

Business Leadership Group meeting – Minutes

Tuesday 4th July 2017, Plymouth CityBus

Present

Richard Stevens (RS)	- Chairman
Sophie Francis (SF)	- Upper Tier Local Authority (DCC)
George Cowcher (GC)	- Business Body Representative (for HotSW LEP Chambers)
Amanda Ratsey (AR)	- Theme Lead
Dave Ratcliffe (DR)	- Business Body Representative (DCBC)
Julia Blaschke (JB)	- Plymouth City Council
Victoria Gage (VG)	- Devon County Council
James Gilgrist (JG)	- Upper Tier Local Authority (SCC)
Martha Wilkinson (MW)	- Social Economy (Devon Community Foundation)
Chris Evans (CE)	- R&D and Innovation (University of Exeter)
Chris Garcia (CG)	- LEP Chief Exec, representing Eifion Jones

Presenters

Stuart Monk	- SWAHSN
David Wright	- SWAHSN
Josie Gough	- Innovate UK

Supporting Officers

Tom Clenaghan (TC)	- Plymouth City Council
Heidi Hallam (HH)	- LEP Partnerships Manager

Apologies

Adrian Dawson (AD)	- R&D and Innovation (Plymouth University)
Noel Stevens (NS)	- ESIF Committee representative (Alder King)
Eifion Jones (EJ)	- LEP Strategy & Operations Manager
Carl Wyard (CW)	- Upper Tier Local Authority (TDA)
Jackie Jacobs (JJ)	- South West Metal Finishing Ltd
Sue Wilkinson (SW)	- Business Body Representative (FSB)

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	Agenda item	Lead
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>RS introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.</p>	
2	<p>Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>None</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>One Declaration of Interest outstanding, not present. New members will have to submit Dol forms.</p> <p>David Hynd was asked to share the heat map showing penetration by businesses per capita. The group asked for further clarity with regards to percentage penetration, relative to total business. The maps currently do not have the necessary context.</p> <p>The group requested that the minutes of the Productivity Meeting of the 3rd August were to be circulated. A question was raised as to whether local business are actually interested in the productivity challenge – it was generally agreed that in a labour market approaching full employment, businesses are less likely to feel dissatisfied.</p> <p>No other matters arose.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>TC / AR</p>
4	<p>Business Representation</p> <p>The Chair and group agreed that there should be more business representation within the group. There was further agreement to hold a standing agenda item for a different sector lead to present, at each meeting. The group would need to become less governance-focussed and more action/delivery focussed in order to attract businesses.</p> <p>Action: Check Terms of Reference for function of group.</p> <p>There was general agreement that the timing of meetings should change, either to early morning or late afternoon. 2pm was seen as untenable.</p>	
5	<p>Shared Prosperity Fund</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to replace EU funding. Autumn '17 to spring '18 consultation. • Possible call for a localised industrial strategy, with a view to possible revenue funding for businesses. • Chris Evans agreed to provide a report on existing grant and fund management. 	CE
6	<p>Innovate UK – Josie Gough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One page summary attached. <p>Region: South West, there will be two of these events this financial year; current plan is to run one in WofE and one in HotSW. Next financial year to cover off CloS, SW and Dorset. The focus of this one page draft agenda is HotSW.</p> <p>Location: Exeter or Plymouth, both easily accessible though exact location maybe dictated by numbers attending and suitability of venue.</p> <p>Objective: To support the area’s identified sector strengths through communicating LEPs innovation ambitions and raising awareness of Innovate UK and provide businesses with the opportunity to test partnerships which may access Innovate UK support now/in the future.</p> <p>Date: Autumn at a date to be aligned with other activity in the LEP area.</p> <p>HH, GC, CE, AS and JG to discuss details of future events.</p> <p>Place Fund</p> <p>Part of the Industrial Strategy, with a possible announcement in the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>£2m - £20m bids. No specified lead applicants, but cross-boundary support will be important. Likely to be delivered by Innovate UK.</p>	
7	<p>SWAHNS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation attached. • A more innovative NHS supports the UK’s aim to be a global hub for life sciences, and stronger economic growth; patients benefit from quicker access to innovative, cost-effective drugs, 	

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	<p>devices and diagnostics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local populations benefit from significantly improved health outcomes and transformation in NHS leadership, and quality of care <p>SWAHSN is attaching more importance to economic growth than previously, maintaining private sector productivity by ensuring employee-health stays high.</p> <p>1 in 22 workers in the HotSW are employed directly by the NHS.</p>	
8	<p>Unlocking Growth Fund</p> <p>Three projects have received provisional offers of funding, whilst one was rejected. The names of the projects will be released at a later date.</p>	
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>MW: Simon Leeming of DCLG has announced Digital Skills Partnerships. There have been millions of pounds pledged for digital skills training, and possible Local Digital Partnerships. Pilot areas are yet to be chosen, but are likely to be LEP-areas.</p> <p>CG: Rural Growth Commission will report by the end of the month. Good opportunity to flag local interests at the highest level.</p> <p>CG: The Great SW Growth Summit will take place on October 20th.</p> <p>VG: The Growth Support Programme now has a full management board in place.</p>	
10	<p>Date of Next Meetings:</p> <p>9th November 2017</p>	

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