

Productivity workshop and Business Leadership Group meeting – Minutes Monday 16 January 2017

Present

Nick Ames (NA)	-	LEP Board (SC Group)
Noel Stevens (NS)	-	ESIF Committee representative (Alder King)
Brendon Noble (BN)	-	R&D and Innovation (University of St Mark and St John)
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)
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)
Eifion Jones (EJ)	-	LEP Strategy & Operations Manager
Adrian Dawson (AD)	-	R&D and Innovation (Plymouth University)
Carl Wyard (CW)	-	Upper Tier Local Authority (TDA)

Productivity Workshop invitees:

Ben Neild (BN)	-	University of Exeter
Jenny Pitcher	-	Mendip & South Somerset
Darren Arulvasagam	-	SW Devon
Carla Modley	-	Sedgemoor
Sean Kearney	-	Torridge
Chris Shears	-	Mid Devon
David Evans	-	Taunton Deane

Supporting Officers

Julia Blaschke (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council
Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	LEP Partnerships Manager

Apologies

Simon Barker (SB)	-	Business Representative/Inward Investment (Leonardo Helicopters)
Julia Stuckey (JS)	-	HOTSW Inward Investment Manager
Helena Davison (HD)	-	LEP Communications Manager
Sue Wilkinson (SW)	-	Business Body Representative (FSB)
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Upper Tier Local Authority (SCC)

	Agenda item	Lead
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>NA introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.</p>	
2	<p>Introduction to the Productivity Plan and Green Paper</p> <p>EJ and CE introduced Productivity Plan and consultation timeline. BN presented evidence base and current issues in HotSW LEP. For details, please see attached presentation. Following the presentation a discussion ensued. Currently the Productivity Plan is not mentioning Inclusive Growth or the Social Economy. Innovation was highlighted as of key importance for productivity, similar housing which is a key deciding factor in rural areas for attracting investment. BR asked whether there are some best practice examples of similar areas with higher productivity and what could be learned from them. CE replied they were looking into examples from across Europe. Also, it was suggested that given that our LEP performs relatively well on employment, the emphasis should be shifted on attracting jobs with a higher value.</p> <p>BN raised the question of interdependency of sectors. For example, the creative sector might be comparatively small in HotSW LEP but it can have a huge impact on other sectors as well as the attractiveness of an area in general and therefore contribute much more than what would be expected due to its size.</p> <p>With regards to clusters and cluster development, there was agreement that clusters stretch across a much wider geography and therefore any developments in our productivity plan cannot be made in isolation but in connection with the wider cluster geography.</p> <p>The group made the decision to wait with a Leadership Group response until the White Paper was published and the focus was more narrowed down.</p> <p>ACTION-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include productivity plan update as standing agenda item for BLG 	<p><i>Julia Blaschke</i></p>
3	<p>Conflict of Interest</p> <p>The following Conflicts of Interests were declared: Carl Wyard: UGF Amanda Ratsey: UGF</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. SF provided an update on ERDF funded Growth Hub and Social Enterprise projects. Both are progressing well and delivery will be started soon. The LEP has received no update regarding a GD 3 announcement.</p>	
5	<p>Growth Deal 1,2 & UGF update</p> <p>JB gave an update on Growth Deal 1, 2 and UGF. A discussion followed regarding potential deliverability issues which SIP will consider at the next meeting. So far only three GD 1 projects have completed.</p> <p>MW asked whether we could use Growth Deal and UGF projects as case studies for press releases and include them in the productivity plan.</p>	

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6	<p>Inward Investment post March 2017</p> <p>AR gave an update on latest developments regarding the Inward Investment officer post. It was generally agreed that the role performed an important function for HotSW LEP. The number of FDI landing in HotSW LEP has increased within the last two years from 2 to 20. The role will most likely be continued as a core LEP role. A paper regarding options for the continuation of the role has been prepared and a decision on this is expected at the next LEP Board meeting. To ensure a smooth transition, a temporary 3-month extension of the current post has been agreed by F&R.</p>	
7	<p>LEP NED recruitment</p> <p>7 directors will be retiring this year. The LEP will start the recruitment process very soon and we will circulate the application pack once it has been published.</p> <p>ACTION-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please alert potential candidates to the opportunity to become a NED for HotSW LEP - Forward application pack once it has been published - Contact LEP if you want to become a member of the shortlisting committee 	<p><i>All Julia Blaschke All</i></p>
8	<p>Growth Hub</p> <p>A written update was circulated earlier to the group. A discussion followed regarding whether the GH could signpost to private sector providers or just public sector support providers.</p> <p>ACTION-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check contractual terms and report back to group 	<p><i>Amanda Ratsey, Julia Blaschke</i></p>
9	<p>AOB</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>02 March, 10.30 – 12.30, NFU Exeter</p>	<p><i>Julia Blaschke</i></p>