

# Productivity workshop and Business Leadership Group meeting – Minutes

## Thursday 02 March 2017

### Present

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Nick Ames (NA)      | - LEP Board (SC Group)   |
| Noel Stevens (NS)   | - ESIF Committee representative (Alder King)                       |
| Sophie Francis (SF) | - Upper Tier Local Authority (DCC)                                 |
| Ben Rhodes (BR)     | - Business Body Representative (DCBC)                              |
| Amanda Ratsey (AR)  | - Theme Lead/Upper Tier Local Authority (PCC)                      |
| Chris Evans (CE)    | - R&D and Innovation (University of Exeter)                        |
| Adrian Dawson (AD)  | - R&D and Innovation (Plymouth University)                         |
| Simon Barker (SB)   | - Business Representative/Inward Investment (Leonardo Helicopters) |
| Sue Wilkinson (SW)  | - Business Body Representative (FSB)                               |
| Eifion Jones (EJ)   | - LEP Strategy & Operations Manager                                |

### Supporting Officers

- |                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Julia Blaschke (JB) | - Plymouth City Council           |
| Julia Stuckey (JS)  | - HOTSW Inward Investment Manager |
| Helena Davison (HD) | - LEP Communications Manager      |

### Apologies

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Brendon Noble (BN)    | - R&D and Innovation (University of St Mark and St John)              |
| Paul Hickson (PH)     | - Upper Tier Local Authority (SCC)                                    |
| Carl Wyard (CW)       | - Upper Tier Local Authority (TDA)                                    |
| Martha Wilkinson (MW) | - Business Representative/Social Economy (Devon Community Foundation) |
| George Cowcher (GC)   | - Business Body Representative (for HotSW LEP Chambers)               |

	Agenda item	Lead
1	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b> NA introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.	
2	<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>	
3	<b>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</b>	

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	Minutes were agreed. AR gave update on current status of Inward Investment support going forward.	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Productivity Plan visioning session</b></p> <p>EJ and Nick Robertson, Grant Thornton, introduced the visioning for the Productivity Plan and consultation timeline. A dedicated consultation invitation and introduction for businesses would be going out today.</p> <p>The group discussed the presentation. It was suggested that productivity would need to be raised on all levels to prevent further falling behind other areas. Similarly, HotSW should not try to copy other models but identify its own local advantages and so increase productivity.</p> <p>The question was raised how future technologies and automation and digital utilisation could affect productivity. In order to be able to benefit from this, the right infrastructure needs to be in place. ICT has created jobs and has been a driver of productivity but only if management and workforce are being upskilled sufficiently. As such, digital utilisation training was seen as an important enabler for raising productivity.</p> <p>Last, while no data on lifestyle businesses exists, anecdotal evidence suggests that the VAT threshold can act as a barrier to the ambition of micro businesses due to its perceived complexity. Being able to support micros in scaling up will be important for our region.</p> <p><b>ACTION-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forward slides to BLG</li> </ul>	<b>Julia Blaschke</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Industrial Strategy</b></p> <p>EJ introduced the topic. The deadline for responding to Government is 17 April and HotSW LEP is planning to submit a response. Aligning the productivity plan timeline to the IS timeline will be important. HotSW LEP was planning on building on SIA and to highlight the low numbers of start-ups we have, compared with the rest of the UK. Question was raised whether the Public Procurement pillar could be of particular importance to HotSW LEP. So far, the IS green paper is focussing much more on the Northern Powerhouse. There is a real case to be made for our area to be recognised as a growth area but for this, we would need to be able to articulate a single cross sector vision, that is placed-based and looks at the IS 'through a local lens'.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>GD 1, 2 &amp; UGF performance update</b></p> <p>JB and AR gave a quick overview over the status of the projects currently in the Business pipeline.</p>	

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	<b>ACTION-</b> - Circulate written update for the next meeting.	<b>Julia Blaschke</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b>  08 May, 2-4pm, NFU Exeter	<b>Julia Blaschke</b>

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