

JOINT LEADERS BOARD

Enterprise M3 Joint Leaders Board

Notes of the meeting of the Joint Leaders Board held on 18th March, via Zoom.

Attendees:	
Cllr Rob Humby (Cllr Humby)	Hampshire County Council (<i>Chair</i>)
Cllr Keith Mans (KM)	Hampshire County Council
Stuart Jarvis (SJ)	Hampshire County Council
Kathy Slack (KS)	Enterprise M3
Stephen Martin (SM)	Enterprise M3
Rob Dunford (RD)	Enterprise M3
Dave Axam (DA)	Enterprise M3
Cllr Ken Rhatigan (KR)	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Russell O'Keefe (RO)	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Joss Bigmore (JB)	Guildford Borough Council
James Whiteman (JWh)	Guildford Borough Council
Daryl Phillips (DP)	Hart District Council
Paul Turrell (PT)	Runnymede Borough Council
Cllr Nick Prescott (NP)	Runnymede Borough Council
Cllr Ken Muschamp (KM)	Rushmoor Borough Council
Hannah Wyatt (HW)	Surrey County Council (<i>Minutes</i>)
Cllr Alan McClafferty (AMc)	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Damian Roberts (DR)	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
Cllr David Neighbour (DN)	Hart District Council
Daniel Mouawed (DM)	Spelthorne Borough Council
Richard Millard (RM)	East Hants District Council
Gill Kneller (GK)	East Hants District Council
John Coughlin (JC)	Hampshire County Council
Apologies:	
Paul Shackley (PS)	Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr David Clifford (DC)	Rushmoor Borough Council
Patricia Hughes (PH)	Hart District Council
Ayesha Azad (AA)	Woking Borough Council
Ray Morgan (RM)	Woking Borough Council
Cllr Stuart Selleck (SS)	Elmbridge Borough Council
Joanna Killian (JK)	Surrey County Council
Cllr Colin Kemp (CK)	Surrey County Council
Richard Millard (RM)	East Hants District Council
Rob Moran (RMO)	Elmbridge Borough Council
Cllr Julie Butler (JB)	East Hants District Council

1. Apologies & Minutes of the last JLB meeting – 21 January 2021 (Chair)

Cllr Humby welcomed the Board, apologies were announced, and the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 January 2021 were approved.

2. Reflections on Budget and National Funding Update – (Kathy Slack and Stephen Martin)

2.1 KS presented slides on the budget and the key announcements that had a major impact. Highlighted measures to extend furlough scheme until end of September, which alleviated previous concerns. Support for those self-employed has widened and extended until end of September – there is concern within BEIS on this group, particularly those one-person businesses. Government are keen for businesses to become more resilient – which is part of the aim behind Help to Grow scheme. KS flagged those hard-hit sectors, which will hopefully pick up over summer, such as hospitality, leisure, and visitor attractions.

2.2 There are measures to stimulate investment and praised Solent's successful freeport bid, which will have positive impact on surrounding areas. EM3 supported Freeport bid. Highlighted how we work with supply chains that will be working with companies on the freeport to make sure we maximise benefit.

2.3 Flagged the national living wage increase, the universal credit £20 increase extended by six months and the emphasis on apprenticeships and traineeships going forward, which EM3 is working closely on with colleges, LAs and businesses.

2.4 SM presented slides on the Levelling up Fund – the £4.8bn fund over next 4 years, with first round focusing on transport, regeneration and town centres, and culture and heritage (with projects aligning with Net Zero goals). Flagged issues from the approach government is taking such as speed; the deadline for first round is the 18th June, with those projects that demonstrate some delivery within coming financial year to be given priority.

2.5 The government has also placed areas into priority categories 1 (highest) -3 (lowest) and all of EM3 areas are in group 3, except for East Hampshire which is in category 2 (medium) therefore 'exceptional high quality' standard needed for us to be successful. Need to consider if there is advantage to going for earlier bid or waiting for later round, and whether individual or joint bids would best serve our area.

2.6 KM queried if an early bid failed whether this could be refined and then resubmitted to a later round. SM confirmed this wasn't explicit in information released so far – government has said LAs can expect to receive more detailed guidance. PN noted frustration with our priority rating all being in 2 and 3 and the hope this fund would aid us more than the Towns Fund. Confirmed Test Valley will be working on bid and would like to engage with LEP on this.

2.7 PN Queried what the LEP could do help the government look at our bids favourably. KS said LEP could support with strategic positioning but noted the LEP have capacity to only support so many bids – happy to engage but concerned government aims and areas set, and work could be in vain, particularly as less capital funding than in past. Both Surrey and Hampshire have a strong economy (particularly comparatively) and therefore are actually in a weak lobbying position for the Levelling Up Fund. Cllr Humby suggested the board look at prioritisation of bids together or potential joint bids.

2.8 KN queried if we could benchmark as a region so we have a sense check of what a high-quality bid is together. KS confirmed this would be useful to discuss this at the CEO meeting Monday, and the LEP could help review bids, capacity-allowing. KM thought LEP could help demonstrate how EM3 area has pockets of deprivation and do comparisons with the north, as there is perception that area as a whole is affluent – need to not follow arbitrary boundary lines. Suggested involving local MP from start for support. Regarding freeports KM felt proposals that could link to that development would be looked at more favourably and agreed work needed to understand the full benefit of development.

2.9 DN agreed with KS that we will struggle to be seen by government. Agreed with pooled approached and suggested looking at live transit studies for Blackwater Valley as something that could be forward-

looking and bring in Net Zero. Confirmed we need to look at sustainable scheme, and we could look at aerospace industry etc.

2.10 LT queried if the Gigabit Town and Rural project could be looked at for this fund. KS confirmed this could be a possibility and could meet achievements of government's criteria. DA highlighted that EM3 is working with other LEPs in Catalyst South to make strong, collective argument for the south, and need to focus on areas of success like digital, future mobility and sustainability, and continued business engagement.

ACTION: KS will take these actions/ suggestions regarding bids to Chief Exec meeting on 22/03/21.

3. Enterprise M3 update

Annual Performance Review

3.1 DA confirmed marking criteria is now just meet/not meet in 3 areas of scrutiny – delivery, governance, and strategy. The LEP pre-submitted information and before the review they had confirmation they had met the criteria. Not expecting these current measures to change.

Meeting with MP Spelthorne & BEIS Secretary of State, Kwasi Kwarteng

3.2 DA confirmed the LEP have regular (usually annual) meetings with MPs. Kwasi said LEPs had to evolve and that not all performing equally – DA challenged this thinking as most LEPs were now delivering well and encouraged him to speak with Mark Bretton who chairs the LEP Network. Kwasi discussed that he valued LEPs most in regard to business engagement and driving forward innovation, which gives strong direction of focus. Formal review process will go ahead, with formal terms of reference expected next week and to be led by a government Minister.

Evolving role of the LEP

3.3 There was a recent board workshop seeking views on the evolving role of the LEP and how to help prosperity of area and offer best support to region. LT felt LEP was critical in bringing businesses and LAs together and provides invaluable support and insight. Cllr Humby highlighted the Digital Fibre Spine, which cuts across D&Bs and both counties, and how the LEP can take leading role and look at business opportunities.

3.4 DN cautioned about the upcoming LEP reviews and how they need to look at emerging best practice and how to build on successes, instead of focusing on those with failures. KS noted strength of the Board and being in a good position but there are currently 38 LEPs and following the review it might mean less, and unsure what will be said on geography.

Supporting business to Revive and Renew

3.5 RB updated the LEP had supported 205 businesses over the past year. They received almost 32,000 unique website visitors and hosted 18 webinars to 314 attendees, as well as hosting an EM3 live event to 120 attendees. The LEP newsletter also has 1259 active recipients each month. The service will be moved in house April 2021 and will allow for more flexibility with support offered. The peer to peer programme run on behalf of government has received good feedback – it received 139 applications, of which 71 were eligible for cohort (54 of those should complete it).

3.6 EM3 patch includes 115 schools (now including SEND), and EM3 Careers team are working with 95 of these – full coverage needed to be achieved by this time next year. 132 businesses have engaged this year as either an enterprise advisor or in another voluntary capacity. Noted 25 successes in foreign direct investment which has created 680 jobs in the region. There is a higher average of jobs for each success this year. Highlighted those investment successes in low carbon and clean growth, game sector, aerospace and automotive.

3.7 The EM3 Space Hub includes over 185 organisations and the consortium aims to boast the sector and generate cross-sector opportunities and stimulate foreign interest. Of 3 recent events over 500 businesses have attended, both national and international. These events have led to direct enquiries to the LEP. For the Animal Health Cluster, the High Potential Opportunity (HPO) is being drafted and should

be finalised by the end of Spring 2021. We have over 190 organisations active in this sector and LEP working hard to make contact with all of these.

3.8 Also highlighted strength in game sector with 110 game development studios (68 actively involved in cluster and growing). Currently 128 positions open in this sector in and around Guildford. Noted Sam Reed in RD's team has been nominated for the '30 under 30' list in the games industry magazine MCV for his work in these clusters. Guildford Games also had 2 million viewers worldwide and 2 Guildford games were in global top 10 sales following it. Calculated £2.8m was generated in additional revenue during the week of this festival.

3.9 Discussed low carbon sector and LEP engaged in understanding it in more depth and specialisms such as alternative fuels. Noted the clean Growth Forum which is growing and involves SSE, Southern Gas, Siemens, and Daikin. Touched on Smart Mobility and LEP Transport and Action Group which has been reformed and refocused to be the Mobility and Transport Action Group – in recognition of capital programme responsibilities reduction so focusing on leadership and industry knowledge. KS noted to bring back at future meeting Smart Mobility piece and Daniel Ruiz to join when this happens.

3.10 DA added the new bespoke games development studio at Alton College and Basingstoke College which will fill employment gaps and allow young people to move into this industry, as well as older people to reskill and join the sector. The LEP has been working with FE and HE organisations to work on this. Discussed how LEP work in sectors has positive impact on levels of enquiries and investment

ACTION – RD to share slides from his presentation.

4. EM3 Board Council Representation & Nominations

Cllr Humby thanked Cllr Clifford for his time on the LEP Board. He is standing down at the end of this municipal year and noted the vacancy available for a Hampshire Leader to join EM3 Board. To call for nominations following elections, and these to be made by the 27th May.

DN queried the equalities agenda and board aim to have 50% gender representation by 2023. Noted his interest but is supportive of equality and diversity aims and happy to stand back if it means more equality for board. KS confirmed it is currently 45%, so this is being considered, along with other factors.

5. Closing remarks

Cllr Mans confirmed the next meeting would be virtual but queried support for physical meeting in future, and whether 50% virtual/ 50% physical going forward. Agreed July meeting face to face could be helpful as new Chair would be in at that time. Would have to consider room size with possible social distancing etc. and agreed to review this nearer the time.

Dates of future meetings:

20-May-21	virtual
22-July-21	TBC – f2f?
23-Sept-21	TBC
18-Nov-21	TBC
20-Jan-22	TBC
24-March-22	TBC