

## 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
I	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
	Nick Ames introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.	
	NA placed on record thanks and appreciation to Pete Ashton and condolences to Pete's family, friends and colleagues.	
2	Conflicts of Interest	
	All present declared a possible interest in the Growth Hub if this is discussed during the meeting.	
	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).	
	There was a reminded for all to complete and return their Conflict of Interest forms.	



	local enterprise partnership		
3	Minut	es of last meeting and matters arising	
	Minut	<u>es</u> – accepted.	
	Matte	rs arising (which will not be covered on the agenda)	
	•	Action: A spatial mapping update requested.	Paul
	•	Confirmed that deliverability will be a key criterion for Growth Deal	Hickson
		projects.	
4	Mappi	ing and Simplification Study – Anna Peachey	
	A prog	ress summary was circulated with the meeting papers. Following	
	feedba	ack at the last Business Group, the mapping has focused on two areas –	
	strate	gic issues for the LEP and business specific issues.	
	activit discus	udy has identified over 300 publically funded business support ies in HotSW LEP area, and over 100 business networks. There was a sion on how best to engage with these networks and next steps for the ng. Key issues discussed:	
	a.	Not feasible to visit all business support networks and providers – how will we prioritise? Mapping interconnectivity between the providers will be useful.	
		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.	
	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.	
	Action	: AP to draft consultation papers and share with the Business Group.	Anna Peachey



	local enterprise partnership	
5	ESIF funding – background and future calls – Emma Buckman	
	A paper was circulated outlining the various funding opportunities available through ESIF. The Business Group was asked to advise on:  a. Which calls to prioritise and bring forward first.  b. What should be included in the calls.  c. Reach a consensus on priorities.	
	Even though DCLG will have the final say on timings of calls etc, the Business Group / HotSW LEP can push for priority calls. There is likely to be three or four windows next year where calls will be announced.	
	<ul> <li>Action: The Business Group would like to get as many calls out as soon as possible, and would like the following to be prioritised: <ul> <li>a. Investment Readiness Support.</li> <li>b. Enterprise and Incubation. (Perhaps only half?).</li> <li>c. Grants – SME investment and rural grants (for a 2017 start).</li> <li>d. Digital.</li> <li>e. Social enterprise.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Amanda Ratsey
	Possible future calls / not as much priority:  a. Business Resource Efficiency.	
	Action: Circulate the ESIF funding summary paper with these minutes.	Adam Hickman
6	HotSW Devolution Business Support Asks – Amanda Ratsey	
	The draft business support asks were circulated with the Board papers. NA complimented the papers as a good set of proposals with some innovative ideas. The deadline for submission to Government is 17 December.	
	GC emphasised the importance of presenting the business support asks as a public / private sector partnership.	
	PT said it was highly likely future Growth Deals will be linked to devolution asks.	
	Action: Circulate all devolution asks to the Business Group.	Adam Hickman
7	Business Conference – Heidi Hallam	
	Over 200 people attended the conference, including 47% actual businesses. The seminar sessions worked well and it was positive the LEP Board members were actively involved.	



	iocal enterprise partnership		
	The identified barriers to growth were:		
	a. Productivity.		
	b. Skills / having the right people.		
	c. Finance and investment.		
	A future conference will be held. It was suggested invitees could focus on		
	businesses the HotSW LEP wish to encourage and nurture.		
8	Future Agenda Items - All		
	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	Any Other Business – All		
	Growth Deal – Waiting on the outcome of the CSR for confirmation on GD2		
	funding.		
	Action: Send Inward Investment update with minutes.	Adam Hickman	

## Date of next meeting:

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