

Business Leadership Group - Minutes

Thursday 5 June 2014

Present

Nick Ames (NA) (Chair)	-	Supacat
Alan Denby (AD)	-	Torbay Development Agency
Amanda Ratsey (AR)	-	Plymouth City Council
Pete Ashton (PA)	-	Federation of Small Businesses
Sean Fielding (SF)	-	Exeter University
Ben Rhodes (BR)	-	Business Forum
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council
Vaughan Lindsey (VL)	-	Dartington Hall Trust

Supporting Officers

Chris Garcia (CG)	-	HotSW LEP
Emma Buckman (EB)	-	HotSW LEP
Adam Hickman (AH)	-	Plymouth City Council
Julia Blaschke (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council

Apologies

David Parlby	-	Chamber of Commerce
Adrian Dawson	-	Plymouth University
Emma Hewitt	-	University of St Mark and St John

	Agenda item	Lead
I	Introductions and Apologies NA introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.	
2&3	<p>Scene Setting, Background and Next Steps – CG & EB</p> <p>CG talked through a paper outlining the HotSW LEP's priorities to create growth and jobs. These are: <i>Creating the conditions for growth; Maximising productivity and employment opportunities; Building on our distinctiveness.</i></p> <p>There are three LEP Leadership Groups – <i>Place, Business and People</i> – which feed into the LEP Management Team. Each of the leadership groups will also report back to the LEP Board.</p> <p>The role of the Business Leadership Group is to take forward the business priorities in the Strategic Economic Plan, Growth Deal and EU Structural Investment Fund. These include key priorities around <i>inward investment, smart specialisation and business support.</i></p> <p>Some minor changes are still being made to the EUSIF. Funding should be allocated shortly. Current drafts submitted to Government have met Government requirements.</p> <p>The Business Leadership Group has influence over approx £20m per year, primarily from funding associated with the City Deal, Growth Deal and EUSIF.</p> <p>PH questioned if the Business Group needed Task and Finish Groups. This may be needed going forward depending on what the Business Group have as their key focus / priorities.</p>	

4	<p>Foreign Direct Investment – CG</p> <p>Recent feedback from the Michael Boyd visit to the HotSW concluded that the HotSW needs to be more focused on what it is trying to achieve.</p> <p>There were a number of comments that HotSW needs a clear and standard set of propositions for inward investment as we are too broad in our requirements, e.g. this could be a strategy to focus on attracting new businesses or focusing on existing businesses.</p> <p>Note: <i>The Business Leadership Group feel that initially the investment strategy for the SW should have a focus on working with existing businesses.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>The LEP FDI group to report to the Business Leadership Group on the top six businesses in the South West which we can proactively work with (by the Business Groups next meeting on 22 July).</i></p> <p>Action: <i>The LEP Management Team to report to the Business Leadership Group on FDI priorities (by the Business Groups next meeting on 22 July).</i></p>	<p>CG/AR</p> <p>CG/AR</p>
5	<p>City Deal – AR</p> <p>Three elements to the City Deal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Marine Industries Production Campus, focusing on South Yard, to grow the marine and advanced manufacturing sectors. • A tailored business support programme through establishing a Growth Hub. • A Deal for Young People to tackle youth unemployment. 	
6	<p>Smart Specialisation – EB</p> <p>Smart Specialisation is an approach to determine knowledge based growth priorities and then strengthen innovation and business growth to deliver against those priorities. £17.5m ERDF is allocated through EUSIF to Innovation through Smart Specialisation, as well as other indirect funding pots.</p> <p>The HotSW LEP has a Smart Specialisation Working Group which has led on identifying the Smart Specialisation areas for HotSW – the group has undertaken an initial assessment, an in- depth review and a prioritisation exercise.</p> <p>Seven Smart Specialisation areas have been identified– <i>Marine, Environmental and Agricultural Sciences, Healthy Aging, Nuclear, Aerospace, Photonics, Big Data.</i></p> <p>The next stage is to complete a strategy / implementation plan for each area smart specialisation area.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can ‘environmental and agricultural sciences’ be broken down further as it’s a very broad area. • Need linkages between smart specialisation and inward investment. 	

Local Enterprise Partnership

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitions required for 'transition' and 'more developed'. Globally the SW is strong in tourism. If this is not a smart specialisation a standard script is needed explaining why it's not been included. <p>Action: Update the Smart Specialisation paper with the discussion comments above.</p>	EB
7	<p>Membership, Terms of Reference and Conflicts of Interest – NA</p> <p>Action: Two additional business reps (names already provided) to be part of the Business Leadership Group. AH to invite onto group.</p> <p>Action: Include conflicts of interest as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Action: If apologies are received from the Chamber rep, seek attendance from an alternative Chamber rep.</p> <p>Action: Some suggestions were made to the ToR. AH to update and circulate for sign-off at the next meeting (22 July).</p>	AH AH AH AH
8	<p>Future Agenda Items - All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inward Investment priorities. Smart Specialisation. EUSIF – next steps. 	
9	<p>Future Meeting Venues – All</p> <p>Note: The group agreed to have a set meeting venue (Supacat's Offices, Honiton) for all future meetings. Meetings to be 2 hours long.</p>	NA
10	<p>Any Other Business – All</p> <p>None.</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 22 July; 10.00-12noon; Supacat's Offices, Honiton.</p>	

Future Meeting Dates:**2014**

Thursday 11 Sept, 10.00 – 12.00noon, Supacat Offices
 Tuesday 11 Nov, 14.00 – 16.00, Supacat Offices

2015

Wednesday 14 Jan, 14.00 – 16.00, Supacat Offices
 Tuesday 17 March, 14.00 – 16.00, Supacat Offices
 Wed 20 May, 10.00 – 12.00noon, Supacat Offices