



Greater Cambridge
Greater Peterborough
Enterprise Partnership

LEP BOARD MEETING

**Minutes from the meeting held on
17th May 2012 from 15.00 to 17.25**
at Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation

Board Members Present

Neville Reyner CBE DL (NR) Chairman
John Bridge OBE (JB)
Dr Robert Swann (RS)
Cllr Nick Clarke (NC)
Cllr Terry King (TK)
Cllr Sian Reid (SR)
Dr Lynn Morgan (LM)
Cllr Jason Ablewhite (JA)
Prof Mike Thorne PhD
Prof Sir Richard Friend FRS FREng
Trevor Ellis
Cllr Marco Cereste

Apologies

Allan Arnott OBE (AA)
Mark Reeve (MR)

Also in attendance

Alex Plant (AP)	Board Advisor
Neil Darwin (ND)	Board Advisor
Laura Welham-Halstead (LWH)	Communications and Engagement Lead (Minutes)
Glenn Athey (GA)	Interim Executive Director
Mark Cooper (MC)	Skills and Business Growth Lead
Natalie Blaken (NB)	Infrastructure and Funding Lead
Kevin Jones	BIS Local
Glen Dawson	Communications Manager at the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation (Item 1 only)
Mark Eriera-Guyer	Big Society (Item 5 only)
Rachel Huxley	Peterborough Environment City Trust (Item 8 only)
Robin Butler	Urban&Civic (Item 3 only)
Tim Leathes	Urban&Civic (Item 3 only)

1. Presentation from Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation

Glen Dawson, Communications Manager for the Letchworth
Garden City Heritage Foundation provided the Board with an



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introduction to the organisation – which is a self-funded charity that runs a variety of services in the area including cinema, a day hospital, minibus service and museum.

2. Item 1 – Declarations of interest & minutes of last meeting

No declarations of interest were made.

A clarification to the April Board minutes was agreed by the Board, and detailed comment on the date of the launch of the visualisation work, and the Growing Places Fund criteria were requested by RS and agreed by the Board. Amendments to be reflected within the final April minutes.

NR reflected back to Board a visit he had recently made to Cheshire to meet the Chairman of the Cheshire LEP and brought back their business plan and overview document for the Board to see.

3. Item 4 – General LEP update

LEP Chairs meeting

NR reported back on the first East-ish area LEP Chairs meeting held on 30th April 2012. The meeting covered potential joint ways of working, including looking at ways our area could maximise EU funding. These meetings will take place three times per year.

Local Authority Reference Group

GA reported backed on the first Local Authority Reference Group meeting. The group used the meeting to agree their role, which is to provide feedback, views and proposals to the LEP Board as appropriate.

The group also provided useful feedback on the requirement to keep any LEP Business Plan clear, concise and realistic.

LEP Network Event

GA and NB attended the recent LEP Network Event, which was also attended by a number of Senior Ministers. It was a useful networking event, and Vince Cable provided a strong message that LEPs must bring a clear strategy to Government including details of the projects they want to deliver to support jobs growth.

Other

NC noted the requirement for a verbal update for the Chair to be added to future agendas. NR provided a written update between



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meetings on this occasion.

Sub-groups

- Skills Strategy – MC informed the group that a full reference group meeting will be held on 19th June to agree actions and next steps. The Board are keen to have a clear understanding of objectives and focus of the Skills Group.
- SIIC – SR, RS and AP provided the Board with an overview of the key actions arising from the first SIIC meeting, including a desire to support supply chain development, further work into clusters that reside within our area, increasing the interface between innovation and funding, and building a stronger picture of our strengths by gathering together existing data, experience and knowledge.
- Banking – JB reported that the group met during the week and is beginning to work well. The banks are supportive of running a pilot event in September to connect business people seeking funding with banks and other funding sources.
- Greater Cambridge – SR and AP reported that the group had met earlier in the week, and they are keen to interact with and support the work of other sub-groups.

4. Item 3 – Alconbury Enterprise Zone Update

RB and TL joined the meeting and provided the team with an update on progress for the entire site, as well as the Enterprise Zone.

An outline planning application for the entire site is due to be submitted by the end of next month, with work on the enabling works due to commence in late July or early August. A planning application for the Incubator Hub is also being developed and due for submission soon.

Tenant demand has been good so far, and U&C, Huntingdonshire District Council and the LEP are looking at ways to enhance the visibility of the Zone to promote the site internationally as well as looking into options to enhance direct international marketing of the area with UKTI.

GA

The MoU has been agreed and signed. U&C, Huntingdonshire District Council and the LEP Board have agreed to publish this document online.



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5. Item 5 – Voluntary and Social Enterprise sub-group update

LM and ME-G introduced the paper which outlined work undertaken to date that seeks to establish how the sector fits into LEP plans, and what the sector landscape for our area looks like.

LM stressed the importance of linking the work and enthusiasm of local voluntary and social enterprise organisations with other sub-groups, such as Skills, where they can have a significant positive impact.

The Board then discussed the potential for the sector to bid for and run public sector contracts, the requirement from the sector to be supported by business not just via funding but also by providing expertise in areas such as budgeting, business planning and marketing.

The Board have been invited to an event on 9th July to discuss the report's findings further and meeting exemplars within the sector.

All

6. Item 6 – LEP Operational Business Plan

GA introduced the updated Operational Business Plan that has taken on-board feedback from the last Board meeting, streamlining strategies and making it more accessible for external publication.

The Board discussed the current strategy, focusing on the importance of creating an overall strategic economic vision for the LEP included detailed plans for projects and schemes that we want to seek funding for. GA and NB reassured the Board that this is part of the Operational Business Plan, and due for delivery in November 2012 to allow for a wide range of engagement to take place with the public, private, and third sectors.

It was agreed that this Operational Plan was important to allow some early projects to progress and the detailed work to develop alongside these.

Further detailed feedback was given on the need to explicitly name business as a key partner of the LEP (instead of just saying partners), the need to note the UKTI MoU and continued work in this area, and the requirement for a robust overall vision. GA to take this feedback into consideration.

GA

Potential LEP campaigns were held for another meeting after further work has taken place.



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7. Item 7 – LEP Resources

JA, MT, NC, RF and AP left the meeting.

Board members were given the opportunity to raise any major concerns or issues. None were raised.

Any further queries, feedback and points of clarification should be sent directly to GA. All

8. Item 8 - The Investors in Environment Scheme: insight and debate

Rachel Huxley presented an overview of the Investors in Environment Scheme that has been delivered in Peterborough and beyond.

The Board discussed the merits of being able to offer small and micro businesses the opportunity to prove their environmental credentials whilst bidding for public sector work at a lower cost than ISO or BS standards. The Board were keen to keep any such costs to a minimum to open up the market as broadly as possible.

TK commented that Rutland Council would be pleased to connect to the scheme, building on their existing strategic relationship with Peterborough. GA & LWH

GA, LWH and RH to talk further about how to present the opportunity to other local authorities within the area, and raise business awareness of the scheme.

9. Item 9 – Any other business

TK raised two items of AOB:

1. Update on interest rate charges for Growing Places Funding Projects – NB informed the Board that Cambridgeshire County Council (who are the accountable body for the funding) have proposed to charge 0% interest for public sector projects and 1% above the Public Works Loan rate (currently 1.29%, making a total interest rate of 2.29%). The Board agreed this funding approach.
2. Broadband – Could future rounds of funding be used to support Broadband projects? Agreed an item would be brought back to the next meeting to discuss this.

LWH

10. Meeting closed

The meeting closed at 5.25pm.



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