



LLEP Business Gateway Board
14.00 - 16.00, 2nd March 2022
MS Teams Call

Member	Organisation	Representing
Sonia Baigent (SB, Chair)	Assist Business Consulting	
James Arnold (JA)	North West Leicestershire District Council	District Council
Diane Beresford (DB)	East Midlands Chamber	Private Sector
Matt Bowers (MB)	Hinckley and Bosworth District Council	District Council
Julian Bowrey (JB)	UKRI	Private Sector
Peter Chandler (PC)	Leicester City Council	Local Authority Sector
Jo Dexter (JD)	LLEP Area Lead	
Helen Donnellan (HD)	De Montfort University	HE Sector
Helen Harris (HH)	Leicestershire County Council	Local Authority Sector
Rupert Harrison (RH)	Andrew Granger - Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors	Private Sector
Matthew Lowe (ML)	CBI	Private Sector
Ben Ravilious (BR)	Start Up Leicester and Ultimate Web	Private Sector
Lewis Stringer (LS)	British Business Bank	Finance
Jennifer Thomas (JT)	Federation of Small Business	Private Sector
William Wells (WW)	University of Leicester	HE Sector
In Attendance		
Sharif Chowdhury (SC)	LLEP Governance Officer	
Mary-Louise Harrison (MLH)	LLEP Senior Projects Manager	
Kerry Mainwaring (KM)	LLEP	
Deepa Shah (DS)	LLEP- Economic Intelligence Officer – Business Gateway	
Simon Weaver (SW)	LLEP Senior Projects Manager	
Sue Tilley (ST)	LLEP Head of Business and Innovation	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	
1.1	SB was unable to attend last minute, so RY Chaired.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
2.1	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	<u>Actions from last meeting</u>	
3.1	The Minutes from Dec meeting were not available to the Board, so no approval provided.	
4.	<u>Growth Hub Update</u>	
4.1	<p>RY reviewed the paper provided to the Board ahead of the meeting. The update included 2021 data for the year as a whole, and 2022 to date as a comparison. The Growth Hub anticipates 2022 to be the setting of what the new 'normal' levels of activity for the Growth Hub will be moving forward, as 2021 still included Covid related demand.</p> <p>Action from Lewis Stringer for GH to breakdown the 'finance and funding' data into the two topics in order to help with a more granular understanding.</p> <p>The paper summarised the recent programmes that were just coming to a close, such as Peer Networks, Advanced Manufacturing and Fashion & Textiles. All these programmes have been enormously successful, to the point that the Growth Hub will be creating their own version plus an 'advanced' level for businesses to graduate on to. The Peer Network success will be celebrated with an alumni event on 9 March.</p> <p>Finally the paper ran through the final few programmes being piloted for the 2021/22 funding year, being a pre-start support in conjunction with De Montfort University, a Creative Workshop day for textiles companies to help gain a digital presence, and Consultants offering a more reactive service to businesses. It also summarised the plans for April 2022 onwards, pending funding, which include supporting the purple pound, more consultancy and Peer Networks.</p>	
5.	<u>Longitudinal Survey</u>	
5.1	<p>A summary paper and the full longitudinal survey were circulated for review ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>Focus Consultants were procured to undertake the evaluation, which was an update comparison to 2019 when it was last completed.</p>	

Minute		Action
	<p>Overall the evaluation was very positive. Despite the impact that Covid had, it has helped increase the traction of the Growth Hub in the local business community, and increased the number of businesses we have been working with. The evaluation covers some of the issues the Growth Hub has been having, however it was encouraging to see that many of the recommendations were ideas and plans the team were already putting in place to enhance the working relationship with external stakeholders.</p>	
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>Innovation Board Update</u></p> <p>Sue Tilley provided the Business Board with an update on the Innovation Board. 2022 saw the first Innovation Festival, being a two week programme of events, rather than just a week as in the past.</p> <p>The Festival launched at Space Park Leicester, which had a great turn out of over 70 people and high profile speakers. It closed with the Innovation Awards at King Power stadium. The events throughout the programme saw around 400 people engage in a variety of events and workshops based around innovation.</p> <p>The Innovation Board is holding a Strategy Away Day on 29 March to create the first strategy for innovation, and allowing the Innovation Board to have more of an impact on local businesses.</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>JT updated that the FSB have been undertaking disability research, which connects to the future focus the Growth Hub want to have, and will share once it is complete. The FSB also has their Skills Survey open, which is available for everyone to contribute to, and the more responses the better. FSB members are flagging issues around red diesel, which is a particular problem in rural areas. The FSB have done a release with the TUC asking for action on sick pay from the Chancellor which got good national take up, and</p>	

Minute		Action
	<p>International Women’s Day sees a national event taking place to which everyone is welcome.</p> <p>BR advised that Leicester Start Ups have been trialling a new model of support programme ‘transformer’ that looks at traditional agency, consultancy or freelance businesses.</p> <p>RR raised the idea of trying to develop a platform to capture all support provision – it is a difficult task, but where we can avoid duplication will always be a good thing.</p> <p>LS asked about plans for business support in the absence of funding allocation. RY advised that there will be plans made in the interim using ERDF funds, and utilising funding providers via the British Business Bank for high quality and potentially free webinars.</p> <p>JB raised the East Midlands Freeport and whether there was any opportunity being developed within this for innovation, it was noted this should be considered at the Innovation Away Day.</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>JT raised that the FSB was working with Leicester City Council, East Mids Chamber and other groups in relation to the workplace parking levy. Any support welcome.</p>	