

Minutes of Enterprise M3 LEP Board Meeting no. 4

Attendees

Geoff French, Chair of Enterprise M3
Cllr Patrick Burridge
Paul Bright
Tim Colman
Peter Cowen
Cllr Andrew Finney
Cllr Peter Martin
Dr Malcolm Parry
Laura Pelling
Louise Punter
Mike Rushworth
Kathy Slack LEP Director

Apologies

Brig Neil Baverstock
Kate Dean
Cllr Moira Gibson
Cllr Ken Thornber

1. Presentation from John Walker, Whitehill / Bordon Eco-town

Discussion following the presentation raised the following points

- Limited current opportunities for employment, suggest using the military buildings initially for start-ups and a construction centre of excellence linked to apprenticeship opportunities.
- The eco-town team want to work at a practical level with EM3 and link in with inward investment opportunities
- Transport improvements would help employment
- Discussion as to whether the term 'eco-town' constrained opportunities
- Will be applying to Growing Places for projects to support development of housing

2. Cathy Francis from CLG addressed the board

She commended us on our work to establish EM3 and the work done around apprenticeships. She added that our PQQ for the Growing Places Fund (GPF) had been passed to ministers for approval. Eric Pickles at a conference had recently expressed the view that the GPF with its light touch approach was the new blueprint

for the relationship between Government and LEPs/local govt. This fund may get topped up over time.

Cabinet is behind LEPs, but there is a need to communicate and maintain relationships with MPs.

Action 4.1 Arrange meetings with MPs KS

3. Welcome to Director and new board member

Geoff welcomed Kathy Slack, the new Director for EM3, to the meeting and she introduced herself. She will be concentrate on ensuring that there is focus, delivery and impact for the business plan.

Geoff also welcomed Cllr Peter Martin, Deputy Leader of Surrey County Council to his first meeting of the board.

4. Notes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Actions from previous meeting completed except to develop EU bidding resource with HCC.

Geoff is also pursuing the development of an IT sector group with Mark Selby, previously of Nokia.

5. Update

Business Plan

The plan is finalised and Tim Stansfeld is putting together a list of business fora at which the plan can be presented.

It was mentioned that a definition of productivity would be helpful.

Action 4.2: Business Plan update to be a standing item on Board agenda KS

Implementation Group and Action Groups

There is a recognised need to improve internal communications, which should be addressed through the communications plan. Board members play an important role in cascading messages.

Board members requested an update on the work of each of the action groups. A table showing progress/actions on each action group will be provided at each board meeting

The Growing Places PQQ has been submitted and a subgroup of the Implementation Group will take forward the process to identify schemes. HCC have offered Rachel Barker's support in delivering this fund.

Action 4.3: Action Group Progress Update to be developed and circulated for next Board meeting

Action 4.4: Board members on the action groups to help communicate the priorities for delivery from the business plan.

4. Board membership

Cllr Finney has stepped down as leader of Basingstoke and Deane, but will remain in their Cabinet as economic portfolio holder. Geoff suggested that he stay on the Board until the group of district leaders determined otherwise.

John Copley has moved for a new job and his replacement at Farnborough Aerospace Consortium is David Barnes who will continue to work for Thales part time.

Action 4.5: Advertise vacancy on the Board. Vacancy to draw attention to the need to achieve geographic balance/sector balance. KS

Geoff is not proposing to appoint immediately to the role of vice chair. He prefers to call on the help of all the board depending on their specialities.

Action 4.6: Louise Punter to replace John Copley as link to the FIBS action group.

5. Funding

Start-up Fund

The board discussed other work required. It was suggested that specific support for Kathy in the short-term should be a priority, specifically about evaluating research bids.

Further round of Capacity Funding has come out with approx. £26k pa for each LEP

Action 4.7 Respond to this funding opportunity ahead of the February deadline KS

6. Communications Plan

Laura talked through the plan which was well received by the board. Key messages for businesses will be ready by mid February and Laura spoke about how different communication channels were being considered. She would like Board members to get involved in communicating with business and stakeholders.

7. Conference

The board agreed that a similar time and format to the inaugural conference would be appropriate. The content should be about focussing on our business plan priorities with some case studies. Also perhaps an item on exporting and an opportunity for workshops led by the action groups.

Mark Prisk MP minister in BIS has been invited (but is not available).

An event management specialist is being recruited to support the event.

Peter Cowen offered to sponsor a dinner for key opinion formers the night before the conference.

8. Next Meetings

28 March 2012 – Conference and meeting to follow (venue tbc)

4 July – venue tbc

10 October – venue tbc