



Timestamp	Full Name	Organisation	Question	Answer
11/13/2020 13:15:52	Jenny Hand	Reaching People	I understand there is a place for the voluntary sector on the LLEP board. Your website gives the previous chair of VAL as the current person yet for more than a year he has not been involved in the sector. How can we ensure the sector has a place at the Board that is representative of the sector and enables us to contribute to strategic decisions for the City and County?	The current VCS representative on the LLEP board is the former chair of VAL and continues to represent the sector through his various roles on charities and VCS organisations. Since incorporation, board members are now directors therefore, this will be reviewed when the incumbent's term ends in April 2022.
11/13/2020 15:25:23	Ruth Commons	www.commonsensecounselling.org	What are you doing for sole trading self employed businesses during this second lockdown, especially where they are small and have premises and overheads to cover?	The local authorities are providing financial support through the national government grant programmes. The LLEP has agreed to develop a local grants programme to support those that haven't been able to access financial support through the national programmes.
11/13/2020 15:27:38	Ruth Commons	www.commonsensecounselling.org	Why are grants aimed at areas for development thriving during lockdown e.g. Builders, and not considering other essential services such as mental health?	The local authorities are providing financial support through the national government grant programmes. The LLEP has agreed to develop a local grants programme to support those that haven't been able to access financial support through the national programmes. The LLEP is part of the Midlands wide Mental Health Productivity Pilot (MHPP) which provides (non-financial) support to local SMEs in relation to mental health services.
11/15/2020 19:59:32	Andy Gilbert	Go MAD Thinking	With so much need for businesses to re-THINK their plans and THINK differently because of Covid 19, (a) to what extent do the recovery plan priorities for 2021/2022 currently include the development of solution-focused thinking skills? (b) would the LLEP be willing to consider a possible way of collaborating so that the Go M.A.D. (Make A Difference) THINKING system could be used extensively with Leicestershire businesses to accelerate their ability to survive, revive, and thrive?	The recovery plan priorities includes a focus on innovation in business processes, leadership and management. The MIT Reap pilot is driving solution based thinking within SMEs. The LLEP would be open to a discussion regarding collaboration with organisations that can support innovative solutions to accelerate recovery and growth.
11/27/2020 12:04:45	Steve Wegerif	Hinckley BID	Is it possible to create some dedicated Grant support to Micro businesses please - those who employ 1-4. As sole-traders are excluded from the Kickstart scheme, many Micro business retailers have nowhere to turn to help them to grow or support them in employing staff. We probably have 60+ of those. Thank you.	The local authorities are providing financial support through the national government grant programmes. The LLEP has agreed to develop a local grants programme to support those that haven't been able to access financial support through the national programmes including micro businesses and sole traders.
01.12.2020 5:47 PM	Jaffer Kapasi (Guest)	J A Kapasi and Co Ltd	Great presentation. How do you prioritise inner City and others in your investment policy? Real impact of Brexit on trade & investment?	The Economic Recovery Plan/Strategy is evidence based and the LLEP's priorities and investment decisions are determined by economic impact and value for money assessments. There are diverse needs for different communities, business sectors and geographies across the LLEP area and the priorities for each are determined by the evidence base that informs the LLEP strategy.
[12/1 6:02 PM]	ian.borleyconsulting (Guest)	Ian Borley Consulting Ltd	How were the priority industry sectors determined?	The priority sectors are determined by the evidence and based on those sectors that have the greatest potential for productivity growth and where the LLEP area has particular strengths such as location and connectivity, R&D capabilities, workforce and skills capacity. Other factors include workforce volume, potential for upskilling, automation and digitisation.
[12/1 6:03 PM]	Helen Donnellan (Guest)	DMU	Will the Innovation Board allocate the MIT REAP seed fund?	The Innovation Board will oversee the work of the MIT REAP Programmes. The board is yet to be established but it is likely that it will take on the responsibility for the seed fund and make recommendations to the LLEP board.
[12/1 6:03 PM]	Phillip King (Guest)	Harborough District Council	What is your expectation of the economic impact locally?	The LLEP produces regular business and economic intelligence and impact reports that are available on our website. The extent of the impact of both CV-19 and EU Transition will continue to be monitored and forecast to inform future policy, priorities and investment decisions. Forecasts suggest quite significant increases in unemployment rates and business closures in the most vulnerable sectors.
[12/1 6:05 PM]	Jo Maher (Guest)	Loughborough College	Are colleges eligible for the digital poverty fund?	The LLEP has allocated funding for digital skills provision. The specification for the funds is being prepared and will be released in the New Year. FE colleges and other delivery partners will be able to bid for the funding.
[12/1 6:06 PM]	Phillip King (Guest)	Harborough District Council	What thoughts do you have around how the LLEP can help small businesses, especially those in retail and hospitality, who have been severely impact by COVID19 restrictions?	A number of the Growth Hub core support programmes are structured towards supporting small businesses and those in sectors that have been adversely affected by Covid such as retail and hospitality. The Growth Hub is supporting business through a number of initiatives to encourage diversification, innovation, adopting and developing digital technologies.
[12/1 6:08 PM]	Ian Borley(Guest)	Ian Borley Consulting Ltd	How do you measure success of Enterprise Advisor Network and Business Gateway. What are their future targets/objectives?	Over 80% schools and colleges are now part of the Enterprise Adviser Network supported by a LLEP Enterprise Coordinator (EC) and with all remaining schools and colleges invited to join by the end of 2020. Over 88% of schools and colleges stated that having an EC and volunteer Enterprise Adviser (EA) has helped to improve their whole school careers plans. The target is to have every school and college across the LLEP area supported by an EA.  In terms of the Growth Hub our underlying measures of success relate to the economic growth of Leicester and Leicestershire enterprises. The Growth hub continues to support businesses through resilience to Covid-19 and UK Transition but is also very much focussed on supporting those businesses who are growing or have the potential to grow. Our ongoing objectives are to provide specific support to key sectors including Textiles, Food and Drink, Tourism and Hospitality and we are doing this through our Investment readiness, Digital Training, Innovation Brokerage, Start up enhanced provision, our Business resilience support programme, Delivery of ERDF contracted services and the Peer to peer network programme. Increasing effective business penetration, customer satisfaction, alongside evidence of impact surrounding key metrics, numbers of employees, business turnover etc form an intrinsic element of our recording and reporting
[12/1 6:08 PM]	Helen Donnellan (Guest)	DMU	Has LLEP got any pilot schemes in 20/21 allocation of SPF?	A number of actions and interventions have been prioritised within the Economic Recovery Plan for which there are currently no financial resources for delivery. The government will provide guidance on the UKSPF process, criteria and timeframe in the New Year. The LLEP will bid directly and support partners to secure UKSPF for to deliver the priorities outlined in the Economic Recovery Plan.
[12/1 6:10 PM]	Traynor Martin - Deputy Chairman (Guest)	Cabinet Office	Have we submitted a bid for EMA to be a Free Port?	The LLEP in collaboration with D2N2 are in the process for bidding for a Freeport area based around EMA. We see it as a strong driver of high quality jobs and innovation. The Freeport opportunity is a key area of focus for the LLEP working closely with EMA to be the first inland freeport in the UK.
[12/1 6:12 PM]	James OBrien (Guest)	Leicestershire County Council	Why no real mention of the need to tackle the Climate Emergency? The economic impacts of climate change will dwarf both Brexit and COVID 19? The impacts of climate change have already started and are expected to get worse based on the evidence provided by the Governments own Committee on Climate Change.	LLEP funding has been agreed for the zero carbon work and we will be working at a pace to support the wider climate emergency work. This will need to be in collaboration with all Local Authorities but also needs to consider how we work to support businesses to decarbonise. Climate change/carbon focus is a core of what we are going to do to support green recovery.
[12/1 6:13 PM]	Peter Small (Guest)	Railfuture LBV	East Midlands has the lowest investment in transport infrastructure per head in England. Why has the LLEP not got a Place Board?	The LLEP plays a key role in shaping and influencing the Midlands Connect Strategy to ensure the East Midlands receives its fair share of national infrastructure funding. The role of the former 'Place Board' is being undertaken by the Strategy Planning group which considers infrastructure in its broadest sense including transport, digital, utilities and housing.