

LLEP Board of Directors

3pm, Thursday, 17 February 2022

Virtual meeting

Organiser: Sharif Chowdhury

Chair: Kevin Harris (KH)

Directors: Emma Anderson (EA), Peter Bedford (PB), Chas Bishop (BP), Lorraine Boorman (LB), Clare James (CJ), Dr Nik Kotecha OBE (NK), Ajmer Kaur Mahal (AKM), Anil Majithia (AM), Neil McGhee (NM), Cllr Jaspal Singh Minhas (JSM), Jonathon Morgan (JM), Cllr Danny Myers (DM), Andy Reed OBE (AR) Cllr Terry Richardson (TR)

In Attendance: Sharif Chowdhury (SC), Alison Greenhill (AG), Stewart Smith (SS), Colin Sharpe (CS), Sue Tilley (ST), Jo Dexter (JD), Adam Holmes (AH)

Apologies: Sonia Baigent (SB), Nishan Canagarajah (NC), Verity Hancock (VH), Anne-Marie Hunt (AH), Mandip Rai (MR)

Minutes Taken By: Sharif Chowdhury (SC)

CC To: All

MINUTES

1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	
1.1	KH welcomed those present at the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies received from VH, NC, AMH, VH and SB	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
2.1	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	<u>Minutes and Actions LLEP Board of Directors Meeting Held on 23rd November 2021</u>	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
3.1	The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 rd November 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3.2	The action points from the meeting were noted as completed.	
4.	Investment Panel Recommendations	
4.1	AR introduced the recommendations referred to in Paper B for decisions from the Investment Panel on the 20 th of January 2022. JM queried the Forward Funding investment of £100k, AR reiterated at the previous LLEP Board and Investment Panel an agreement was made fund part of the infrastructure for the gatehouse to allow immediate progress to allow for additional investments to be made by parties. KH provided further context to the Forward Funding and acknowledged the shared and balanced investments made by HORIBA MIRA who have invested significant levels of funds to the projects.	
4.2	The LLEP Board AGREED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the key outcomes of the meeting of the Investment Panel on 20 January 2022; ii. approve the interest rate of 3.5% above the Public Works Loan Board rate being sought by LCC on the EZ forward funding as recommended by the Investment Panel; iii. note the project change request for the Place Marketing Accelerator project, funded through the Growing Places Funding repurposed for Covid-19 recovery; iv. note the request for additional pre-construction funding for the MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone Phase One Infrastructure project; v. note the update on the progress of the Haywood Estates project funded through the Growing Places Fund. 	
4.3	AR expressed thanks to the Investment Panel members and contributors who brought together the recommendations.	
5.	Levelling Up White Paper / LEP Review	
5.1	KH highlighted the key point from the Levelling Up White Paper which includes the largest commitment to devolution of power from government with increased numbers of mayors.	
5.2	KH informed that Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire are all included as part of the nine country areas to discuss a devolution deal with central government. Where no devolution deal exists the LEPs	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
	continue to play a vital role in supporting businesses and the local economy.	
5.3	KH emphasised the large number of lobbying and discussions with ministers reinforced the view that LEPs have played a central role in the economy and have helped significantly during the pandemic through the growth hubs.	
5.4	KH noted that the LEP network expects to receive a letter from Neil O'Brien outlining the core functions, core funding, the LEPs local role in advising and supporting the UK Shared Prosperity Funds and governance arrangements for those transitioning into MCA's.	
5.5	KH reiterated the importance of understanding the relationships and powers between LEPs and Local Authorities and the potential County Deals for Leicester and Leicestershire and the impacts on the LLEP.	
5.6	PB reported discussions are ongoing with the with the leader of the County Council, senior officers, and the leader for the Department for Levelling Up to begin the negotiation process.	
5.7	PB informed that the negotiation discussions will include the delegated powers and governance arrangements concerning the economic and political factors. PB will feedback the views from the LLEP discussed to leaders and report back any further information once available.	PB
5.8	DM assured the LLEP Board that the City Mayor and the County Council leader that practical discussions on governance, previous legislation are being held and reiterated that the County and City are aligned and working well together to ensure appropriate arrangements for the region.	
5.9	DM noted that the UK Shared Prosperity Funding was allocated according to a government formula so there was no opportunity to lobby or influence allocations.	
5.10	NK and LB appealed to the political partners to engage and involve the wide stakeholder groups including the private business community and LEPs who will deliver on many of the allocated budgets as part of discussions and negotiations.	
5.11	AM highlighted the importance for LEPs to deliver a consultation and decision-making framework to take a proactive approach to provide input by collaborating with organisations who represent the business voice despite decisions made by the authorities.	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
5.12	ST expressed that the LLEP operational team need to be involved in discussions to allow the LLEP team to move forward and deliver the Economic Growth Strategy.	
5.13	KH emphasised that we are still awaiting the detail of the LEP review. Once the role of LEPs is clarified and the focus is determined, actions need to be taken to ensure the right people at the right level are within the LLEP structure to deliver on priorities including levelling up and engagement with the business community to ensure the LLEP is heavily involved with other business and private sector organisations.	
5.14	KH also highlighted the importance of the LLEP Board to decide and allocate the appropriate resourcing level once the funding structures are certain in future LLEP Board meetings.	
6.	Sub-Group Updates	
6.1	NK provided background on the Innovation Board which was set up in 2021 and has been serving the government agenda on Innovation to support the 42,000 SMEs, entrepreneurs and innovators throughout the region.	
6.2	Efforts have been made to bring Innovation awareness with delivering the Innovation Week in 2021, which has been amended to the Innovation Festival this year with twenty-four events across two weeks.	
6.3	NK outlined the positive attendance numbers for the opening event at the Space Park Leicester featuring speakers discussing Innovation and Zero Carbon which has also received social media traction on LinkedIn and Twitter.	
6.4	NK announced an Innovation Dashboard has been designed to visualise what Innovation success looks like in future years based including measuring jobs created, R&D tax credits and more.	
6.5	NK encouraged LLEP Board members to join the Innovation Away Day which will drive the Innovation Strategy on the 29 th of March at HORIBA MIRA by getting in touch with Sue Tilley.	
6.6	NK and KH thanked Sue Tilley, Rachel York, Peter Allen and the LLEP team to ensure success of the Innovation Festival.	
6.7	NM updated on the Sustainability Pillar where collaborations with the Growth Hub and the Midlands Engine have resulted to progress towards the 10-point plan to strategize and build a model for the region.	

<u>Minute</u>		<u>Action</u>
6.8	It was agreed to have an Action Point to circulate the Midlands Engine 10-point plan.	CB
6.9	Businesses and advisors have been through the carbon literacy training to help clients to understand and improve on the carbon issues within businesses.	
6.10	CB updated that the City and Counties models will help inform the role of the LEP's in the low carbon agenda.	
6.11	Meeting between NM, CB, NK and ST to discuss crossovers between Low Carbon and Innovation. CB highlighted the Zellar Pilot programme for 100 businesses, and how to reach out to the 42,000 SME's within the region.	CB/ NM/ NK
10.	<u>AOB</u>	
10.1	There was no further business.	
	The meeting closed at 16.16	