

Business Leadership Group – Minutes

Monday 16 November 2015

Present

Nick Ames (NA) (Chair)	-	Supacat / SC Group
Ben Rhodes (BR)	-	Business Forum
Chris Evans (CE)	-	Exeter University
Carl Wyard (CW)	-	Torbay Development Agency
Steve Turner (ST)	-	Devon County Council
Adrian Dawson (AD)	-	Plymouth University
Brendon Noble (BN)	-	University of St Mark and St John
Amanda Ratsey (AR)	-	Plymouth City Council
Heather Ancient (HA)	-	PwC
Susan Wilkinson (SW)	-	FSB
George Cowcher (GC)	-	Plymouth and Devon Chamber

Supporting Officers

Paul Taylor (PT)	-	HotSW LEP
Adam Hickman (AH)	-	Plymouth City Council
Julia Blaschke (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council
Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	HotSW LEP
Julia Stuckey (JS)	-	HotSW LEP

Presenters

Anna Peachey (AP)	-	Plymouth City Council
Emma Buckman (EB)	-	Buckman Associates Ltd / HotSW LEP

Apologies

Noel Stevens (NS)	-	Alder King
Simon Barker (SB)	-	Agusta Westland
Chris Garcia (CGa)	-	HotSW LEP

Agenda Item	Lead
<p>1</p> <p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Nick Ames introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.</p> <p>NA placed on record thanks and appreciation to Pete Ashton and condolences to Pete’s family, friends and colleagues.</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>All present declared a possible interest in the Growth Hub if this is discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>All present declared a possible interest in the ESIF funding item as organisations may bid for future ESIF funding (although this is not yet known).</p> <p>There was a reminded for all to complete and return their Conflict of Interest forms.</p>	

3	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p><u>Minutes</u> – accepted.</p> <p><u>Matters arising (which will not be covered on the agenda)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: A spatial mapping update requested. • Confirmed that deliverability will be a key criterion for Growth Deal projects. 	<p>Paul Hickson</p>
4	<p>Mapping and Simplification Study – Anna Peachey</p> <p>A progress summary was circulated with the meeting papers. Following feedback at the last Business Group, the mapping has focused on two areas – strategic issues for the LEP and business specific issues.</p> <p>The study has identified over 300 publically funded business support activities in HotSW LEP area, and over 100 business networks. There was a discussion on how best to engage with these networks and next steps for the mapping. Key issues discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Not feasible to visit all business support networks and providers – how will we prioritise? Mapping interconnectivity between the providers will be useful. <p>All present agreed that a one-to-one and personal approach is better than mass communications and this is where intermediaries play a role. The Chamber and FSB can play a key role using their networks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Lots of SMEs in the South West with under 5 employees – how are we helping these get to the next level? However, it was also acknowledged that not all small SMEs want to go to the next level. c. What do we actually want businesses to tell us through this study / research? Key questions include: Are business aware of available support services? Interested in engaging with networks? How can businesses access the Growth Hub? d. Professional services such as accountants and lawyers have very large business networks. We need to engage these. <p>Action: AP to draft consultation papers and share with the Business Group.</p>	<p>Anna Peachey</p>

	<p>The identified barriers to growth were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Productivity. b. Skills / having the right people. c. Finance and investment. <p>A future conference will be held. It was suggested invitees could focus on businesses the HotSW LEP wish to encourage and nurture.</p>	
8	<p>Future Agenda Items - All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. HotSW LEP annual review. b. Growth Hub inception briefing/presentation. c. Hinkley – this should be a DEFINITE agenda item. d. ESIF. e. Devolution – business support asks. f. Key themes/priorities for the Business Group over next 12 months. g. Future joint Business / People meeting. 	
9	<p>Any Other Business – All</p> <p>Growth Deal – Waiting on the outcome of the CSR for confirmation on GD2 funding.</p> <p>Action: Send Inward Investment update with minutes.</p>	<p>Adam Hickman</p>

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 12 January; 10am - 12noon;
Midas (Academy Suite), Pynes Hill, Exeter, EX2 5WS