

LLEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the Meeting – 24 June 2021
(Microsoft Teams)

Attendance and Apologies:

Directors			
Kevin Harris	KH	Private Sector	Chair
Peter Bedford	PB	Leicestershire County Council	
Chas Bishop	CB	Private Sector	
Lorraine Boorman	LB	Private Sector	
Verity Hancock	VH	Further Education	
Anne-Marie Hunt	AH	Private Sector	
Clare James	CJ	Private Sector	
Anil Majithia	AM	Voluntary and Community Sector	
Neil McGhee	NM	Private Sector	
Jaspal Singh Minhas	JSM	Private Sector	
Cllr Danny Myers	DM	Leicester City Council	
Dr Nik Kotecha OBE	NK	Private Sector	
Ajmer Kaur Mahal	AKM	Private Sector	
Cllr Jonathan Morgan	JM	Leicestershire District Councils	
Cllr Terry Richardson	TR	Leicestershire District Councils	
In Attendance			
Fiona Baker	FB	LLEP	
Sharif Chowdhury	SC	LLEP	
Jo Dexter	JD	BEIS / CLGU	
Jacqui Moody	JMo	BEIS / CLGU	
Colin Sharpe	CS	Leicester City Council	
Andrew L Smith	ALS	Leicester City Council	
Not present			
Prof Robert Allison	RA	Higher Education	
Emma Anderson	EA	Private Sector	
Sonia Baigent	SB	Private Sector	
Andy Reed OBE	AR	Private Sector	
Alison Greenhill	AG	Leicester City Council	
Mandip Rai	MR	LLEP	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
<p>1.</p> <p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p>	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>KH welcomed Peter Bedford to the LLEP Board for the first time. The Board expressed thanks to Councillor Nick Rushton for his hard work and support to the LLEP Board over the years.</p> <p>Apologies were received from EA, AG, MR and AR.</p>	
<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p>	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p><u>Minutes and Actions LLEP Board of Directors Meeting Held on 22 April 2021</u></p> <p>All action points from the meeting have been completed except for 3.8 relating to governance, which will be followed up with MR.</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 April 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Investment Panel Recommendations</u></p> <p>KH welcomed Board members to raise any points from the Investment Panel papers which commended five recommendations to the Board.</p> <p>Board members from the Investment Panel confirmed there is some outstanding work for the projects but agree with the Investment Panel recommendations brought to the Board.</p> <p>AGREED to the five recommendations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the key outcomes of the meeting of the Investment Panel on 3 June 2021; ii. note the updated position on the AB with respect to subsidy control advice for MIRA Technology Park in Section 4; iii. approve the allocation of £6.25m EZ business rates for the MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone Phase One Infrastructure project, subject to satisfactory review of the rates projections by the AB; iv. approve the investment of £300k repurposed Growing Places Funding in skills interventions relating to digital poverty, as endorsed by the Skills Advisory Panel; and v. note the update on the progress and activity concerning the Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund programmes and Quarter 4 2020/21 performance. 	
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p><u>Draft Economic Growth Strategy</u></p> <p>FB updated that the draft Economic Growth Strategy has incorporated all feedback received following the final Board Round Table meeting on 10th June, subject to Board endorsement, the next stage will be to a public consultation to go forward on the 28th of June to last for a period of five weeks with a series of 5 questions.</p>	

Minute		Action
5.2	The consultation will conclude on the 31st of July, providing sufficient time for final amendments before the next Board meeting on the 19th of August.	
5.3	PB noted the County Council timeframes, the Scrutiny Commission will review the strategy on the second week of July, before proceeding to the County Council's cabinet in the third week of July. A formal response from the County Council will be provided in line with the LLEP deadlines. Further comments may be provided from the Scrutiny Commission in due course.	
5.4	<p>AGREED with the recommendation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. approve the Final Draft Economic Growth Strategy (Appendix 1) for stakeholder consultation as detailed in the timeline below. 	
6.	<p><u>LEP Review</u></p> <p>6.1 KH updated the LEP review is progressing after a period of stagnation. The LEP chairs and LEP network are in communication with government about the review by various channels to gauge the position of LEPs moving forward.</p> <p>6.2 Further efforts have been made to understand the role of LEPs in the levelling up agenda, no further guidance is expected from government until late August or early September.</p> <p>6.3 The government have acknowledged the role LEPs have played throughout the pandemic supporting businesses, economic growth and development and impact of events such as the Freeport.</p> <p>6.4 Board members highlighted the importance on decision-making by government to prevent further uncertainty within LEPs throughout the country. KH added that MPs are being lobbied amid concerns of impacts for LEP teams and for future funding and support.</p> <p>6.5 Board members discussed the LEP's key role in the Freeport business cases and maintaining their position as an integral part of the development, working with the key stakeholders involved including lead authorities and landowners.</p> <p>6.6 CJ highlighted that the LEPs and businesses may be best placed to deliver the sixty thousand jobs with the close connection with universities and innovation. It was emphasised the need for the right representation on the working groups involved.</p> <p>6.7 NK declared an interest in Manchester Airport Group which owns East Midlands Airport.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Sub-Group Updates</u></p> <p>7.1 NK updated the group on the Innovation Board, presenting updates on updates and the Innovation Week which commenced on the week commencing 21st June 2021.</p> <p>7.2 NK outlined the Innovation Board background, the establishment in March 2021 and the seventeen representatives from public and private sectors as well as academia including many sectors including life sciences, textiles, manufacturing, logistics, services, banking, and education. The group comprises of a range of structures and types including key bodies, banks, start-up companies, SMEs, and large corporates.</p>	

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7.3	Innovation plays a large part of the Government's agenda from town deals to Freeport's; Innovation is also important for funding, with £2.5 to £3 billion spent just in Life sciences alone in the UK.	
7.4	The Innovation Board has the mission statement "To create a long-term innovation strategy for Leicestershire, which builds collaborations, growth and opportunities and safeguards the future prosperity and productivity of our businesses, workforce, and communities".	
7.5	NK outlined ambitions for Innovation in Leicestershire including becoming a national hub for business innovation, promoting the long-term growth benefits of investing and looking for new funding streams.	
7.6	NK highlighted the works by the LLEP team and Gary Dimmock to deliver on Innovation Week which has taken over the last 2-3 months of planning nineteen events. The events have seen turnouts from forty to eight people. Notable events include the Showcase event where Dr Luke Evans MP and Fiona Murray presented passionately about strategies for innovation.	
7.7	Board members echoed the success and effort of the Innovation Week and the number of areas and diversity of sectors covered.	
7.8	VH provided an update on the Skills Advisory Panel. Significant positive feedback has been received for the Local Skills Report which has been used by college bidders and tenders in Leicester and Leicestershire, to put forward their strategic plans for next year.	
7.9	Two IoT applications have been submitted since the last Board meeting. Both are strong applications with excellent private sector partnerships with five-year projections of student numbers. Aside from the bids themselves, another positive aspect is that new relationships have been forged between universities, colleges and businesses which will remain regardless of the outcome.	
7.10	Priority areas include higher level qualifications including space engineering, manufacturing, digital and green technologies.	
8.	<u>AOB</u>	
8.1	KH noted the AGM on Tuesday the 29 th of June 2021. Board Directors have been sent briefing documents in advance of the meeting. The AGM video recording has brought out the immense amount of work carried out by the LLEP and the impact the team are making in a challenging and pressured year. The Annual Report has extensive information with the knock-on effects in the region, placing the LLEP in a good position going forward.	
8.2	KH reinforced there are ongoing pressures with the LLEP teams which is being alleviated with the support of partners including the City Council at the senior level. KH acknowledged the support offered by LLEP Directors and others to aid the team during this period.	
8.3	AGREED to reappoint AH to the Midlands Engine Investment Fund 'RAB Board'.	
8.4	The Board expressed thanks to Bob Allison for his involvement for the LLEP, and congratulations for the CBE awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.	

Minute**Action**

8.5	LB updated on the visit to the new Gresham building on behalf of the LLEP, who were awarded a plaque for contributing towards the development and appreciated that the project couldn't be completed without the LLEP's support. Another example of the LLEP's impact in the community.	
	The meeting closed at 15.53	