

Business Leadership Group meeting – Minutes

Monday 14 November 2016

Present

Nick Ames (NA)	-	LEP Board (SC Group)
Simon Barker (SB)	-	Business Representative/Inward Investment (Leonardo Helicopters)
George Cowcher (GC)	-	Business Body Representative (representing all HotSW LEP Chambers)
Sophie Francis (SF)	-	Upper Tier Local Authority (DCC)
Martha Wilkinson (MW) Foundation)	-	Business Representative/Social Enterprise (Devon Community Foundation)
Daniel Newman (DN)	-	Upper Tier Local Authority (TDA)
Ben Rhodes (BR)	-	Business Body Representative (DCBC)
Julia Stuckey (JS)	-	HOTSW Inward Investment Manager
Amanda Ratsey (AR)	-	Theme Lead/Upper Tier Local Authority (PCC)
Andrew Dean (AD)	-	R&D and Innovation (University of Exeter)
Eifion Jones (EJ)	-	LEP Strategy & Operations Manager
Sue Wilkinson (SW)	-	Business Body Representative (FSB)
Adrian Dawson (AD)	-	R&D and Innovation (Plymouth University)
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Upper Tier Local Authority (SCC)

Supporting Officers

Julia Blaschke (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council
Colin Bettison (CB)	-	Plymouth City Council
Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	LEP Partnerships Manager
Helena Davison (HD)	-	LEP Communications Manager

Apologies

Noel Stevens (NS)	-	ESIF Committee representative (Alder King)
Brendon Noble (BN)	-	R&D and Innovation (University of St Mark and St John)

	Agenda item	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies NA introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.	
2	Conflict of Interest The following Conflicts of Interests were declared: Simon Barker: iAero – GD 3 Daniel Newman: UGF Amanda Ratsey: Train station, Oceansgate – GD3 Paul Hickson: SEIC, iAero – GD3	
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	

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	<p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p> <p>PH provided update on outstanding action regarding mapping study: The Place Leadership Group initially aimed to deliver a LEP wide spatial mapping study. Work has started and the evidence base for the mapping has been created. However, the process has been put on hold because further work is interlinked and dependent on the development of the devolution process. The work will be taken forward by Place group as and when necessary.</p> <p>EJ gave a quick update regarding the current progress of the productivity plan and devolution (see further under AOB).</p> <p>ACTION- Take mapping study off action log</p>	<i>Julia Blaschke</i>
4	<p>Growth Deal 3 update & discussion</p> <p>AR updated BLG regarding progress for GD 3. While Government has not yet published any details on GD 3 allocations, there was a fear HotSW LEP could lose out because devolution is not progressed enough and the area will not have an elected mayor (which was mentioned as a main criterion in previous Government communications).</p> <p>Suggestions to increase visibility with Government included lobbying Government as LEP (other LEPs use external organisations to lobby on their behalf) or through the business community. However, more engagement was needed with the business community to reach those aims.</p> <p>A presentation during one of our previous meetings identified a general structural failure in our area with regards to business property development, leading to a greater need of gap funding for projects that are being delivered by the private sector in other areas. Does the LEP need to highlight this to Government? Also, a particular problem of our area is our dispersed geography. We do not have close physical location of business clusters like other, more urban LEPs.</p> <p>Last, the Science & Innovation Audit should be recognised as a unique opportunity and advantage to focus spending on identified strengths of the region – which would also tie in with the upcoming Industrial strategy (which will build on the SIAs).</p> <p>ACTION- NA to feed back concerns raised in this discussion to the Board.</p>	<i>Nick Ames</i>
5	<p>Growth Hub update</p> <p>CB gave update about Growth Hub progress. Progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project ahead of profile against nearly all indicators. - OLA slightly behind targets – other organisations are not as enthusiastic to sign OLAs. - Also ERDF delays have affected OLAs as not as many projects are ready to be signed up. - Mapping is being done to understand enquiries and identify underperforming locations. - GH will also be producing a heat map of business support to understand provision and gaps (by March 17) - 2 case studies have been done - Partner meetings are very well perceived and work very well. - GH will be working with BBfA – have presence on website and see whether sign posting can be arranged - Challenges that have been identified so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o OLAs 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with ERDF Growth Hub – challenge to have enough resource in place as ERDF GH will be using GH as entrance ○ Sustainability – LEP is supposed to produce sustainability plan for GH. Work is being delayed until GH Network has published their report on sustainability solutions. <p>A discussion followed and members provided feedback from their respective areas. While the districts feedback was very positive and they were happy about the information that was being shared, the Chambers felt more engagement between them and the GH would be beneficial. Regarding the underperformance against the OLA target it was decided to arrange for a separate meeting to discuss this issue and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Put GH on next meeting agenda - arrange sub-group to meet with SERCO in 3 weeks; produce list of OLAs for circulation to group - Identify whether GH engagement could be topic for the ‘LEP conversations’ 	<p><i>Julia Blaschke</i> <i>Colin Bettison</i></p> <p><i>Heidi Hallam</i></p>
6	<p>Business conference feedback & plan 2017</p> <p>Please see attached paper. A discussion followed regarding these finding. Regarding the question how to engage more and different businesses a recommendation was, that the best way to engage businesses would be to say something that is relevant to them and their respective needs. This can be done through new communication forms, such as social media. Currently, HotSW LEP is not using new technologies to their full advantage – they could be very effective tools, specifically for our dispersed geography.</p> <p>ACTION-</p> <p>Please feedback ideas to Heidi regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we engage more, different businesses? - Resource additional communications (e.g. sponsorships?) 	<p><i>All</i></p>
7	<p>Inward Investment post 2017</p> <p>AR explained current position and resourcing of the Inward Investment post, which is coming to an end in Q1/2017. Different scenarios where explored, one would be to have a central resource and then have sectoral leads across the area. The central role would not only have to work across the LEP but the SW area, cross-LEPs to ensure regional advantages would be properly marketed (e.g. nuclear and marine assets across LEPs in the area).</p> <p>Members felt that a single resource could bring strong focus – this could be quite critical for continued FDI success. The business community felt that this was an important, crucial function that should be facilitated– businesses would prefer a unified function rather than a splintered one.</p> <p>Currently, Plymouth City Council provides the match funding for this role. Future resourcing was discussed, options included using ERDF monies; however, ERDF can only be used to attract non-EU FDI. Other LEPs are using the uplift from their EZ to fund this role. While most LAs have allocated some resource towards Inward Investment this is often not a single, dedicated role but rather written into job descriptions as an additional task. Therefore there are not necessarily any dedicated monies for this function which could be extracted and pooled.</p>	

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	<p>ACTION-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relay message from Business Leadership Group to Board regarding the importance of this role and hopes for its continuation 	<i>Simon Barker</i>
8	<p>GD 1, 2 update</p> <p>JB gave overview over current progress. GD 1 projects have now all been completed. GD 2 projects are on track with regards to their funding agreements and we would expect first funding agreements to be signed very soon.</p>	
9	<p>Unlocking Growth Fund update</p> <p>JB gave quick overview over UGF. 11 applications had been received after a second call had been issued for the remaining allocation (ca. £1m). The panel has met and decided to invite the highest ranked applications to submit full business cases. However, the amount of funding will not be sufficient to fund all projects therefore the process will still be competitive. Applicants will be informed shortly of the decision and given feedback on how they scored.</p>	
10	<p>Productivity Plan update</p> <p>EJ explained the current status regarding the work on the productivity plan. The development of the productivity plan coincides with the need to do a SEP refresh and the productivity plan will replace the SEP once it has been finalised. The aim is to use a green/white paper approach to develop the plan with draft sign-off planned for March 17 and final sign-off by mid-2017.</p> <p>The green paper for the plan is being worked up with the Future Economy Group and will need to receive input from various stakeholders. The Leadership groups will be “hosting” this work but it needs to be owned by whole area. Therefore wider stakeholder involvement is being needed. The LEP Management team will bring the different elements of the plan together.</p> <p>A group discussion followed. Where would initiatives sit that boost growth but not necessarily productivity? MW mentioned that productivity has various elements; some of them might not be straightforward. For example, while the social economy might not directly increase productivity, the social outputs generated are vital for our economy. How would these productivity contributions be measured?</p> <p>Also, it was questioned whether the productivity plan could replace the SEP entirely, given the slightly different aim of both documents.</p> <p>ACTION -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange workshop for January meeting – increase meeting to 3h to cover both, workshop and shorter BLG meeting. - Get list of people we need to invite for the work shop. 	<i>Julia Blaschke</i>
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>7 directors will be retiring next year. Could all members engage with potential candidates and encourage them to apply?</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting: 16 January, 10.00-13.00, tbc</p>	

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	General action: move all meetings to mornings; start 10.00	<i>Julia Blaschke</i>
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