

Minutes

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		Members: Ruth Dooley (RD) Chair, Ian Mean (IM) Vice Chair, 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) In attendance: 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)			
Apolo	ogies	Tyler Attwood (TA), Carl Creswell (CC), Rowena Hay (RH), Jo Holt (JH	I)		
No.	Item		Ву	Who	
1)	Welcome & i	ntroduction			
2)	a true and according according and according according and according according according according a cordinate according according according a cordinate according according according a cordinate according according according according according according according accordinate according	### Iniutes of: ### Iniutes of the last LEP Board meeting on 6th December 2022 - were approved as true and accurate record. ### 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)	Declarations of interest available on the GFirst LEP website — https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/the-board/register-of-members-interests/				
Please declare any pecuniary or personal interests relating to specific matters on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were raised.			ALL		
	RD – All declarations to be completed before the next Board meeting.			ALL	

4)	Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) update – Matt Tudge, Business West		
	MT explained that this is a 3-year project. Currently working through the research phase and then on to producing a report. 38 of these projects ongoing, part of a national rollout. Business West designated 3 areas; West of England, Swindon & Wilts and Gloucestershire. Have been conducting 70-minute interviews with businesses. Working with FE providers. RD – Why FE and not HE? MT – Current focus is on FE, but aware the HE providers are providing provision for post 16. Trying to engage with all interested parties by May. Asking every business about technological change and digitalisation. Everyone has spoken about the importance of Transferable skills (soft skills). Plenty to consider; Critical skills, Core skills, Net zero alignment, Labour Market, Skills/Education systems. Aptitudes and Attitudes are really important. Each sector is having to cope with different elements, e.g. Advanced Engineering deal with waste, etc. People much more aware of net zero/sustainability, etc. Not just submitting what is required, adding valuable Labour Market intelligence. There are barriers to employment; as we gather the data, we will be able to examine this further. We hope that businesses will use their road map to		
	highlight what they need to address those barriers. DP – Barnwood Trust are doing a lot of work on all of this. MT – On the subject of governance, we have been advised to integrate with local LEPs. There is plenty of capacity to engage with businesses. Action - RD asked for the business survey to be included again in the LEP Newsletter. IM – What the biggest surprise when chatting to businesses? MT – The disconnect between employers and Generation Z. Real struggles with meeting the expectations of young people. IM – The Business Members Group are looking at encouraging those over 50 to come back to the workplace. Event taking place in the Guildhall on the 23 rd March and I will be talking to local MP, Richard Graham. Business group are planning their own campaign. MT – We have been dividing up our research to those coming into employment and those moving between sectors. We are seeing signs of people coming back to work due to the current energy/cost of living crisis. LA – Large decrease of women in the workplace (Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering sector) as after a break from work (e.g. maternity leave, etc),	DONE	DC
	technology changes so quickly it can put them off returning. We need to find a way to encourage them back and retrain as required. Action – Circulate piece of work from Sarah Tyler Phillips, Career Voyage, BMG group. RD added that childcare costs play a major part in stopping females returning to work. Hopefully this will be addressed in next week's Budget. MH – We need to pick this up quickly, low level entrants, we are living longer, that will cost more money, we need to get the young people engaged and wanting to work.		KC

	DO – Worth sharing data from ONS. Huge gap between job vacancies and unemployed. 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. 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. 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. RD – I'd like to invite Matt back in a couple of meetings time to hear the outcomes.		Sept mtg
	JL – Interested to hear how AI and Robotics is being raised by businesses. MC – AI will enhance jobs although it will take some roles away. Mentioned Chat GBT		
5)	Net Zero Progress and Plans – presentation from Sarah Danson, GFirst LEP		
	Presentation shared with Board Members. 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. JR – How are we reaching out to businesses who are currently not engaged with our Growth Hub network to discuss lowering their carbon emissions? SD – Resources are limited, the team are trying hard to engage. Working through a database and we have some excellent SME case studies available.	DONE	KC
6)	Board member feedback on Growth Hubs (verbal) Gloucester – TA had sent apologies, move to next meeting. 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. Stroud – DP – Record footfall, 166, using co-working space. Working on business needs, start-ups, etc for next 2 years. 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.		
7)	Board member feedback on Business Groups (verbal) Banking and Finance Construction and Infrastructure Cyber Tech 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.		

8)	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.	

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
June 2023	Gloucester (TA)	Construction and Infrastructure (NB)
	Tewkesbury	Cyber Tech (MC)
September 2023		
December 2023		