

Enterprise M3 Board Meeting

28th May 2020

Enterprise M3 Annual Report and Annual General Meeting – Item no. 10

Members of the Board are requested to:

NOTE: The Annual Report's high-level key messages (as set out in this report), and a summary of the draft digital EM3 LEP Annual Report 19/20 (to be presented at the Board meeting)

NOTE: Arrangements for approval of the final draft of the Annual Report ahead of its launch at the AGM 24th June 2020, and a brief update on planning for the AGM

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Publication of our Annual Report and our Annual General Meeting are amongst the most important events of the LEP's year, representing an opportunity to review the year's work, and celebrate and showcase the breadth and depth of our successes to Government, partners, stakeholders and our own team.
- 1.2. Although the report has to be retrospective, focusing on the year ending at March 31st 2020, its launch at our June AGM in the midst of a global pandemic risks making the report feel inappropriate and irrelevant. We have therefore been careful to carry pertinent strategic messages connecting last year's work to addressing current challenges.

2. Key High-Level Messages

- 2.1. Broadly, the content of the Annual Report 19/20 will convey the following messages:
 - A LEP which has been consistently recognised by Government as one of the best in England.
 - Last year's high level of investment in high impact projects with target breaking results creating homes, jobs, space for business innovation and growth, and a strong supply of skills and talent.
 - Exceptional standards of governance and transparent and accountable management of public funds.
 - Profound understanding of the regional economy and the needs of its businesses as demonstrated in an excellent strategic economic plan, and the development of a robustly evidenced Local Industrial Strategy.
 - Business, especially SME, support, targeted at high innovation scale up companies, which characterise our digital, design-led, knowledge-based economy.
 - A powerful convening role with the ability to coordinate public and private sector partners in shared ventures at pace and with a focus on action, as evidenced by our work to prepare businesses across the South for Brexit.
- 2.2. The sum of these consistent achievements mean the LEP has laid solid foundations for meeting the current and future challenges and opportunities for economic recovery from the impact of Covid19.

3. Arrangements for Approval of the Annual Report

- 3.1. Earlier this year, Board members agreed Linda Cheung and Deborah Allen would provide Board level oversight of the production of the Annual Report. Jo Gumb, Director of our external communications company, Whitelabel, has taken forward that process.
- 3.2. As our head of strategic communications, Sue Littlemore has the day to day editorial responsibility for the tone, design and detail of the content.
- 3.3. Chief Executive, Kathy Slack, is responsible for final approval of the 19/20 Annual Report, and ensuring it is in line with the Board's overview.

4. AGM Update

- 4.1. for this year's virtual AGM entitled "Recovery and resilience - looking to a new future" is on schedule. Video messages from the Chair and the Chief Executive have been recorded. A technical rehearsal involving members of the Board, who have agreed to be part of a panel taking questions from the public, is scheduled for a few days before this Board meeting. Invitations and registration details have been sent out.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The impact of Covid19 has meant the way we expected to produce Annual Report and hold our AGM was severely disrupted. However, the signs are this year's Annual Report and AGM will be as successful and well received as any other, thanks to the adaptability and creative thinking of the EM3 Board, team and Whitelabel.

Sue Littlemore
Future Initiatives Manager
20 May 2020