

LLEP Business Gateway Board

Meeting notes and actions

Date and Time: 27th August 2020, 14.00 - 15.00

Conference Call

Member	Organisation	Representing
Neil McGhee (NM, Chair)	LLEP Board member and Director of Sempervox	Private Sector
Jenny Cross (JC)	Federation of Small Business and Cross Productions	Private Sector
Diane Beresford (DS)	East Midlands Chamber	Private Sector
Ben Ravillious (BR)	Start Up Leicester and Ultimate Web	Private Sector
Julian Bowrey (JB)	UKRI	Private Sector
Rupert Harrison (RH)	Andrew Granger - Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors	Private Sector
Peter Chandler (PC)	Leicester City Council	Local Authority Sector
Lewis Stringer (LS)	British Business Bank	Finance
James Arnold (JA)	North West Leicestershire District Council	District Council
Anju Trevedi (AT)		
Richard Blackmore	CBI	Private Sector
Colin Fyfe (CF)	Hinckley and Bosworth Building Society	Private Sector finance
In Attendance		
Helen Miller (HM)	LLEP Head of Programmes	
Sue Tilley (ST)	LLEP Economic Strategy Manager - Business	
Nermine Habib (NH)	LLEP- Enterprise Zone Project Officer	
Apologies		
Deepa Shah (DS)	LLEP- Economic Intelligence Officer – Business Gateway	
Jon Egley (JE)	LLEP Business Gateway Growth Hub Manager	
Helen Harris (HH)	Leicestershire County Council	Local Authority Sector
Helen Donnellan (HD)	De Montfort University	HE Sector
Matt Bowers (MB)	Hinckley and Bosworth District Council	District Council
Jennifer Thomas (JT)	Federation of Small Business	Private Sector
Grant Bourhill (GB)	University of Leicester	HE Sector
Jen Fensome (JF)	Loughborough University	HE Sector
Josh Dale (JD)	De Montfort University	HE Sector

1.	Welcome and Apologies	Action
1.1	NM welcomed those present, introduction made from all in attendance.	

1.2	Apologies for absence were noted as above.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no Declarations of Interest at the start of the meeting.	
3.	Actions from last meeting	
3.1	There are no outstanding actions from previous meeting. HM reminded members that this was an update meeting not the formal Board meeting.	
4.	Recovery planning: MIT REAP & Business Champions	
4.1	ST presented MIT REAP to the members. HM commented that it is worth having an understanding for the rest of the members over how BEIS is viewing MIT REAP as part of the feed into CSR in terms of UK RI funding and how it is part of the roadmap in terms of R&D roadmap. ST responded that the asks that we put into our action plan need to be highlighting where we need support specifically for businesses and for the ecosystem. It's embedded within our action plan.	
4.2	HM informed the meeting that Local resilience forums (LRFs) are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives from local public services and advised that the LLEP led on the economic recovery cell. The LRF meetings are predominately attended by local authority chief execs and senior representatives of the multiagency partnership. HM provided an update on the integration of the respective action plans that the LLEP are developing on behalf of the economic recovery cell, Hm stated that the Ideas section was the focus of the presentation .HM advised that the action plan would be in final draft form for consultation by the end of the month.. JA questioned the integration with the LRF plan and HM advised that this was in hand and that there was to be a discussion between Mandip and some of the senior LRF members.	
5.	LLEP Business Growth Hub Activity and Planned Support	
5.1	NM presented the Growth Hub Activity as per the circulated presentation.	
5.2	PC informed the members about ERDF and that they got an existing capital grant of about GBP 1.8 million and another for small revenue grants of between 1000-3000 GBP to help companies to bring in some specialists' consultancy support, helping navigate Covid and related issues. HM added that in our allocation for around 180 grants between the two parts for kickstart tourism	

<p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p>	<p>and the wider economy and we have had in excess of almost double that request in terms of EOIs at this moment in time.</p> <p>NM asked what would happen with businesses which will not be successful in this grant. HM responded that at the last LLEP board meeting, there was an agreement in principle to use the balance of our Growing Places Fund (GPF) and some of other discretionary money at LLEP would be ringfence to look at how we bridge some of the gaps in terms of support, whether it is youth unemployment, skills, and unprecedented demand from businesses not being able to make it by the resources that we've currently got. Members of the meeting are welcomed to propose some ideas to the investment panel over the utilization of some of that funding.</p> <p>AT suggested that Growth Hub activity needed to include a bubble for research, development and innovation. She added that they currently have a European Space Agency grant funding to develop new technologies up to GBP 50,000 and that's lot of money for support. HM responded that the Growth Hub presentation is not a mapping of all the support, but it represents solely what is within the Growth hub jurisdiction .</p> <p>HM commented on the Peer Network approach that Growth Hub, like other areas, received some of money which we are just looking to procure some facilitators across the eight different sectors that we've identified that we would like to manage those cohorts. This has been long awaited approach of Peer network within the locality to support start-ups. The emphasis is on building locally because we want this to be sustainable and not a short lived as long as the funding is around. They have had about 58 responses.</p> <p>NM concluded the presentation asking the members to disseminate the idea of Peer Network to the wider network and connect JE with people willing to be the point of contact for making this happen.</p>	
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>NM asked LS to give the meeting a brief on the funding world next meeting.</p>	<p>LS</p>