

Meeting title		GFirst LEP Board	
Date/time/venue		Tuesday 7 th March 2023 – 9.00am to 11.00pm Venue: Boardroom, First Floor, UoG Business School, Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester, GL2 9HW and via Zoom	
Attendees		<p><u>Members:</u> Ruth Dooley (RD) <i>Chair</i>, Ian Mean (IM) <i>Vice Chair</i>, Lucy Ackland (LA), Nicola Bird (NB), Matt Charman (MC), Richard Cook (RC), Jim Grant (JC), Emma Hanby (EH), Mark Hawthorne (MH), Jackie Labbe (JL), Matt Lennard (ML), Deborah Potts (DP), Jenny Raymond (JR) and Joe Roberts (JRo)</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u> David Owen (DO), Karen Campbell (minutes), Dev Chakraborty (DCh), Sarah Danson (SD), Patrick Forde (PF), Jenna Hunt (JH) (via Teams), Steve Mawson (SM) (via Teams), Emily Manser (EM), Kaye Turner (KT) and Matt Tudge (MT)</p>	
Apologies		Tyler Attwood (TA), Carl Creswell (CC), Rowena Hay (RH), Jo Holt (JH)	
No.	Item	By	Who
1)	Welcome & introduction		
2)	<p>Minutes of: Minutes of the last LEP Board meeting on 6th December 2022 - were approved as a true and accurate record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) update – DO gave an update on the fund. - Bakers Quay Development - goes to planning in April, the project has been allocated £1.25 million. - 270 Climbing Park has been allocated £1.6 million. - A commercially sensitive discussion ensued on loans with Indectron and Dransfield Properties. - All new Loans from the fund will incur interest charges going forward. RD – This has been a great use of funds, entire fund (£8 million) recycled over 3 times. DO – Thanks to Kaye Turner and her team at GCC (Accountable Body) for managing all the paperwork. 		
3)	<p>Declarations of interest available on the GFirst LEP website – https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/the-board/register-of-members-interests/</p> <p>Please declare any pecuniary or personal interests relating to specific matters on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were raised.</p> <p>RD – All declarations to be completed before the next Board meeting.</p>		ALL

	<p>DO – Worth sharing data from ONS. Huge gap between job vacancies and unemployed.</p> <p>MH – Gloucestershire population is getting older quicker than the national average, figures high due to popularity of the Cotswolds as a retirement destination. There are sectors that relied on a pipeline for employees, this is going to dry up. Need to identify the sectors that are holding up the rest of the sectors.</p> <p>JG – Lots of students training in health and social care within the county. Any good ideas coming out of this could be shared with the students now, it would really help.</p> <p>We need businesses to help and support training providers. Businesses need to offer up more work so students can experience being in a work environment.</p> <p>RD – I’d like to invite Matt back in a couple of meetings time to hear the outcomes.</p> <p>JL – Interested to hear how AI and Robotics is being raised by businesses.</p> <p>MC – AI will enhance jobs although it will take some roles away. Mentioned Chat GBT</p>		Sept mtg
5)	<p>Net Zero Progress and Plans – presentation from Sarah Danson, GFirst LEP</p> <p>Presentation shared with Board Members.</p> <p>MH mentioned Transport, huge issue with Gloucestershire commuters driving to work instead of using public transport. There is a need to tackle some of the bigger stuff working towards net zero/lowering carbon emissions. Let’s highlight the benefits to businesses around the economics of all of this. By investing in change now, they can save money and make their business more attractive to consumers.</p> <p>JR – How are we reaching out to businesses who are currently not engaged with our Growth Hub network to discuss lowering their carbon emissions?</p> <p>SD – Resources are limited, the team are trying hard to engage. Working through a database and we have some excellent SME case studies available.</p>	DONE	KC
6)	<p>Board member feedback on Growth Hubs (verbal)</p> <p>Gloucester – TA had sent apologies, move to next meeting.</p> <p>Forest of Dean – NB said that funding from The Forest of Dean District Council had been confirmed, photo call and press release agreed. Funding agreement has now been signed.</p> <p>Stroud – DP – Record footfall, 166, using co-working space. Working on business needs, start-ups, etc for next 2 years.</p> <p>Cirencester – JG – Due to funding agreement, becomes part of RAU end of March. Staff will be employed by RAU. Business requests have tailed off slightly but co-working space still busy.</p>		
7)	<p>Board member feedback on Business Groups (verbal)</p> <p>Banking and Finance Construction and Infrastructure Cyber Tech</p> <p>RD asked all members that are allocated Business groups to arrange to visit at least one or two of the meetings and report back to the Board members. Above groups to be forwarded to the next meeting to receive feedback.</p>		

8)	<p>AOB</p> <p>Future funding - The Chief Executive presented the expected outcomes of Government funding to board members and undertook to keep board members informed as information was received. The Chief Executive will provide a full update at the next board meeting.</p>		

Future Board meeting dates for 2023:

Timings for all Board meetings are 9.00am to 11.00am

Tuesday 6th June

Tuesday 26th September

Tuesday 12th December

Meeting	Growth Hubs	Business Groups
<i>June 2023</i>	Gloucester (TA) Tewkesbury	Construction and Infrastructure (NB) Cyber Tech (MC)
<i>September 2023</i>		
<i>December 2023</i>		