



# Greater Lincolnshire LEP

## Board

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Via MS Teams

Draft Minutes

**Present: Board Directors:** Pat Doody - Chair, Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Oliver Hemsley (RCC), Alison Ballard (BAE Systems). Alric Blake (Alltech), Andrew Hunter (UoL), Darren Cunningham (Phillips 66), Dean Fathers (Health), Debbie Barnes (CX LCC), Gary Headland (Lincoln College, IOD and Lincs Chamber), Julian Free (UoL), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Nick Worboys (Longhurst), Simon Bird (ABP), Zoe King (Epix Media)

**Apologies:** Directors: Suraya Marshall (RAF Cranwell), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Yvonne Adam (Youngs Seafood), Sarah Louise Fairburn - Vice Chair (Imp & Maker), Observers: Stephen Fidler (DfT), Simon Green (NLC), Andrew Crookham (S151 Officer & Accountable Body)

**Observers:** Peter Holmes (BEIS), Clive Tritton (NELC)

**LEP Officers:** Ruth Carver, Halina Davies, James Baty, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

**For Agenda items:** Lewis Stringer (British Business Bank)

**Apologies and Declarations of Interest** - Apologies were noted as above.

Full declarations of interest for each individual Board Director can be found at:

<https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/about/boards/> The LEP Board were reminded that declarations of interest are required as part of LEP governance and must be updated at least annually, and if anything changes to the LEP office at the earliest convenience.

### **Minutes & Matters Arising (Paper 1) - Pat Doody/Ruth Carver**

The minutes from the Board meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- As at the last meeting, the Task and Finish Group had agreed the vision and priorities and asked for the LEP Executive to produce a business plan and to allocate resources, this to be carried out once Year End finances are known and will be presented at the May meeting.
- Proposing to hold an outdoor face to face meeting in June or July with Chairs of all the Advisory Boards, followed by a social with LEP Board Directors

ACTION: Strategy Session with board and Chairs of SOB's to be arranged before summer.

ACTION: Business Plan 2021/2022 at May Board

### **Chair's Report - Pat Doody**

- ❖ Number of Directors attended the IoD course.
- ❖ Pat invited Simon Bird to give an update on the Humber Freeport
- ❖ Discussed using a consensus agenda for items at Board.

### **CX Report (Paper 2) - Ruth Carver**

- ❖ Board Directors had read the report, and a few areas were highlighted by the CX.
- ❖ Verbal update on Year End spend ahead of a detailed report a) Single Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund (capital funds), these are broadly on track, SLGF spent with the exception of £8m which has been offset for 21/22. The Getting Building Fund, which was a £25.8m fund, all of the contracts have now been signed and contracted, this funding has to be spent by March 2022.
- ❖ The LEP Board thanked the Team for the good outcome and the work in this area.
- ❖ CGLU also regarding the SLGF and GBF would like to thank the LEP Team for the work that has been carried out in maximising the spend for Year End. The process of confirming outcomes of the Annual Performance Review, outcome letters, the payment of the second year Getting Building Fund and the core funding is still pending.
- ❖ National LEP Review - the CX update the board on the current understanding of the LEP Review being undertaken by the Government and will look at how LEPs can evolve. GLLEP is part of a working group, working with the LEP Network and directly with BEIS. The terms of reference have now been signed off by ministers, which will be shared with the Board Directors, and a broad timetable for the summer has been set. A number of workstreams have been established, looking at form, function and role of LEPs, looking at where LEPs can add value. Will update the Board at each meeting going forward. PH said that, as part of the Review process, discussions will take place with business support organisations and key stakeholders, ie, Universities.

### Business Roundtables - James Baty

- 7 Sectorial Roundtables have been held to engage with "top 100" businesses, which involved 120 contacts with 51 businesses attending in order to gain critical insight and intelligence from various sectors. The Roundtables covered Covid, EU Exit and Leveling Up and what it means for each sector.
- 31 actions have now been included in an Action Plan, which can be shared.
- Follow-up Roundtables may be arranged in the future.
- SB gave an update regarding the Humber Freeport:
  - Engagement with Government is ongoing and progressing well
  - Focus of the Humber Freeport is governance and that North East Lincolnshire Council will be the Accountable Body.
  - There is Freeport Steer Co Board, which Simon is the Chair

### UK Recovery - Zoe King

- Generally, the message is positive, although there are SMEs that struggled over the last year now have a plan to open up the country economically and have used their time wisely over the last few months on working on how to go forward.
- Had a conversation with FSB who are seeing a lot less enquiries from small businesses, but that could be because they no longer have the fight in them when they are not receiving any assistance. The groups that are struggling the most are small businesses that are limited companies.
- Growth Hub update to be available at the next meeting - RC
- PD - there may be a Roundtable to engage with small businesses.

ACTION: Arrange a small business roundtable with FSB.

### Progress of Midlands Engine Investment Fund for Greater Lincolnshire - (Item 3) - Lewis Stringer

- Lewis introduced himself as the Senior Manager for the East and South East Midlands and the British Business Bank is Government's economic development bank to help drive economic growth by making markets work better for small businesses.
- Presentation to give an update on the British Business Bank and the Midlands Engine Investment Fund.
- Have 6 KPIs to increase the amount of finance in the market place to SMEs, to diversify the options available to SMEs, addressing the regional disparity, endeavor to encourage and enable SMEs by providing them with information and education to increase their awareness of the finance options available, increasing looking at being a centre of expertise for SME finance, work with delivery partners to provide greater depth equity funding.
- Highlighted programmes that would be of interest which are relevant to GLLEP and Growth Hub perspective is "Start Up Loans", "Regional Angels Programmes", "Enterprise Capital Fund" and "Recovery Loan Scheme".
- Work with approximately 150 delivery partners to carry out all the objectives and during the pandemic had specific schemes to deliver with the guarantee of Government. From the Future Fund where approximately 1300 loans were deployed, only 16 were from the East Midlands region to the value of £19m.
- Support 2m SMEs across the country.
- Midlands Engine Investment Fund is a regional fund which addresses the KPIs and objectives where there are regional disparities. There are 4 funds: small business loans, debt finance, proof of concept and equity finance. GL SMEs have received approximately £11m in funding.
- Need to ensure that SMEs are aware of what is available and how to access funding although the 3 Growth Hubs are working well together.
- A number of webinars are to be held around MEIF.
- About to launch a campaign on education, awareness raising and market material from BBB.

Information on deals can be gained by the MEIF website and are listed by nature of deal and geographically.

### Actions:

Circulate presentation to Board, and follow up between JF and LS

### **Defence and Security Board Terms of Reference (Paper 3) - Julian Free/Alison Ballard**

- Membership of the Board has been consolidated.
- Original Defence Board has now been opened up to include security, to open up beyond the military in order to include the whole security sector, which then cuts across many businesses, including at SME level around cyber-security, communications, etc.
- The I-Star Centre for UK Defence and the NATO Centre of Excellence being based at Waddington, there is a whole range of activity and support that can be delivered to grow that sector, both locally and internationally. The aim is to exploit positioning of that across Lincolnshire and beyond so that a Centre of Excellence or Hub can be developed.
- The Board has been set up to look at how GL makes defence (armed forces) and big defence companies aware of the resources that are available across Lincolnshire to support that activity from direct academic support to looking to solve challenges that people are facing, ie military challenges or struggling companies, but with the right academic support to develop innovative solutions.

#### **Actions:**

- ❖ The Terms of Reference were agreed subject to slight amendments

### **Darren Cunningham left the meeting**

### **Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Pipeline (Paper 4) - Halina Davies**

- GL LEP had a call for pipeline projects in November 2020 which closed in February 2021 and this paper provided a summary of the Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan (SIDP) related schemes and their subsequent assessment.
- The Board made comments on the importance of ensuring that all priority sectors are encouraged to submit pipeline bids (perhaps strengthening communications to those not well represented during this call), and agreed the direction of travel for the SIDP, including the carrying out of gap analysis to help inform future calls.
- It was explained that whilst the SIDP Infrastructure related projects from the call process had been assessed and scored, the non-Infrastructure projects would be assessed next week and will be discussed at the next GL LEP Investment Board.

#### **Actions:**

- ❖ The Board supported the on-going SIDP pipeline gap analysis
- ❖ Investment Board to review non-SIDP call submissions on the 28<sup>th</sup> May
- ❖ That the final overarching revised GLLEP pipeline is endorsed and published by the Board in June

Simon Bird, Debbie Barnes left the meeting

### **Forward Agenda (Paper 5) - Ruth Carver**

- Any items for the agenda, please contact the LEP Executive

### **Any Other Business**

- DfE have today published a consultation on flexi-apprenticeships which is an important issue and also information on Local Skills Improvement Plans, looking for 6 or 8 Pathfinders, which has been previously discussed ad also Strategic Development Funds White Paper looking for 12 area to pilot items.

**Next meeting - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**