

MINUTES

Date: 9 March 2011, 17:00 – 18:30

Location: Stuart House, Peterborough

Present

John Bridge (Chair)	Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce
Cllr Ian Bates	Huntingdonshire District Council
Helen Briggs	Rutland County Council
Cllr Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
Martin Clark	Social Enterprise Representative
Cllr Nick Daubney	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Ray Harding	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Dick Jarvis	Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Terry King	Rutland County Council
Mark Lloyd	Cambridgeshire County Council
Michael Mealing	Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Sian Reid	Cambridge City Council
Prof Alan Sibbald	Anglia Ruskin University
Robert Swann	Cambridge Angels / EEDA
Cllr Jill Tuck	Cambridgeshire County Council
Malcolm Sharp	Huntingdonshire District Council
Neil Darwin	LEP Director
Alex Plant	LEP Director

Apologies

Gillian Beasley	Peterborough City Council
Helen Briggs	Rutland County Council
Nigel Brown	Greater Cambridge Partnership
John Hill	East Cambs District Council
Jean Hunter	South Cambs District Council
Cllr Sara Mildmay-White	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Richard Tunnicliffe	Cambridgeshire County Council

Substitutes

Martin Garratt	Greater Cambridge Partnership
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1. Welcome and Introductions

JB welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Update on Board Recruitment

ND confirmed that 53 expressions of interest had been received for business, voluntary and education positions. Broken down we have received expressions from 40 business representatives, 11 voluntary and 2 education.

The Project Board confirmed the Appointments Panel would change following the resignation of business members to enable an independent assessment of all business candidates. It was suggested that additional local authority leaders with business experience could be added to the Panel.

Cllr Bates updated the Board and confirmed that the Local Authority positions had gone to a ballot. The result of which had seen Cllr Reid, Cllr King, Cllr Cereste, Cllr Tuck and Cllr Bates elected.

ND re-circulated criteria for assessing business applicants. The document having been updated following the February 2011 Project Board. The Board agreed that the criteria would assist the Chair and Appointments Panel in selecting the full Board.

3. LEP Core Team/Resources

AP outlined funding made available by the LEP Capacity Fund announced by BIS. The fund has £4m available, is competitive, and designed to support LEPs during their embryonic phase. Bids for the funds would need to be submitted by 6 April 2011.

AP highlighted a broad approach to a GCGP bid comprising

- Knitting LEP level economic evidence
- Sector and Cluster mapping
- Understanding skills needs

Decisions

It was agreed that AP and ND devise an application to the LEP Capacity Fund building upon the approach outlined

4. Communications Update

AP reported back on the National LEP conference held in Coventry on 7 March 2011. AP confirmed that the event had been attended by a range of senior Cabinet Ministers, confirming the growing focus on LEPs. There was evidence that LEPs roles would be evolving, potentially as a gateway to Government. An example of DfT devolving funds via LEPs was offered.

The conference confirmed moves to establish an Association of LEPs to provide a means to talk across LEP boundaries.

The board discussed a range of opportunities that may be offered to LEPs. The Project Board concluded that it would be imperative that we draw down benefits that work for the majority, but would not be divisive amongst the wider group.

AP also confirmed that the Chair would hold a 'media morning' and that social media applications were now seeing interest and growing accordingly.

JB confirmed that the Chair had suggested a Strategy Day, this was proposed for 18 May 2011. It was suggested that the first part of this day would be open to business representatives, all local authorities and other interested stakeholders (such as attendees at the LEP Summit). The Project Board agreed this would assist in building engagement as we move towards having a LEP Board.

TK asked whether further progress had been made with East Northamptonshire. ND confirmed that no further contact had been received. IB confirmed that he would approach the CEX of East Northamptonshire District Council to establish their view.

5. Regional Growth Fund update

AP confirmed that we can expect an announcement on Round one at the end of March 2011. The National Conference had heard that Government were now considering increasing the amount of money available to meet demand in Round 1. There was increasing discussion around RGF being used as a catalyst for private sector job growth, as opposed to supporting a rebalancing of the economy. The Project Board felt that this could potentially be positive.

6. EEDA Transition

Following the transition day with EEDA further work has been undertaken by Workstream leads to ensure that EEDA knowledge is 'downloaded' before it disappears.

AP updated the group on future direction for a range of products, such as Access to finance. Typically most continued products will operate at a national level via the BIS department.

AP also reported back on a successful meeting with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB). Encouragingly the TSB see the GCGP LEP as one of four or five that it should have a proactive relationship with. It was felt that this would be positive and would help GCGP LEP grow its reputation, particularly with neighbouring LEPs.

7. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 9 February 2011 meeting were accepted as an accurate record and that matters arising had been dealt with through the agenda.

8. Closure of the Project Board

With matters relating to the LEP Board progressing well, this meeting was the last of the Project Board.

The Project Board thank John Bridge for taking on the role as Project Board Chair. John in turn thanked partners for their assistance in moving the LEP forward.

9. Any Other Business

None.
