

Enterprise M3 Joint Leaders Board

Notes of a meeting of the Joint Leaders Board held on 21 November 2019

at The HG Wells Conference Centre, Woking, Surrey

Can we include a list of attendees here? We will be able to take these from the minutes of the scrutiny session that Laura Taylor produced although I know that James Cretney (from EM3) left before the JLB meeting took place.

1. Introductions and apologies for Absence

1.1. Cllr Kemp welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2019 were approved.

3. An update from Enterprise M3 to the Joint Leaders Board

3.1. Kathy Slack (KS); covered helping business to prepare for Brexit, working as a cluster of LEPs (Thames Valley Berkshire, Solent, C2C) and leading the group. Managing the other LEPs lead to sharing good practice.

3.2. KS; Pushing to bring in new board members from the private sector in the New Year. Heavy focus on diversity, also looking to FSB, FE sector and others. Action; JLB Members to look for new additions and make recommendations.

3.3. KS; Move to Basingstoke has been successful and collaborative.

3.4. KS; In the last 18 months of Growth Fund Programme, tricky decisions will be made around deliverability. UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) will be a consideration.

3.5. Dave Axam (DA); Noted the fiscal capacity remaining at EM3 and how good projects can be brought to fruition. The LIS will focus on the next round of funding.

3.6. DA; The role of LEPs and the EM3 position is to be considered, how do underperforming LEPs drag down the reputation of all LEPs.

3.7. Colin Kemp (CK); Importance of connecting with District and Boroughs (D&Bs) ED teams to find the right board members.

4. EM3 LIS Update

4.1 Kevin Lloyd (KL); Productivity: High and Growing, EM3 is well above the national average. Level of growth (GVA) has been strong also. Strong performer in relation to digital activity and digital jobs, which leads us towards high levels of productivity. Lifestyle economy breakdown. Demographic breakdown, low representation of young working professionals. Working age population UK avg is 63%, EM3 areas rarely surpass that average. Skills shortages, below LEP average, most severe skills deficit in areas such as FS. Talked through recent jobs decline.

4.2 Discussion on data and the wider picture between DA, KL, KS and several Board Members.

4.3 Discussion on agile working and remote work skills playing into evidence base around declining jobs data.

4.4 Action: disentangle the contributing factors to employment/skills drain shown in evidence base

4.5 Discussion on surrounding geography's effect, what is the real impact of connectivity? Point brought on the appearance of start-ups and SMEs in the North West. Point brought on the Manchester retention of post-graduates and how EM3 can achieve the same (KL – graduate attraction level is very high and not typical). Points raised on ensuring incubation for highly-skilled graduates to develop business ideas and companies. Office space discussed and how the lack of it impacts enterprise opportunity. Suggestion of LEP intervention, discussion on role of Local Authority (LA) and that of the LEP. Point made on essential nature of Place Making and how

town centres fixture? in the Economic Development of areas. Point raised on how LAs work together with the guidance of LEPs to compensate on lack of resource, skills or overcome obstacles.

5 Future Work Programmes Discussion

5.1 Economic Development and Sustainable Growth update from Leaders on local challenges
LEP requires big ambitious schemes to show backing. Discussion on what schemes will/should be submitted and how they are interacted with. BM(?); “The question to the board is how can we get the most out this scheme?”

Action; JLB members to submit ideas for the role of the board and how it can steer the work of the LEP most effectively.

5.2 Addressing the skills gap

Action: KL to drill down on skills data across the area to develop some themes on skills for actions to take forward.

6 Nominations to PMG [Hampshire]

CK called for nominations at the meeting as no one had put their name forward in advance of the meeting. Richard Millard indicated that he would be prepared to stand and this was noted. In line with governance arrangements it was agreed that JLB would formally seek nominations ahead of the January meeting and these would be considered by the JLB at this time.

Action: Nominations to the PMG to be sought ahead of the January meeting.

7 Closing Remarks

Next JLB will be held in Rushmoor, location volunteered.

8 Dates of Future Meetings

DATE	Location
23 January 2020	Hampshire – venue to be confirmed
19 March 2020	Surrey – venue to be confirmed