

## Enterprise M3 Board Meeting

25 March 2021

### Chief Executive's Report – Item 13

#### 1. LEP News

- 1.1. Government announcement that **Levelling Up Fund** would be available to local authorities to bid and deadline for bids would be 18 June. Areas categorised into 3 priority areas with 1 being areas most in need of levelling up, Enterprise M3 only had one area (East Hants) in category 2 the rest of the area was category 3. Detailed guidance still to be published. LA leaders at the recent Joint Leaders Board were keen to work in a collaborative way with EM3, although a key consideration is the likelihood of securing funds given how the prospectus is geared towards those places most in need of levelling up.
- 1.2. Government has announced details of the **UK Community Renewal Fund** on 16 March. This is a pilot programme for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This Fund will be administered through county councils in our area, should they decide to bid. The bidding arrangements, although open to all, are strongly geared towards 100 priority places, none of which are within EM3.
- 1.3. We have been involved in discussions around a **planned review of LEPs**. We are waiting for the final terms of reference to be issued. A board strategic workshop has discussed how EM3 might evolve and we are involving other key partners in this debate.
- 1.4. We held our **peer review with Cheshire and Warrington LEP** on 16 March which allowed us to discuss challenges and exchange thoughts on good practice and making improvements in ways of working. We have agreed to follow up on several areas including exchange thoughts on digital connectivity, working at scale on the green agenda and achieving greater diversity on boards and sub groups and in particular exploring how to engage younger people more in discussions.
- 1.5. We met, as part of **Catalyst South, with the London Economic Action Partnership, to discuss the implications of the pandemic on London's economy**. The [Central Activities Zone report](https://www.london.gov.uk/business-and-economy-publications/central-activities-zone-caz-economic-futures-research) highlights the impact on COVID on the capital and longer-term recovery plans. The report highlight worries over how quickly international tourism would recover given that tourists spend 3 times more than domestic tourists. This will be important for the recovery of retail and related attractions. The report highlighted possibilities of people working less days in London and therefore being prepared to commute further away from London (2hrs). This could reach further into EM3 area. Growth areas are expected around railway stations with a demand for high quality space. <https://www.london.gov.uk/business-and-economy-publications/central-activities-zone-caz-economic-futures-research>

#### 2. Business Readiness/Cluster Activity

- 2.1. The **South Central Cluster of Growth Hubs** will complete its contract on EU transition activities at the end of March 2021. The cluster has delivered against all objectives. Analysis of the EU transition data shows that the cluster is currently delivering 19.6% of all national events to date, with a total of events with business participants at 40.7% of the national figures.
- 2.2. The cluster will jointly deliver a further 5 UK/EU post transition online webinar events for March covering areas such as routes to market, VAT and customs and legal considerations.
- 2.3. The Blueberry Marketing Services outreach activities for the cluster continue to perform well. A total of 11,003 calls made since January; 2,316 decision makers spoken to directly; and a total of 334 referrals to Growth Hubs & specialist advisors for UK post transition & general business support.
- 2.4. Rules of origin and VAT issues are the main challenges noted by our businesses regarding EU post transition import/export. We will continue to provide weekly intelligence reports to BEIS up to 31 March.

#### 3. Growth Hub Activity

- 3.1. The transfer of the Growth Hub into the LEP is going smoothly and four staff will transfer into the LEP from 1 April 2021. A new CRM has been established that is working across the whole organisation. Growth hub staff will be based at Desk Lodge alongside EM3 staff, although like all staff, they are currently working from home.

- 3.2. Since Christmas the Growth Hub has continued to support a significant number of businesses affected by Covid-19 by offering additional coaching hours. By working online, we have increased productivity ensuring that businesses have accessed additional support particularly when locked down and not trading. The webinars continue to be very successful and sessions have attracted up to 45 businesses in attendance.
- 3.3. We have now reached the conclusion period of the current contract with our delivery partner Umi and can report that we have fulfilled the core KPI requirements. It has been an exceptional year for our Growth Hub which has been able to pivot into Covid support and adapt to online delivery incredibly well.

#### 4. European Funds

- 4.1. The Board report (item 16) provides more details on our EU programme. The advertising of EU Programmes calls is coming to an end with two more ESF calls due in mid-March in support of £1.5M ESF '*Community Grant Programme in EM3*' and £1.5m ESF for '*Skills support for employment for armed forced veterans and their families in EM3*'. We are now involved in final claims for ERDF Technical Assistance project.

#### 5. Sector Activity

- 5.1. UKSA **Local Space Cluster Development Project** is progressing healthily and is set to terminate by the end of March 2021. In February 2021, EM3 Space Hub delivered a cross-sector event combining satellite applications with clean growth solutions, investigating how these two sectors can collaborate. In March 2021, the Hub will be hosting the very last cross-sector event of the series, combining satellite applications with marine/maritime. So far, through its workshops, the LEP has reached more than 400 businesses, generating engagement and traction – even internationally.
- 5.2. The Hub will be publishing its EM3 Space Hub Landscape Report at the end of March 2021. The document will showcase EM3 space capabilities and opportunities, addressing areas like access to talent, R&D, Business Support, Strategic Location, Enterprise Zones, it will also be a pitching document for future potential investors.
- 5.3. University of Surrey has recently received internal funding to formalise the **Surrey Animal Cluster** in which the LEP is involved. The University is currently developing a website/brand for the cluster.

#### 6. Trade and Investment

- 6.1. The LEP has been liaising with DIT Czech Republic, considering the Czech trade mission in July 2021 in light of Space-Comm Expo 2021 at Farnborough which the LEP is supporting.
- 6.2. Similarly, the LEP has been liaising with the Czech Embassy in London, with respect to Gaming and Space/Satellite. Both of these industries are growing fast in Czech Republic, and more and more companies are looking to grow and expand in the UK.
- 6.3. EM3 area saw one successful **inward investment** in February 2021. This is disappointing as to date investments had been holding up well compared to others. All regions in the UK are seeing a decrease in FDI due to the current uncertainty. We still have 45 active projects in the pipeline. Department of International Trade are keen to use our model of success to support other LEPs in FDI activity.
- 6.4. We had a positive meeting with **Farnborough International** on the reopening of the Events and Exhibition Centre. The first event at the centre is hoped to take place at end of May with other key events planned for July, including the Space Expo mentioned earlier. It was pleasing to hear the engagement plans by the top 30 businesses for the 2022 Airshow.

#### 7. Clean Growth

- 7.1. The Local Authority Delivery (LAD) 2 programme will start to roll out from November. This is a large home retrofit funding programme with BEIS funding allocated to local authorities via the Greater South East Energy Hub. The LEP sits on the Board of the Energy Hub and so we are monitoring how this programme is rolled out. In addition, there is an opportunity for local businesses to get on the procurement framework so that they are able to carry out the works. We are promoting this opportunity through our channels.
- 7.2. The **Clean Growth Forum** was held at the end of Feb. and was the first meeting chaired by Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira. The session focused on Green Skills & how to implement the Skills Action Plan.
- 7.3. We are supporting an application by the University of Surrey **to be an exhibitor at COP26** in November, which if successful will give us the opportunity to have a presence in the exhibition space

which will result in wider partnership engagement at COP26. The run up to this event will be high profile and we are planning on the role the LEP will play.

- 7.4. At the end of April, we are planning a **Carbon/Clean Growth masterclass for interested Board members**. The aim of the session is to explain the basics of climate change, its implications and why the LEP should be working in this space.

## 8. Enterprise Zones

- 8.1. It is pleasing to see developments at our Enterprise Zones despite the pandemic. Eli Lilly moves into their new buildings on Plot K at **Basing View** in July 21. Plot K, the new HQ facility for Eli Lilly and company, Sienna building has been completed by Morgan Sindall and is being handed over to the new owners. Internal fit out is to get underway. The ground floor is to be let for café/retail use.
- 8.2. The Village hotel and John Lewis at home store are preparing for reopening in line with the Government's timeframe but will move to full operations in a staged approach.
- 8.3. Desklodge at Belvedere House is reporting that office space is at capacity with 92% occupancy achieved. Southern Cross which was let to the MoD is undergoing a major refurbishment with additional cladding being added to the external elevations of the building.
- 8.4. The Discovery Building at **Longcross** is nearing completion with services to the building switched on last month. Completion of the public realm works is now expected to happen by September 2021.
- 8.5. Powerquad are delivering their pilot battery power storage project within the Base Innovation Centre on **Techforest Whitehill & Bordon** and the 5G equipment has been installed at the Centre.

## 9. Communications

- 9.1. Preparations for the **Annual Report and AGM** have begun with a focus on the year but also on 10 years of work by the LEP. In addition, a document called 'It wouldn't have happened without the EM3 LEP and Growth Hub' was produced for Kwasi Kwarteng MP, highlighting the many things the LEP has played a critical role in, this is attached to this report.
- 9.2. Fortnightly bulletins have been produced, each sent to over 2,500 people, with information on UK transition, Covid and LEP news. A number of press releases regarding EM3 investments have also been published.
- 9.3. Ongoing collaboration with comms teams within the Catalyst South group has resulted in the first CS project media release being distributed.

## 10. International Women's Day

- 10.1. We celebrated IWD with a meeting of EM3 female Board Directors who reflected on the impact of COVID on diversity and wider issues. We used a technique called ILILIW (I like, I like, I wonder) to stimulate debate and I have attached Board Director contributions. The group were keen to do more on wider diversity and as a result this was discussed at the Nominations Committee this week and we will looking at how we review our Diversity and Equality Policy, looking at the delivery of our programmes as well as diversity across our Team and Board. We will want to pick up the issue of how we engage younger people in our work. Julie Baker, our Equality and Diversity Lead for the Board will support us in this.
- 10.2. Members of the team have been trained on the use of the mnAI database, which allows people to analyse information held by Company House on the make up of boards, age profiles and female owned companies. This is a pilot approach that is operating across the Catalyst South area. Female Board Directors from Catalyst South LEPs held a successful panel at the recent Innovate UK event on the disaggregation of gender statistics across companies and within boards. This video gives an idea of the range of issues we are exploring [mnAI - Utilising AI for a More Equal Future](#).

## 11. Skills

- 11.1. **EM3 Skills Advisory Panel** met on 27 January with a focus on skills and recruitment challenges for the construction industry, particularly reference to the Skills Action Plan ambition of a National Centre for Sustainable Construction.
- 11.2. There has been considerable debate across LEPs on the future role of Skills Advisory Panels as part of the recent White paper, Skills for Jobs. EM3 staff worked alongside other Catalyst South LEPs on the implications of the White Paper & submitted a coordinated response to the Department for Education.

- 11.3. EM3 led with six other LEPs on setting out tender criteria work for the Department for Work and Pensions **Restart programme**, that will give Universal Credit claimants who have been out of work for at least 12 months enhanced support to find jobs in their local area.
- 11.4. The **EM3 Apprenticeship and Skills Hub** launched this month, together with other activities as part of National Apprenticeship Week 2021. The Hub will provide an impartial service to support SMEs and other employers to identify and source apprenticeships at all levels to help them develop their workforce to improve productivity and reduce skills gaps.
- 11.5. Jamie Mackay presented at the Westminster Employment Forum event about the role of LEPs in addressing skills gaps and offsetting regional imbalances in employment.

## 12. **Careers and Enterprise**

- 12.1. 100 schools and colleges now signed up to the Enterprise Adviser Network.
- 12.2. 73% of schools/colleges in the network are matched to a business volunteer, Enterprise Adviser, who helps them to strategically embed careers into their school plans, and provide access to their business network. Further business volunteers being recruited and trained.
- 12.3. Preparation for **Careers and Apprenticeship Show** on May 20th in collaboration with Dorset and Solent LEPs and constituent councils. Aim is to facilitate 5,000 to 7,000 employee encounters in one day. Virtual employer booths running all day, alongside webinars which will be accessed by schools. The event runs into the evening to allow participation by parents.
- 12.4. Preparation for the **Careers Conference** on 28 April, in collaboration with Solent LEP. Theme is the world of work post covid. The audience will be 500 careers leaders and professionals.

## 13. **Transport**

- 13.1. We have been reviewing the **role and remit of the Transport Action Group** to ensure that as it is no longer directly oversees the capital programme it remains relevant and of value to our transport industry partners. Pleasingly all stakeholders see value in the Transport Action Group continuing particularly the strength provided in collaboration and working together. It is considered to be a unique platform for sharing cross-industry knowledge and current/future working/operations.
- 13.2. As part of this, the Group has been renamed the **Mobility & Transport Action Group (MTAG)** with a shift of focus from just transport toward mobility (of people and goods) with links to a wider place-based agenda. We will also look at bringing in other players that can bring richness to the debate.
- 13.3. MTAG will continue to perform a key role is offering industry-connectivity and acting as a “glue” between stakeholders. In particular the Group will work to maintain influence through EM3 and provide a catalyst to emerging agendas.
  - Offering strategic direction.
  - Providing thought leadership; with an eye on the future; it has the opportunity to work with Central Government and seek/fight for funding.
  - Offering a Pan LEP and Cross Boundary perspective on economic and travel patterns – provides a land use dimension to planning and to transport conversations.
  - Providing a platform for sensible, honest conversations.

## 14. **Delivery Plan**

- 14.1. The EM3 Delivery Plan March progress report is added as an appendix to this report.

## 15. **Team Recruitment**

- 15.1. We have appointed a new Head of Trade and Enterprise who is due to start early April.

Kathy Slack - Enterprise M3 Chief Executive  
March 2021

# IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT ENTERPRISE M3 LEP & GROWTH HUB

A DECADE OF INVESTING IN BUSINESS GROWTH, INNOVATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## INVESTING IN GROWTH

**EM3 LEP will have invested £274 m in the local economy**, to benefit: Business; Science and Innovation; Employees, Educators, Exporters, Towns, High Streets and the Environment.

**The EM3 Growth Hub** has produced nearly **1,000 growth plans for scale up companies** and provided general advice and **support to almost 1,600 businesses**.

**The Growth Hub and LEP are supporting the resilience of enterprise and entrepreneurs throughout the pandemic.**

**An Agile Response to Covid. EM3 is helping people made redundant from Heathrow transfer skills to new jobs in regional creative screen industry at Pinewood and Shepperton.** 80 businesses are benefiting from £120,000 invested in peer network support and more than £0.75 m in specialist support grants for SME Covid resilience.

## INVESTING IN COMMERCIALISATION OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

### COMMERCIALISABLE INNOVATION IS THE LEP'S END GAME

The LEP's insight into our economy tells us 80% of the R&D in the EM3 area is carried out by businesses. LEP research also shows the area performs highly on commercialisation of R&D.

The LEP fosters ideal conditions for existing strong R & D activity, and more.

THE LEP'S BUSINESS-LED APPROACH TO INVESTMENT IS EXPECTED TO:



CREATE

**23,567 JOBS**



SUPPORT

**1,116 HIGH GROWTH SMES**

BUILD

**23,567 HOMES**



ASSIST

**32,000 NEW LEARNERS**

THE LEP HAS CREATED OR SAVED:



**7,868 JOBS**

BY HELPING TO PULL IN:



**253 FOREIGN INVESTMENTS**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DIT.

We do this by both linking innovative SMEs with finance, and by bringing scientists and researchers together with business, industry and public service providers in joint facilities:

- **The EM3 Funding Escalator is a funding innovation in itself which recycles investment returns from innovative products and services by high growth SMEs.** The LEP's **£9.74m total investment** in loans and equity has yielded an extra £6.3m to reinvest in innovation and growth of companies, several of whom are award winners in their field.
- Notable examples are **BakedIn** in Basingstoke and **TriCis**, winner of several awards for innovation and military-grade cyber security providers. **The Funding Escalator has supported the innovation activities of 116 local SMEs, securing 700 jobs.**
- **The LEP's investment in universities ensures a business focus on commercialisable R & D in specialist facilities.** Our £5m investment in the early stages of the **5G Innovation Centre** at the University of Surrey gave confidence to other private investors, and secured the Centre's strategic focus on SMEs as 5G customers.
- The LEP 's influential investment in the **Future Towns Innovation Hub** at the University of Southampton, means the practical application of research is driving work with businesses and local authorities to take the most advanced engineering research to help towns become cleaner, greener and lower carbon places to live and work.
- Similarly, the LEP's investment with the NHS in a **Health Tech Accelerator** means the LEP's business-led influence ensures business growth and innovation is harnessed to deliver better patient outcomes.

## INVESTING IN SECTORS OF THE FUTURE

### SPACE

The EM3 LEP's work with the 180 + companies in **the local space and satellite cluster have been recognised by the UK Space Agency with a grant of £70 k for the development of further growth opportunities.**

The LEP is facilitating networks to show case and raise awareness among businesses of the breadth of the potential of satellite technology across a range of sectors:

Local company, Alcis Holdings Ltd is enabling the **global rollout of the Covid19 vaccine** in underdeveloped countries by deploying its earth observation technology. Another company uses satellite technology to **assess city rooftops for the fitting of solar panels**, and is helping parish councils to **monitor neighbourhood pollution.**

**Organisers of this year's Space-Comm Expo event, supported by the UK Space Agency and UK Space, have chosen the Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre.**

Opened in 2018, the Exhibition Centre was an important **strategic investment for the EM3 LEP** who part funded the development **with a £5m loan** to replace the temporary exhibition structure for the major international trade event, the Farnborough Airshow.

## GAMES INDUSTRY AND IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY

**The EM3 LEP is playing a critical role in the expansion, evolution, regional and global reach of the world-renowned Guildford-centred Games Cluster.**

The LEP's investment in and expert support for showcasing the Guildford Games Festival on Steam, the gaming platform, resulted in an audience of more than 2 million this year and local games companies earning an extra £3m in sales.

**Part-funded by the LEP, the Aldershot Games Hub evolves out of the Guildford Games Cluster** to provide new space and facilities for games industry entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses and develop products.

## NET ZERO

By the end of 2022 **LEP investment in Low Carbon will have been at least £21m.**

The EM3 Clean Growth Pilot Programmes encourages local businesses to develop innovations in low carbon and decarbonising products. Results will help inform future public and private investment decisions. An excellent example is the powerQuad pilot in Hampshire, a renewable energy and battery storage product which is small and ideal for SMEs reducing carbon print.

**EV charging projects across Surrey and in Winchester have seen over £6million of LEP investment in sustainable, lower carbon transport.**

**The LEP's investment in an Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Training Centre at a local FE college, the first of its kind in the SE, reflects a strategic priority to support the skills supply for new and emerging industries.** This will train 800+ learners in 3 years.

## DIGITAL

By the end of 2022 **LEP investment in Digital Technologies will be at least £54m.**

The LEP has invested £4.5million in the Gigabit EM3 Town and Rural project, which will run a fibre spine from Basingstoke to Guildford, laying the foundations to switch on ultrafast broadband to businesses between these major towns and in adjacent rural areas. This would represent a step change in the economy's digital connectivity. Visionary investment in high-tech projects like this will allow high data-consuming businesses to expand in a wide variety of locations across the EM3 area.

## INVESTING IN INTERNATIONAL

The LEP has created or saved nearly 8 thousand jobs (7,868) by helping to pull in 253 foreign investments in partnership with DIT. **Local high performing business clusters** in both the games industry and animal med tech/food security have been **championed by the LEP for their outstanding investment prospects and are now being promoted to international investors by DIT.**

## International Women's Day - I like, I like, I wonder

### Contribution from Board Directors

- I like the fact that people's home life has become more real, understandable and natural.
- I like the fact that I know all my team's children, cats, dogs and even guinea pigs.
- I wonder whether people's view of women as stay at home mothers may set equality backwards.
  
- I like that I haven't had to travel, which has given me more time with my family and reduced my carbon footprint
- I like that the pandemic has raised awareness of mental health and increased attention on workplace wellbeing, and people care more genuinely about each other
- I wonder how we will carry the learnings from this time forward
  
- I like that my teams in Birmingham and London are closer and we've found a way to be integrated.
- I like that I don't need to stay in London 2 or 3 nights a week and home feels more like home during the week as well as the weekend.
- I wonder whether the economic downturn is going to have a deeper negative effect on those from hard to reach areas or lower income households and if we can minimise disparities.
  
- I like spending less time driving around the country, chasing my tail all day.
- I like having more time with family and friends, especially my boys, and getting to know colleagues less formally
- I wonder how easy it will be to retain the good things from the last year to create the change we need and minimise the impact on future generations.
  
- I like the fact we have all been able to reduce our carbon footprint by not having to commute on a regular basis.
- I like the fact it has become acceptable to concentrate on our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of our families and colleagues.
- I wonder whether saving our planet and looking after ourselves/families/colleagues will remain a priority in equal measure for men and woman when we return to the new normal.
  
- I like the fact that zoom/teams has improved diversity – when running conferences, events and round tables, we have noticed there is a 'levelling' from everyone being 'in a box' or an anonymous delegate, so I have had questions, input and comment from people who would normally have remained silent
- I like the fact that I meet my clients more often – weekly zooms and telephone calls replacing monthly meetings, with a consequential uplift in productivity and better communication.
- I wonder whether we can re-adjust to the 'new normal' and restore a work-life balance out of the current blurring between work and home life, which has had a particular negative impact on women.



# MILESTONE PLAN

Red = new milestones

	Capital programmes	Business Support Programmes	Strategy development	Operations	External factors / Government
Q2 (Jul – September 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Town Centres Fund <b>launched</b> and projects supported</li> <li>Getting Building Fund <b>launched</b> and first projects contracted</li> <li>Gigabit EM3: Town and Rural business case completed</li> <li>Clean Growth Programme pilot starts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaming HPO launch and announcements due on 'wave 2' HPO</li> <li>Launch of Guildford Games shared storefront on digital distribution platform, Steam.</li> <li>Crisis coaching (GH)</li> <li>Webinar delivery (GH)</li> <li>ERDF Kickstart Tourism launches</li> <li>ERDF Business support launches</li> <li>DIT HPO presentation for DSK event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision on Growth Hub next steps</li> <li>Decision on the Internationalisation project due from MHCLG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGM and Annual Report published</li> <li>NED recruitment commences</li> <li>New CEC contract</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positioning catalyst South with govt and ministerial roundtables</li> </ul>
Q3 (October – December 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGF programme fully contractually committed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer to Peer Networks launch</li> <li>Growth Hub 2021/22 implementation</li> <li>Preparation for EU transition (GH)</li> <li>World Space Week</li> <li>Immersive Technology – Geospatial cross-sector event.</li> <li>Launch of Guildford Games Festival 2020 November 13<sup>th</sup> &amp; 14<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Launch of Guildford. Games cluster website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovery and Renewal Action Plan</li> <li>CEC evaluation report finalised</li> <li>Heathrow/aviation work</li> <li>Focus on trade and enterprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment of staff</li> <li>JLB Scrutiny session</li> <li>Board Strategic Workshop</li> <li>New NED Board Member/New PMG Chair/New Nominations Committee Chair (as James Cretney and Mike Short will leave the Board)</li> <li>Enterprise M3 budget setting for 2022/22 (including consideration of property requirements)</li> <li>Fund management contract evaluation commences</li> <li>EZ Programme Steering Group restart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devolution and Recovery White Paper expected to be published (likely to include Recovery Plan template)/housing &amp; planning announcements</li> <li>CSR</li> <li>Government decarbonising public buildings scheme launched</li> <li>Positioning catalyst South with govt and ministerial roundtables</li> </ul>
Q4 (January 2021 – March 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital programme year end and accruals</li> <li>Potential launch of Clean Growth Programme (after pilot)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer to Peer programme Evaluation</li> <li>ERDF programme evaluation</li> <li><b>ESF programme evaluation started</b></li> <li>launch of new ESF calls</li> <li>Growth Hub 2021/22 implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Skills Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment for new Chair concludes</li> <li>Annual Performance Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget</li> <li>Levelling up fund</li> <li>UKSP</li> </ul>

## FEB-MAR KEY HIGHLIGHTS: REVIVE & RENEW

### Job creation & Skills for employment

- Supporting launch of **EM3 Apprenticeship and Skills Hub** during National Apprenticeship Week
- Discussions with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council about **National Centre for skills and talent for Sustainable Construction**
- Supporting **FCoT National Careers Week** event: 'Emerging Jobs post-pandemic'
- HSDC / Alton College **Gaming Curriculum** project delivering on schedule
- **CEC**: 100 schools in network (target - 115) and 73% schools in network matched with a business volunteer (target - 85%)

### Growth in the low carbon economy

Clean Growth Forum workshop on understanding 'Green Skills' requirements to support our work in growing the low carbon sectors

**Satellite and Clean Growth** cross-sector collaborative event, with a focus on common and transferable skills between the sectors

### New transport & Smart mobility – c19 safe; sustainable; delivering connectivity

- The development work on conductive **electric vehicle charging** has completed Phase 1 and report received. Now looking at ways to support Phase 2 project, with pilot trial that have been agreed with six hosts across the area
- Working with CCs to develop **future pipeline** of schemes to support smart mobility. Trying to ensure that relevant Mobility as a Service (**MaaS**) elements are being brought forward through the SCC capital project and investigating flexibilities to deliver in future years.

### Digitisation for business resilience, innovation and growth

**Gigabit EM3 Town & Rural**: business case being finalised. Options for funding being considered. Decision expected in May.

**E-Commerce Platform**: Initial output delivered and options presented for taking forward

### Convening people and organisations in shared projects

- **Space**: Event planned - combining satellite applications with marine/maritime. So far, through its workshops, the LEP has reached more than 400 businesses, generating engagement and traction – even internationally
- **EM3 Space Hub Landscape Report**: Final report due end March. Showcases EM3 space capabilities and opportunities. Addressing areas like access to talent, R&D, Business Support, Strategic Location, Enterprise Zones, it will also be a pitching document for future potential investors
- **Animal Health Cluster**: University of Surrey has recently received internal funding to formalise Surrey Animal Cluster which the LEP will hopefully be a core member of.

### Town Centres and Housing supply – reimagined and fit for the future

**Workspace pilot programme**: Finalising contracts and all 3 projects due to complete by May 2021. Developing the approach to evaluation of the pilot

### Supporting business-led innovation, entrepreneurship, high-tech

**Growth Hub**: A further 7 webinars held supporting businesses. These complement the UK Transition events (5 held in March)

#### Additional funding streams

**ERDF**: Kickstart Tourism & SME Grants call now closed, finalising claims, on track for full allocation.

**UK transition**: ringfenced supplier engaged. Additional money allocated to Delivery Partner and both Chambers of Commerce from cluster allocation for intense business support & webinars. Key stats on UK Transition support -

- 5356 outreach calls to date
- 162 referrals to Growth Hub & specialist advisors to date

**Peer to Peer** - will conclude with 7 cohorts and 121 coaching delivered by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 – final numbers to be advised then

### Support international trade and inward investment

- **Gaming HPO**: Video being produced - provisional filming date set as 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- **Animal Health HPO**: First draft complete. The LEP is currently working with partners to source five case studies to showcase.
- EM3 region saw only 1 successful investment in February 2021. All regions in the UK are seeing a decrease in FDI. However, there are still 45 active projects in the pipeline, but delays are expected.
- Liaising with Czech Embassy re Gaming and Space/Satellite. Both of these industries are growing fast in Czech Republic, and more and more companies are looking to grow and expand in the UK