



Driving prosperity in the M3 corridor

Enterprise M3 Board
19 March 2014, 2.00 – 5.00pm
Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX

MINUTES

Attending

Geoff French - Chair
Paul Bright
Tim Colman
Peter Cowen
Ken Crookes
Kate Dean
Andrew Finney
Moira Gibson
Keith Mans
Stephen Mansbridge
Peter Martin
Malcolm Parry
Laura Pelling
Louise Punter
Tony Rooth
Mike Rushworth
Clive Sanders
Chris Tinker
Rowena Robson
Margaret Collins
Paul Hogg
Brian Matthews
Keith Robson
Rahim Tafazolli
Tom Hinchcliffe
Liz Trevor
Justine Davie

Apologies

Andrew Hughes
Kathy Slack

1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1 Geoff French welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the new district council Board members Ken Crookes, Stephen Mansbridge and Clive Sanders.

2. Welcome to Royal Holloway

- 2.1 Vice Principal Professor Paul Hogg welcomed the Board to Royal Holloway. The Board was informed that Royal Holloway had a global reputation and was ranked 12th in the UK university rankings and 102nd in the world rankings. The University had an ongoing relationship with a number of big corporate companies and some major research contracts in place. The areas of focused applied research at Royal Holloway were in cyber security and big data, biomedical sciences and molecular biology, quantum technologies and petroleum geoscience.

- 2.2 Royal Holloway had been the UK leader in cyber security for the last 25 years and was working on a new initiative to set up an Institute for Cyber Security Innovation. The Institute would bring together academia, industry and government to be a catalyst for innovation to bridge the gap between the state of the art and the state of practice. The proposal was to develop an innovation ecosystem which would comprise of a Regional Innovation Centre on the Egham Campus and in the longer term an off-campus Regional Business Park potentially in Longcross.
- 2.3 Projected costs for the Innovation Centre on the Egham Campus totalled £26m of which Royal Holloway proposed to fund £13m. A further £12m would be required for the Business Park. The estimated benefits to the region taking into account 650 jobs being created totalled £39.5m over a five-year period. The Innovation Centre and Business Park would also ensure that the regions position as a leading UK base for the digital economy was retained.
- 2.4 The Board was asked to support the proposed Innovation Centre in the submission of any grant applications.

Action to be taken	By Whom	When
The presentation slides to be circulated to the Board members	Justine Davie	April 2014

3. Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and the actions noted.

4. Presentation on 5G

- 4.1 Keith Robson, Director of Enterprise and Growth and Professor Rahim Tafazolli, Director, 5G Innovation Centre at Surrey University attended the meeting to advise the Board on the work being carried out around 5G. The project involved establishing a 5G Innovation Centre which would be based on the main university campus. A number of media and telecoms firms had joined together to provide funds and expertise to help the university create and run the 5G Innovation Centre. The work in the Centre would involve research and development of pioneering technologies to create a 5G network of the future.
- 4.2 It was explained that the economic implications were significant and the 5G Innovation Centre could be a £100m project within the next two years. Contributions had already come in from China, Korea and Japan, and China had suggested they would be looking to invest £5b in 5G. It was important that Enterprise M3 was involved to assist the different organisations to work together to ensure that the infrastructure was in place to support 5G. If Surrey University was unable to provide the necessary infrastructure the research would be picked up by other countries and the investment to the UK lost.
- 4.3 It was agreed that Enterprise M3 had an important role in working closely with the University and its partners/stakeholders to promote the sector and lobby for infrastructure investments and funding to unlock any barriers to growth.

Action to be taken	By Whom	When
The presentation slides to be circulated to the Board members	Justine Davie	April 2014

5. Housing Research Presentation

- 5.1 Margaret Collins, Director at Regeneris presented to the Board an overview of the results of the housing evidence study that had been carried out by Regeneris for Enterprise M3. The local plans from the district authorities had been reviewed which showed that the overall target for the Enterprise M3 area of 4,805 dwellings per annum (dpa) was 142 more than the historic rate of 4,663 dpa over the last ten years. However, it was clear that the targets set by the local authorities were low in comparison to the “What Homes Where” and DCLG assessments of 6,300 or 6,370 dpa. Both of those targets were significantly lower than the 11,800 dpa required to support forecast levels of economic growth.
- 5.2 An assessment of the available supply revealed that the current supply of land was insufficient to meet the targets set by local authorities in their local plans.
- 5.3 A number of barriers to delivery were identified including outdated information in local authority local plans, 16.3% of the area was covered by green belt land and a high number of other environmental designations including special protection areas, national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.
- 5.4 There were some key recommendations from the study. A well-evidenced assessment of the areas requirement for and delivery of housing was essential. If local authorities individually were unable to deliver the amount of housing required a mechanism would be needed to enable local authorities to work together to deliver the required amount over the Enterprise M3 area as a whole. A clear understanding was required of the implications of the economic strategy for jobs growth. Strategic sites would need to be identified to ensure there was an adequate pipeline of new housing provision. Cross-border working with neighbouring Local Enterprise Partnerships could be important to develop the recommendations.
- 5.5 Many of the recommendations had been picked up in the Strategic Economic Plan. However, the main issue was the disparity between the local authority target for dwellings per annum and the employment forecast.

Action to be taken	By Whom	When
The presentation slides to be circulated to the Board members	Justine Davie	April 2014

6. Strategic Economic Plan

- 6.1 Tom Hinchcliffe updated the Board on the work that had been carried out on the Strategic Economic Plan. The SEP was being developed in three parts – the Local Growth Deal, the main SEP narrative and the delivery plan. There was a total of £350m of local growth funding requested within the SEP which would be aligned with the £43m EU funds and significant local public and private sector matched funding.
- 6.2 A copy of the latest version of the Local Growth Deal was circulated to the Board. The document set out the high-level pitch to Ministers on why the Government should invest in the Enterprise M3 area. The aims and asks of Government were included under the headings of innovation and enterprise, skills, housing and transport.
- 6.3 The Joint Leaders Board was highly supportive of the approach taken including the target to accelerate housing provision by up to 25% above the 2003-2013 delivery baseline. The Leaders provided a number of positive comments which had been incorporated into the Local Growth Deal and would be producing a letter in support of the Strategic Economic Plan.

- 6.4 The Board discussed the wording of the housing aim - some felt that 25% was not enough given the figures revealed in the Regeneris study - some felt that 25% was too high and was not deliverable given the shortage of available sites. Overall it was agreed that as the Joint Leaders Board had agreed “up to 25%” this figure should not change. However, the wording around the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) working with the local planning authorities and across the LEP boundaries would be looked at as well as addressing the issue of affordability. Tom Hinchcliffe would discuss the matter with Ken Crookes in further detail. The document would be circulated to the Board in a more finalised version.
- 6.5 The draft growth packages for each of the Growth Towns and Step-up Towns were circulated to the Board, they would be included as annexes to the delivery plan of the SEP. The delivery plan would detail the interventions proposed to stimulate economic growth within the area, the cost of the interventions, the contribution the Local Growth Fund would make and the economic outcomes realised as a result.
- 6.6 The Board agreed the approach being taken for the Local Growth Deal, the main SEP narrative and the delivery plan and approved the Steering Group to sign off the final version of the documents on 25 March.

Action to be taken	By Whom	When
A more finalised version of the Local Growth Deal to be circulated following further discussion	Tom Hinchcliffe	24 March 2014
Steering Group to sign off the final version of the document	Tom Hinchcliffe	25 March 2014

7. Appointment of Board Members

- 7.1 The Board was advised that Geoff French’s tenure as chair would come to an end in June 2014. As the chair would play a critical role in the appointment of other Board members it was important that an early decision was made on the future chair of the Enterprise M3 Board. Geoff French was willing to remain as the chair for a further 3-years. The Board unanimously agreed that Geoff French had been an extremely good chair and would be difficult to replace. The Board agreed the appointment of Geoff French as chair until June 2017. (Note: Geoff French left the room during the discussion on this issue.)
- 7.2 There had been changes to the governance protocols and the number of Board members had increased to 20. The Board acknowledged the appointment of Ken Crooks, Clive Sanders, Moira Gibson and Stephen Mansbridge as the district council representatives and Zoe Gray as the representative for the third sector.
- 7.3 Andrew Finney, Tony Rooth and Paul Bright would be stepping down as Board members. Mike Rushworth advised the Board that due to restructuring at Vitacress he would be leaving at the end of May and therefore he would also be stepping down as a Board member. The Chair thanked the retiring Board members, Paul Bright, Andrew Finney, Tony Rooth and Mike Rushworth, for their contribution to the Board during their term of office.
- 7.4 Geoff French advised the Board that representatives from higher and further education would be sought through consultation with key partners from those sectors. The vacancies for business Board members would be advertised and representatives selected following application and interview. The appointment of new members would be staggered over the year to ensure continuity.

- 7.5 The renewal/retirement dates for new members was circulated and the Chair would speak to Board members individually to discuss their renewal terms. .

Action to be taken	By Whom	When
Speak to Board members with June 2014 retirement date about their renewal terms	Geoff French	April 2014

8. European Structural and Investment Fund

- 8.1 Tom Hinchcliffe informed the Board that there had been positive feedback to the draft European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy. The rural allocation had been recalculated and was now £4.5m which was an increase of £1m. The increase was due to the whole of the New Forest area originally being included in the Solent LEP area which had now been rectified.

9. Finance Update

- 9.1 The Board noted the finance update for 2013/14 and the funding expected for 2014/15.

10. Growing Enterprise Fund

- 10.1 Kate Dean advised the Board on the progress of the Growing Enterprise Fund projects and a table summarising the progress of the projects allocated funding was circulated. The Board noted that the Fund Management Group would be meeting in late April/early to review the next steps and discuss future rounds of the Growing Enterprise Fund.

11. Communications Update

- 11.1 Liz Trevor advised the Board that contact had been made with MP's and businesses to request letter of support for the Strategic Economic Plan. Board members were also requested to provide letters of support. A meeting had taken place to discuss setting up an Enterprise M3 MP's group.
- 11.2 Copies of the Enterprise M3 Annual Report were available for Board members to take away and distribute to their contacts.
- 11.3 A meeting had been held with Farnborough International following the conference and all attendees had been offered complementary tickets and Enterprise M3 had been offered a VIP area on one of the trade days for 40 guests. Despite the issues with the acoustics and heating there had been 60 responses to the post conference survey of which 83% rated the conference good or excellent and 85% said they would attend again in future.

12. Action Groups Update

- 12.1 The Board noted the Action Groups update.

13. Forward Programme

- 13.1 The Board received and noted the forward programme for the forthcoming Board meetings.

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1 Tim Colman advised the Board that he had received some positive feedback from MP's however they had requested a short regular update to inform them about the work of the Enterprise M3 LEP. It was agreed that a quarterly update would be provided to MP's in future.

Action to be taken	By Whom	When
Quarterly update to Enterprise M3 area MP's on the work of the LEP	Geoff French	April 2014

- 14.2 The next Enterprise M3 Board meeting would take place from 2.00-5.00pm on 13th May 2014 at AXA Wealth, Basingstoke, RG21 6SZ.