to inspire unemployed 18-24 year olds about the possible careers locally

Discussion took place with some of the following comments:

- Clare Hughes – More skilled people needed – the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) has £63bn nationally, excluding Higher Education, there is a need to ensure that colleges and training providers ensure that this is spent. Currently it is a "learners demand" scheme, but the Employment and Skills Board is trying to steer which subjects are provided. The SFA realise that the system is not working.
- Cllr Waltham – DWP should help disabled people to gain qualifications, could GLEP/Humber join together on this.
- The ESB has been approached by small providers who wish to collaborate with colleges. An initial meeting has been held on co-operation/collaboration and Herman Kok said that the University should be invited to attend further meetings.
- David Dexter asked whether training by self-employed businesses could have their training considered.
- Agreed that employers should let providers know what future skills are needed.

### **Paper 7 – John Latham**

#### **Skills and Paper 7 – Degree Level Apprenticeships**

The funding and arrangements for the delivery of apprenticeship training in England has now been running for 6 months and the pattern for delivery demand, as well as the administration arrangements, are now settling down, providing an opportunity to review what is happening locally and determine how these arrangements can help the GLLEP deliver against the priorities of the SEP.

This is a broad overview of the new apprenticeship arrangements, the current position in terms of the Standards for Degree (Level 6) and above programmes and how it links with Further Education are being developed. For this to work, more work is needed with providers because out of the 500,000 new apprentices, only 1,300 were degree level.

The levy process is only for existing businesses.

There is a perception that small and large businesses have a strategy for future staff, whereas in reality, they only look at current vacancies.

Mark Tinsley asked if the GLLEP could write to the Department for Education.

### **Paper 8 – Consultation of East Midlands Franchise**

This is an update on the position of 3 rail franchises which provide services across Greater Lincolnshire. It outlines the consultation currently being carried out by the Department for Transport for the re-letting of the East Midlands rail franchises and the Board are asked to delegate the sign-off of the consultation response to Richard Wills, Transport Lead.

Discussion took place with the following comments:

- Cllr Waltham said that work is ongoing with the Cleethorpes/Barnetby/Lincoln route and will share information.
- Cllr Davie said that this is an opportunity and could be launched in Business Live 2018.
- Cllr Leyland said he had concerns regarding the Lincoln to Spalding line, particularly the timetable, ie, no late trains.

The LEP Board agreed to delegate the sign-off of the consultation response to Richard Wills, Transport Lead.

### **Priorities for Growth – NKDC**

Ian Fytche and Cllr Richard Wright gave a presentation.

It was stated that NKDC are concentrating on economy, homes, environment, communities and working on financial stability for the Council.

The communities are flourishing, with award winning leisure centres.

In the economy, they are supporting business growth and jobs, regenerating the area and driving investment in the area, including transport routes. One of their successes is the strategic development at Teal Park. The Sleaford Master Plan is to focus on the town centre, particularly the retail sector and there are 100 business units in NK for rent.

Their current focus is the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, which has been adopted with a view to building 37,000 homes. The Sleaford Master Plan, NKDC have purchased a 37 acre site in order to grow investment and build 4,500 homes over the next few years. Lafford Homes (NKDC) owned) has recently delivered 200 new homes. There is also focus on the Sleaford Maltings, in how to take this forward.

Challenges facing NKD are Brexit, what will the impact be on local issues, ie, employment etc, the Policy and Funding environment, how to influence bids, land availability, viability and infrastructure.

Cllr Richard Wright is the new leader of the Council, but has been with NKDC for 10 years. He believes in partnership working and since he took over, he has re-shaped the Executive and talks to businesses about the future of NK.

NKDC wish to continue working with the GLLEP.

Signed .....

Chair

Date .....