

# **Business Leadership Group meeting – Minutes**

## **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017, NFU Exeter**

### **Present**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Nick Ames (NA)        | - LEP Board (SC Group)  |
| Sophie Francis (SF)   | - Upper Tier Local Authority (DCC)                                    |
| 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                                   |
| 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)               |
| Ben Neild (BN)        | - R&D and Innovation (University of Exeter) (for Chris Evans)         |

### **Presenters**

- |                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Martin Ellender (ME)  | - Grant Thornton                     |
| Simon Hooton (SH)     | - Ash Futures Ltd                    |
| Corrine Matthews (CM) | - HotSW LEP New Nuclear Co-ordinator |

### **Supporting Officers**

- |                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Julia Blaschke (JB) | - Plymouth City Council               |
| Helena Davison (HD) | - LEP Communications Manager          |
| Heidi Hallam (HH)   | - LEP Partnerships Manager            |
| Eifion Jones (EJ)   | - LEP Strategy and Operations Manager |

### **Apologies**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Brendon Noble (BN) | - R&D and Innovation (University of St Mark and St John) |
| Noel Stevens (NS)  | - ESIF Committee representative (Alder King)             |
| Paul Hickson (PH)  | - Upper Tier Local Authority (SCC)                       |
| Amanda Ratsey (AR) | - Theme Lead/Upper Tier Local Authority (PCC)            |
| Chris Evans (CE)   | - R&D and Innovation (University of Exeter)              |
| Ben Rhodes (BR)    | - Business Body Representative (DCBC)                    |
| Julia Stuckey (JS) | - HOTSWE Inward Investment Manager                       |

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	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b></p> <p>NA introduced the meeting and gave apologies as listed above.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>None</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</b></p> <p>Two declarations outstanding, both not present.</p> <p>NA declared this would be his last meeting as Chair of the group as his term as a LEP Board member will be ending in June. Unfortunately, the new Chair was not able to attend this meeting but a separate meeting had been arranged between NA and the new Chair.</p> <p>SB also declared this would be his last meeting as his term as a Board member was also ending in June.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Productivity Plan</b></p> <p>EJ and ME introduce productivity plan development as work in progress. Following the presentation a discussion ensued.</p> <p>Comments from the group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need balance between ambition and pragmatism.</li> <li>- Strategy document should be separate, unwise to get into commitments.</li> <li>- Tourism Sector needs to be included, massive potential going untapped.</li> <li>- Apprenticeships should be included.</li> <li>- Would be beneficial to have high, medium and low productivity info graphs so that a hierarchy of outcomes can be put into a clear framework.</li> <li>- The productivity plan needs to be easily understandable for businesses. What is this plan going to do for businesses?</li> <li>- Needs to be less generic, reflecting the uniqueness of the South West.</li> </ul>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Annual strategic review – Monitoring and Evaluation</b></p> <p>SH gave an overview over the work that has been done so far: 4/5 of the way through interviews, the following headlines have emerged:</p>	

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	<p>Championing the SEP priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEP useful as guiding document and reflects areas needs</li> <li>- Done well on the transformative element</li> <li>- Some elements held back by capital funding</li> </ul> <p>Leading and co-ordinating partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Structure and Partnership role has been welcomed</li> </ul> <p>Securing and delivering investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good process of investment</li> <li>- Helpful at lobbying for other funds</li> </ul> <p>Progress against objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Too early to give absolute view</li> <li>- SEP needed action plan alongside to strengthen accountability</li> </ul>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Hinkley and Nuclear sector supply chain support update for LEP business leadership group (CM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HPC is a £18 billion project, which will employ up to 25,000 people during constructing, and deliver 900 permanent jobs, 1000 apprenticeships and £50 billion of total SW nuclear projects within the next fifteen years.</li> <li>- Three year business support programmes to support businesses in HotSW LEP to access opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Jointly funded by Hot SW and West of England</li> <li>o Contract won by SWMAS ltd heading a consortium of Somerset Chamber and business west</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Comments included strengthening links between supply chain and education opportunities</li> </ul>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Unlocking Growth Fund (JB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One project has been conditionally approved, three still need further clarifications.</li> <li>- All the UFG money has been now provisionally allocated.</li> </ul>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Conference View (HH)</b></p> <p>The group discussed the paper presented by HH. There is a potential for a second but 10<sup>th</sup> November will be main event with AGM. AD: Plymouth University has events all throughout that week, could pose a problem as people might go to one or the other and not both. HH responded that she proposed the date in line with the festival to add value and complement on-going activities.</p>	

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9	EJ and the group expressed their thanks to NA and SB for their dedicated work and support for HotSW LEP during their tenure as LEP Board members.	
10	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> 04 July, 10-12	

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