

Summary of business – board meeting

10 July 2012 at Somerset College

Attendees:- Adam Chambers, David Allen, David Hall, Frances Brennan, Gordon Oliver, Janet Powell (mins), Jeanette Reed, Jeffery Kenyon, Liz Waugh, Paul Hickson, Nick Ames, Rachel Davies, Stephen Bird, Sue Cheriton, Tim Jones (chair), Vaughan Lindsay, Will Mumford

Apologies:- Alan Denby, Chris Grace, Clive Turner, Keri Denton, Nick Engert, Sally Edgington, Simon Barker, Tudor Evans, Wendy Purcell

Introductions:-

The Chair welcomed Jeffery Kenyon from Plymouth City Council (PCC) standing in for Tudor Evans and Chris Grace, plus Sue Cheriton from Torbay Council standing in for Alan Denby.

2. Declarations of interest

Growing Places Fund bid for Seven Hills Nursing Home – Gordon Oliver

Exeter/Devon Growth Point – Stephen Bird and Will Mumford (both sit on the board)

3. Budget and Finance

LW gave an overview of the revised finance paper, updated to include actions and recommendations from the Interim Board meeting held on 2 July.

Growing Places Fund (GPF)

The transferral of funds between accountable bodies, and possibilities of investment were covered. Questions were raised as to how best to invest to acquire a high rate of return.

LEP Governance

SBird raised the need of ensuring a robust Governance structure. The Board agreed to delegate this to Finance/Resource group. It was highlighted that a clear decision-making process needs to be established.

Staffing Structure

The recommendations put forward in the finance paper were agreed, namely to have one chief executive and one admin post (as defined in the budget and business plan).

Communication

As defined in the finance paper the recommendations were agreed and delegated to the Executive Group to progress further.

Mention was made of the Business Forum Executive group that had formed 5 special interest work groups, (Access to Finance, Coordination of Mentor and Other Business Support, Overcoming Planning Barriers, Raising the Profile of the LEP and Skills Development).

4. Board Membership and Portfolios

Discussion took place on whether board members should hold championing and/or portfolio based roles, for example in a particular sector or on specific issues. General view that Board would consider each issue on a personal basis rather than proscribed portfolios.

5. Election of Chair/ Vice Chair

Only one nomination had been received for each post, Tim Jones for Chair and Frances Brennan for Vice Chair. Candidates were asked to leave the room, whilst Members undertook a secret ballot. There were no abstentions and the Board were unanimous in re-electing both members.

6. Growing Places Update

An update was given around the Growing Places fund and progress made so far.

Chair's Update

A discussion around the Business Forum and the LEP and Board was held.

8. Papers for Noting

FDI report

Regional Growth Network (RGN)

9. Minutes of Last Meeting 7 June 2012

Agreed as accurate.

10. AOB

NA gave an update on S W Marine Energy Park, reminding members that this was endorsed in December 2011, and held up as a good example of public and private sector collaboration. An interim board had been established, who were in the process of reviewing core funding for a small management team.

NA thanked LW for all her hard work and support in her role as CEO so far. This was reaffirmed by the full Board.

WM reported on EU funding post 2013.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 11 September at Devon County Council, Exeter from 4 – 6pm.