

## JOINT LEADERS BOARD

### Enterprise M3 Joint Leaders Board

Notes of the meeting of the Joint Leaders Board held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020, via Zoom.

<b>Attendees:</b>	
Cllr Keith Mans (Cllr Mans)	Hampshire County Council ( <i>Chair</i> )
Stuart Jarvis (SJ)	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Rob Humby (RB)	Hampshire County Council
Dave Axam (DA)	Enterprise M3
Jordan Tame (JT)	Enterprise M3
Kathy Slack (KS)	Enterprise M3
Richard Millard (RM)	East Hants District Council
Cllr Julie Butler (JB)	East Hants District Council
Gill Kneller	East Hants District Council
Cllr Ken Rhatigan (KR)	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Ian Boll (IB)	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Joss Bigmore (JB)	Guildford Borough Council
James Whiteman (JWh)	Guildford Borough Council
Daryl Phillips (DP)	Hart District Council
Cllr Nick Prescott (NP)	Runnymede Borough Council
Cllr Ken Muschamp (KM)	Rushmoor Borough Council
Paul Shackley	Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr Matt Furniss (MF)	Surrey County Council
Hannah Wyatt (HW)	Surrey County Council ( <i>Minutes</i> )
Louise Livingston (LL)	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Tim Pashen	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Cllr Phil North (PN)	Test Valley Borough Council
Andy Ferrier (AF)	Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr John Ward (JW)	Waverley Borough Council
Tom Horwood (TH)	Waverley Borough Council
Cllr Lucille Thompson (LT)	Winchester City Council
Laura Taylor (LT)	Winchester City Council
Ayesha Azad (AA)	Woking Borough Council
Douglas Spinks (DS)	Woking Borough Council

<b>Apologies:</b>	
Patricia Hughes (PH)	Hart District Council
Cllr David Neighbour (DN)	Hart District Council
Daniel Mouawed (DM)	Spelthorne Borough Council
Paul Turrell (PT)	Runnymede Borough Council
Joanna Killian (JK)	Surrey County Council
Cllr Colin Kemp (CK)	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Clifford (DC)	Rushmoor Borough Council
Ray Morgan (RM)	Woking Borough Council
John Coughlin (JC)	Hampshire County Council

## **1. Welcome & Introductions (Chair)**

Cllr Mans welcomed the Board to the meeting and apologies were announced.

Cllr Mans welcomed Cllr Ayesha Azad as the new Leader of Woking Borough Council and Cllr Joss Bigmore as the new Leader of Guildford Borough Council.

Cllr Mans noted attendance by speakers for Item 3 Katie Stewart and Keith Willcox.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting - 17 September 2020 (Chair)**

Minutes were confirmed as accurate and actions completed.

## **3. Future Investment in Infrastructure- (Katie Stewart and Keith Willcox)**

- 3.1. KS introduced the presentation and explained it was dynamic time for the growth agenda and how we deliver infrastructure to support that growth. Noted Covid-19 has fundamentally affected the way we work, live and interact, and it is important to reflect on the work we do collectively through the LEP to drive infrastructure investment into our communities.
- 3.2. Noted the policy framework for growth and planning (and its funding) is changing, most notably with the Planning White Paper. The Board need to decide collectively what the future of investment in our communities will be and use LEP agenda to support and future-proof our local economy and places.
- 3.3. KW noted Government priorities are economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to meet net zero carbon targets by 2050 as part of green agenda. Our local challenge is to strengthen the resilience of the EM3 LEP area; supporting greener, more prosperous and well-connected communities through targeted and investment and effective lobbying to government.

### **Current focus of our infrastructure agenda**

- 3.4. Highlighted the immediate impact of Covid-19 and the increased reliance on digital for home working and the need to support those areas that do not have good digital connectivity through work such as the digital spine from Guildford to Basingstoke. In Hampshire also looking at a super-fast broadband programme. Need to work closely with local planning authorities to devise guidance on highspeed broadband and important to urge government to agree that all new developments are served with good digital connectivity.
- 3.5. Noted the initial fall in traffic-related emissions; the positive response to this and ongoing efforts to maintain this trend to improve air quality as part of local climate ambitions. To support social distancing and safe access through towns there has also been the reallocation of road space. DfT launched the Active Travel Fund in May with emergency schemes stood up within 3 weeks. This involved working closely with local D&Bs and businesses to install these schemes and adjust them accordingly.
- 3.6. DfT announced recently the tranche 2 funding for Active Travel, which is for more permanent schemes and they allow more time for local engagement and a balanced approach to walking and cycling, and the different road uses.

### **Post-Covid impact, challenges and opportunities**

- 3.7. Covid-19 has had significant impact, particularly on the economy, with the Bank of England forecasting GDP will be down by 11% and uncertainty over future infrastructure funding with the government spending review only being for one year. Key point is the longer-term consequences on public spending and therefore targeting of investment is critical.
- 3.8. Trends in retail sector have been accelerated by Covid-19 with people being unable to shop in person which has increased vacancies in Highstreet. Within context of changing behaviours and increasing focus on more sustainable living there is the idea of hyper local and '20 minute' towns where most resident

needs are met within a 20-minute walk or cycle. The focus for towns and villages is also on integrated community hub models with a number of services brought together in a single, central location to drive efficiency and create a local, sustainable community.

- 3.10. There has been damaging impact by Covid-19 to attitudes to public transport and significant drop in passenger numbers, leading to financial vulnerability of operators. It has also had impact on future investment plans, with risk of slower delivery of major public transport schemes. Discussed possible intervention by EM3 to help via user-confidence campaigns and funding to encourage innovation and new technologies, as well as building on previous successes.
- 3.11. Highlighted ambitious Surrey and Hampshire capital programmes with major schemes in pipeline to support regeneration and sustainable economic growth in the EM3 area but these programmes rely on being able to secure funding, which is a critical role of the LEP. There is a shift to more investment in active travel and public transport, and number of town centre schemes which create more resilient infrastructure. Highlighted how we deliver strategic schemes through LEP area and greater collaboration and one-voice needed so area can be heard when lobbying government.
- 3.12. We need to evolve our approach to deliver a smart and resilient highways infrastructure and utilise new technologies to improve road safety and enforcement, and upgrade highways to expand 5G and broadband coverage, as well as having provision for future transport like autonomous vehicles. We need to use more sustainable materials in construction and have greener highways, from initiatives like roadside planting for biodiversity.
- 3.13. It's not just about transport and need to think more widely about energy and decentralised energy schemes and our role in facilitating this paradigm shift. We also need to consider what we do with our land assets and look at their potential for offering renewable energy resources.
- 3.14. IB queried the nitrates issue which plagues Hampshire and a lot of development. KS confirmed at the early stages of work on this and will make sure this issue fed in.
- 3.15. LT asked about what the LEP could do to help town centres recover and make them work efficiently in the future. KS noted Local Planning Authorities have key role and the package we need to put together to support that. We need to invest and build further on Active Travel agenda and look at how to fill vacancies in towns and highstreets via business and public sector and specific intervention. There is also business case for green infrastructure needed and to highlight the financial value of this.  
  
LT also queried delivery of LCWIP for Hampshire. KW stated work on LCWIP currently stands as: Basingstoke's is underway, East Hampshire have signed off one, Hants are in process of looking to commission, Rushmoor's is underway, the south of Test Valley have their draft, the north of Test Valley have started theirs, and Winchester also have a draft LCWIP. KW happy to come back with further detail.
- 3.16. Cllr Mans flagged the large organisations in the city with many now moving HQs to Europe – though staff remaining in the UK and businesses looking at different work patterns. We need to make sure our viewpoint is not too narrow and keep eye outside our local area. Also highlighted air travel and the new technology that needs looking at. NP agreed travel into Europe is important and action needed on what reduces car transport south of Heathrow. Also stated we need to be coordinated and avoid silo working.
- 3.17. DA queried how we galvanise action on future mobility and energy strategy. KS suggested board support on commitment to action needed, reviewing the infrastructure pipeline we have currently, support with funding and lobbying, and reviewing specifics of town centre offer and requirements. Felt next step was officers need to create ideas proactively and come back with response.
- 3.18. JB raised concern the evidence base for transport decisions are now out of date, particularly exacerbated by Covid. We need to reassess traffic expectations in future and what we are doing. Appreciate this is broad piece but concerned we're building infrastructure is no longer fit for purpose. KW noted we are in transitional period and need to move quickly to make sure schemes are fit for purpose and we need to look at emerging new evidence base.

KM queried how to encourage people to give up their cars and how we estimate parking required in future for pool cars etc. KS answered that a pilot approach needed to try different things for different areas as no one size fits all. Willingness to evolve them needed but uncertain of how people will behave post-Covid.

#### **4. Enterprise M3 update** (*Kathy Slack and Dave Axam*)

- 4.1. Recently recruited a new non-executive director Daniel Rouse – who will be formerly endorsed at the EM3 Board meeting at the end of November. Daniel works for Sensic; a company who work within future mobility and smart transport and he leads on work for continuous and autonomous vehicles and has strong links into government.
- 4.2. Noted disappointment that the Comprehensive Spending Review is only for a year – understood reasoning for this but as an organisation that is funded on an annual basis and deals with the range and funding it does this is a concern. Also, unsure if there will be replacement Capital Programme and if there is one there are doubts it will be as high as previous years and directed to the South.
- 4.3. Need to look out for Green Book appraisal system being updated - this could work in the LEPs favour in terms of how schemes are judged. Also waiting on replacement of the EU programme, announcement expected next week.
- 4.4. Recently recruited Stephen Martin, new Director of Operations, who joins at the end of November and has already attended meetings. Noted Stephen joins at a challenging time as in the last year of Local Growth Fund and the £47m that needs spending by end of year.
- 4.5. DA explained work to raise the voice of the south and therefore created Catalyst South which is a federation of six southern LEPs to which government has been responsive to. DA noted he would like to come back to the board to update more on Catalyst South and what it aims to do.

#### **5. Nominations for the EM3 Board and PMG:**

Cllr Mans explained there were two nominations received:

Cllr Joss Bigmore for both the Board Director of EM3 Board and the Programme Management Group for elected individuals. And Paul Shackley applied for the Programme Management Group officer position.

The JLB were in agreement and approved these nominations. Confirmed the EM3 Board have to take a decision on these nominations but the JLB had recommended both Cllr Bigmore and Paul Shackley for these positions.

#### **6. Operating Budget for JLB for noting**

This paper was circulated with papers and noted at the meeting without comment.

#### **7. Covid local levels update – effect on businesses**

- 7.1. We have a high redundancy rate in our area (one of the highest in the country) which reflects the high number of business in our area. KS noted from recent meetings that our figures may in fact be lower compared to other areas and our economy is faring well compared to other LEPs and growth hub areas.
- 7.2. Our hospitality, retail and tourism section has suffered but there has been more resilience within second lockdown due to more knowledge and preparation. Some frustration noted with businesses and retailers and those classed as ‘essential’ and ‘not essential’. Employment rates are going up (though lower than rest of country). Young people have an unemployment rate of 5% and we need to concentrate on this area. Noted job postings are back to March levels and particularly high in the IT and technology sector.

## 8. Closing remarks

Cllr Mans raised suggestion that Cllr Rob Humby take over the chairing role of the JLB until Cllr Colin Kemp's return and noted Cllr Humby is already a Board member and therefore makes more sense from a voting position. The JLB were in agreement with this suggestion. Cllr Humby updated on a recent conversation with Cllr Kemp and his expected return in the new year.

Cllr Mans closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

### Dates of future meetings:

21-Jan-21	Virtual
18-Mar-21	TBC
20-May-21	TBC
22-July-21	TBC
23-Sept-21	TBC
18-Nov-21	TBC
20-Jan-22	TBC
24-March-22	TBC