



**BUSINESS BOARD**

**3.00pm, MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**LOCATION: G.01 City Hall, Charles Street, Leicester LE1 5FZ**

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**AGENDA**

<b>TIME</b>		<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REPORT</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
15:00	1.	Networking and group photo		
15:15	2.	Welcome and Apologies		Andy Reed (Chair), Cllr Ashman, and Sir Peter Soulsby
15:30	3.	Introductions		All
15:45	4.	Introduction to the Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership and role of Business Board (including opportunities)		Phoebe Dawson
16:15	5.	Business Board induction		Elizabeth Botmeh
16:30	6.	Further networking and opportunity for individual profile photos		All



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<p><b>Attendees:</b> Andy Reed (AR), Sir Peter Soulsby (PS), Phoebe Dawson (PD), Josephine Dexter (JD), Richard Sword (RS) Scott Knowles (SKN), Zafar Saleem (ZS), Nick Owen (NO), Sarah Windrum (SW), Erika Hardy (EH), Rob Walker (RW), Jennifer Thomas (JT), Penny Sharpe (PS), Neil McGhee (NM), Elizabeth Botmeh (EB), Katie Normington (KN), Cllr Jewel Miah (JM), Rebecca Henson (RH), Kevin Allen-Khimani (KA), Gerarde Manley (GM)</p>
<p><b>Apologies:</b> Chris Corkan (CC), Cllr Robert Ashman (RA), Cllr Deborah Taylor (DT) Mike Dalzell (MD), Corrie Harris (CH), Craig Bentley (CB)</p>
<p><b>Minute Taker:</b> Sobia Khalifa (SKH)</p>

	ITEM	Action
1.	<p><b>Networking and group photo</b></p> <p>Board participated in group photographs.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>AR and PS welcomed Board Members to the first Business Board meeting.</p> <p>AR noted apologies.</p> <p>Brief overview shared with Board on transition from Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LEEP) to Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership (LLBSP) following guidance from Government for the two upper tier local authorities (Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council) to lead LLBSP.</p> <p>The purpose of the Board is to provide the view of local businesses as part of regional decision making and to work with local leaders to create a broad economic strategy for the area to deliver on skills and improve economic growth.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>Board Members introduced themselves and the sectors they represent, including the private sector, business organisations, higher and further education institutions, the voluntary and community sector, and local district councils.</p> <p>The Board was reminded of its responsibility to work collaboratively and remain committed to fostering growth and regeneration across both the city and county.</p> <p>The Board was informed that they are currently awaiting the national budget announcement on October 30, 2024, which is expected to trigger the implementation of the updated growth strategy.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Introduction to the Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership and role of Business Board (including opportunities)</b></p> <p>PD shared presentation outlining:</p> <p>LLBSP and Business Board vision to drive prosperity and shape an economy which is productive, innovative, sustainable and inclusive.</p> <p>Summary of Business Board's role is Business engagement and development of economic strategy, advisory capacity, shape and influence delivery through skills and training as well as providing sustainable and economic growth.</p> <p>Key role of Board is to provide a strong independent voice of</p>	

<p>businesses, to shape the economic growth agenda. PD summarised some of the functions that had transitioned from the LLEP to the newly formed LLBSP.</p> <p>Business Gateway Growth Hub, is the first port of call for any business seeking support, funding has continued and to date they have helped over 10,000 businesses.</p> <p>A team of Navigators is deployed to field calls and online enquires proactively contacting businesses to update on support and signpost.</p> <p>GM updated Board on Leicester and Leicestershire Careers Hub Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve careers education outcomes for young people particularly disadvantaged.</li><li>• Progress is driven against the Gatsby Benchmarks working with education setting-based careers advisors to access training and support.</li><li>• Demonstration of impact of careers education on young people</li><li>• Every local school and college have support from Enterprise Co-ordinators</li></ul> <p>PD highlighted the areas two Enterprise Zones (EZ) which consist of 4 sites spread across Leicestershire:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Leicester Waterside</li><li>2. Mira Technology Park (MTP)</li><li>3. Charnwood Campus</li><li>4. Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP)</li></ol> <p>Board members raised concerns over LSIP Phase 2 and how it would work together and be delivered, discussed and agreed to engage conversation around the agenda, knowledge, skills and behaviour with LSIP dashboard built into delivery following similar path as Derby and Nottingham.</p> <p>Board members raised questions about representation in terms of email signatures and maintaining impartiality. The Board agreed on the importance of remaining neutral with regard to political parties, avoiding lobbying on behalf of their own businesses, and ensuring that declarations of interest are transparent and kept current.</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding the absence of a strategy for connecting employees and apprentices with employers. The discussion focused on steps within the strategy to address skills development, job opportunities across the business region, and enhancing connectivity between skills and regeneration. It was emphasised that identifying methods for support and funding is essential.</p> <p>A point was made over the data gleaned from the business navigators and whether this would be shared with district councils.</p>	
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	<p>PD confirmed that it would be shared.</p> <p>PD emphasised the potential of future opportunities to the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development strategy</li> <li>• Govt programmes coming through these entities.</li> <li>• Skills and returning into the workplace.</li> <li>• Jobs and skills – key priorities</li> <li>• Make use of freeport</li> </ul> <p>The Board emphasised the importance of understanding skills opportunities, anticipating future requirements, and adapting as new guidelines are received.</p> <p>Those present gave consent to share email addresses for updating and networking.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Business Board induction</b></p> <p>EB emphasised core values of standards in public life.</p> <p>EB will circulate to Board members a register of interest form and availability for one to one sessions to complete form if required.</p> <p>EB advised Board of acronym checker in Business Board induction pack and that this is a working document so will evolve.</p> <p>The former LLEP website is in process of transitioning to the new LLBSP, so the most up to date version will be available on the website.</p>	<p>EB</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Further networking and opportunity for individual profile photos</b></p> <p>AR updated Board on vacant posts within Board and requested Board to canvass for possible recruitment. Four main areas of requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversity</li> <li>- Geographic</li> <li>- Sector</li> <li>- Size of Company</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>Board offered opportunity to have profile picture taken.</p> <p>AR thanked Board for attending.</p> <p>Next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at Sparkenhoe Committee, County Hall, Leicester Rd, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA</p>	