

Business Leadership Group – Minutes

Tuesday 12 January 2016

Present

Nick Ames (NA) (Chair)	-	Supacat
Ben Rhodes (BR)	-	Business Forum
Carl Wyard (CW)	-	Torbay Development Agency
Adrian Dawson (AD)	-	University of Plymouth
Noel Stevens (NS)	-	Alder King
Amanda Ratsey (AR)	-	Plymouth City Council
Ben Neild (BN)	-	University of Exeter
Heather Ancient (HA)	-	PwC
Sue Wilkinson (SW)	-	FSB
Chris Garcia (CGa)	-	Chief Executive, HotSW LEP
George Cowcher (GC)	-	Chief Executive, Plymouth and Devon Chamber (representing all HotSW LEP Chambers)
Phil Merrick (SCC) (sub for P.Hickson)	-	Somerset County Council
Samantha Seddon (SCC) (sub for P.Hickson)	-	Somerset County Council
Heather Hillman (DCC) (sub for S.Turner)	-	Devon County Council

Supporting Officers

Adam Hickman (AH)	-	Plymouth City Council
Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	HotSW LEP
Julia Stuckey (JS)	-	Inward Investment Manager, HotSW LEP

Presenters

Julia Blaschke (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council
Corinne Matthews (CM)	-	Nuclear Co-ordinator, HotSW LEP

Apologies

Simon Barker (SB)	-	Agusta Westland
Brendon Noble (BN)	-	University of St Mark and St John
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council

	Agenda item	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies NA introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.	
2	Conflicts of Interest Growth Hub – Carl Wyard and Adrian Dawson.	
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising <u>Minutes</u> – accepted.	

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	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> ACTION – Still need to confirm a regular meeting venue in Exeter.</p> <p>ACTION – Arrange a Joint Business / People meeting during the next two or three meetings.</p> <p>ACTION – Provide a spatial mapping update to Business Leadership Group, following the Place meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>ACTION - Mapping and Simplification Study – share consultation papers with Business Leadership Group.</p> <p>ACTION - BLG meetings to either be at the beginning (9.30am or 10.00 start) or end (3pm start) of the day.</p>	<p>Adam Hickman</p> <p>Adam Hickman</p> <p>Adam Hickman / Chris Garcia</p> <p>Adam Hickman</p> <p>Adam Hickman</p>
4	<p>HotSW Annual Review – Chris Garcia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQW commissioned to undertake an annual review, looking at achievements and performance. • Key achievements include: Good allocation of Growth Deal 1 and 2 monies; Delivered Growing Places Fund; Delivering on inward investment priorities; Clear transformational opportunities. • Key things to improve: Visibility and engagement; Ensuring the difference between LEP and RDA is known and clear; Transparency in publishing information; Spatial planning. • A ‘HotSW LEP Improvement Plan’ will be developed. <p><u>Performance measurement tool</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of performance measures will be used going forward (a hand out with the suggested Business Theme indicators was circulated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gross Value Added ○ Productivity ○ Total number of jobs ○ Business density ○ Business birth rate ○ Business death rate ○ Business 5 year survival rate <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can there be an innovation or R&D indicator? ACTION – Future Economy Group to consider. • Gross Value Added to be per FTE, not per job. • Combine ‘business birth rate’ and ‘business death rate’ into ‘churn rate.’ • Productivity and jobs particularly important. • Remember that LEPs cannot influence all performance measures, e.g. national and international policies and trends will also affect performance measures. 	<p>Paul Taylor</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HotSW has a high proportion of SMEs. Is there the support for these to scale-up and do they want to scale-up? ACTION – Sue to prepare short presentation for next meeting on issues to assist Small businesses scale up where they wish to. <p>ACTION – Have performance measures as an item for the next BLG agenda, linking performance measures with BLG priorities. Include as part of this item historical data/trends for the performance measures.</p>	<p>Sue Wilkinson</p> <p>Adam Hickman</p>
5	<p>Growth Hub – Amanda Ratsey</p> <p><u>Growth Hub</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Growth Hub operator has been appointed and will be announced shortly. Currently in the stand-still period. New operator will report progress to the BLG every two months. <p>ACTION – Arrange a webinar, hosted by the new Growth Hub provider, for the BLG prior to next BLG meeting. Include as part of Webinar <u>how</u> updates will be reported to the BLG (i.e. which information will be provided and in what format).</p> <p><u>Local Growth Fund contract – change in delivery activity (paper circulated)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the procurement for the <u>Interim</u> Growth Hub was not successful, it is proposed to use the £50,000 allocated for this to further engage businesses and support service providers to facilitate a smooth transition to the start of the new Growth Hub in Jan/Feb. (Note that £8,000 of this money was used for the Business Conference). It is proposed to use the remaining £42,000 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £30,000 for events to engage businesses and business advisors from the public and private sector, awareness raising of the Growth Hub, awareness raising of EU Calls. Aim for 15 events of 15 businesses on average, to be delivered between Jan-March 2016. Some of the money will be used for a temporary agency worker to arrange the events. £12,000 to produce and deliver a marketing and communications strategy. It was discussed that it's important to use a combination of approaches (not just events) to engage businesses. Also, investigate skills links (e.g. apprenticeship grants to businesses). <p>NOTE: The Business Leadership Group <u>approved</u> the spending of the £50,000 in line with the above and the discussion paper which was circulated.</p>	<p>Amanda Ratsey</p> <p>Note</p>
6	<p>EU Funding – Julia Blaschke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2015 DCLG provided ESIF Committees with the final ERDF allocation. There is less ERDF funding available than originally anticipated in all the HotSW LEPs investment priorities (except ICT in the More Developed areas, which has an increase). There is therefore insufficient funding to deliver all priorities in the HotSW LEP ESIF strategy. This has been further complicated by several calls already being launched, using the original 	

	<p>values from the ESIF strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paper circulated with these meeting papers ('analysis and options for revised ERDF allocation') outlines the reductions against the investment priorities. Given the reductions, a repositioning is needed to ensure the HotSW LEP makes best use of the reduced allocations. Therefore, three options were presented to the BLG: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do nothing. Equal reductions across all budget lines. Re-prioritise and change activities. <p>NOTE: The Business Leadership Group preferred option 3 (re-prioritise and change activities).</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can some of the calls be merged and don't specify reductions for specific sectors. One call could cover more than one sector and the market can then influence priorities. Important to keep the broader innovation / creative spin-overs (i.e. across more than one sector). Important to keep the distinction between 'more developed' and 'transition' areas and not merge these. Initial feedback on views and preferences were provided by the members <p>ACTION: A sub-group to be established and help take this work forward, focusing on re-prioritising the funding and using the guiding principle of merging calls. The following put their names forward for possible inclusion in the sub-group (providing the sub-groups remit would not result in any of these members being conflicted in the future) – Ben Rhodes, Nick Ames, Noel Stevens, Adrian Dawson, Carl Wyard, Heather Hillman/DCC rep.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Julia Blaschke</p>
7	<p>Nuclear / Hinkley update – Corinne Matthews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nuclear presentation is attached with these minutes. There were no questions or further action points arising. 	
8	<p>Devolution Update – Chris Garcia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going discussions and plans being drafted. LEP Board agreed that businesses need to be at the heart of any devolution proposals and the LEP can feed in the business voice. Growth Deal 3 funding may be linked to devolution deals – awaiting feedback. 	
9	<p>Unlocking Growth Fund – Chris Garcia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UGF sub-group has reviewed all submitted projects and has recommended which projects to invite to full business case stage (Highbridge, Yeovil, Wiviliscombe, North Devon Employment Campus). Two projects (Claylands, Family Rural Growth Centre) were requested to provide further information and will then be re-assessed for funding. The remaining projects were not recommended for funding at this stage. The SIP panel overturned one of the sub-groups recommendations for funding (SW Tidal Hub) as the project was purely revenue which Growth Deal funding cannot support. Some questions were raised about the process and governance by one project. CGa 	

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	undertook a review and concluded the process and governance was sufficient and robust.	
10	<p>Future Agenda Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Hub, inc. how the new Growth Hub provider will report to the BLG. • How to assist Small enterprises scale up for growth to Medium enterprises • BLG priorities, linking to the performance measures/indicators. • EU funding and re-prioritising activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are any calls struggling to achieve spend – Low Carbon? Others? • Growth Deal 1 projects - update on progress. • Joint People and Business meeting – date tbc. 	
11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi Hallam – draft Business and Stakeholder engagement activities for 2016 has been produced. Circulate with minutes. • Heidi Hallam – undertaken a mini audit/review of the Leaderships Groups with theme leads. One suggestion is to outline specific roles and responsibilities of members, which HH will progress with theme leads. • Julia Stuckey – Inward Investment highlight report produced. Circulate with minutes. 	<p><i>Adam Hickman</i></p> <p><i>Adam Hickman</i></p>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p><i>Tuesday 15 March, 3pm-5pm (NOTE NEW TIME), Exeter tbc</i></p> <p>ACTION: Confirm Exeter venue. ACTION: Need to re-arrange time of meeting to 3pm</p>	<p><i>Adam Hickman</i></p>