

## JOINT LEADERS BOARD

### Enterprise M3 Joint Leaders Board

Notes of the meeting of the Joint Leaders Board held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, via Zoom.

<b>Attendees:</b>	
Cllr Joss Bigmore (JB)	Guildford Borough Council ( <i>Chair</i> )
Kathy Slack (KS)	Enterprise M3
Stephen Martin (SM)	Enterprise M3
Michael Queen (MQ)	Enterprise M3
Cllr Keith Mans (KM)	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Ken Rhatigan (KR)	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Russell O'Keefe (RO)	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Jan Harwood (JH)	Guildford Borough Council
Chris Burchell (subbing JWh)	Guildford Borough Council
Cllr Chris Sadler (CS)	Elmbridge Borough Council
Cllr Ken Muschamp (KM)	Rushmoor Borough Council
Tim Mills (subbing for Paul Shackley)	Rushmoor Borough Council ( <i>Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Planning</i> )
Cllr Paul Taylor (PT)- subbing for Cllr David Clifford	Rushmoor Borough Council ( <i>Corporate Services portfolio holder</i> )
Hannah Wyatt (HW)	Surrey County Council ( <i>Minutes</i> )
Damian Roberts (DR)	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Cllr Alan McClafferty (AMc)	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Cllr Phil North (PN)	Test Valley Borough Council
Andy Ferrier (AF)	Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr Paul Follows (PF)	Waverley Borough Council
Tom Horwood (TH)	Waverley Borough Council
Cllr Lucille Thompson (LT)	Winchester City Council
Laura Taylor (LT)	Winchester City Council
Cllr Dave Neighbour (DN)	Hart District Council
Patricia Hughes (PH)	Hart District Council
Heather Morgan (HM) – subbing for Daniel Mouawed	Spelthorne Borough Council ( <i>Group Head of Regeneration &amp; Growth</i> )
Cllr Lawrence Nichols LN)	Spelthorne Borough Council
Ayesha Azad (AA)	Woking Borough Council
Cllr Nick Prescott (NP)	Runnymede Borough Council
Paul Turrell (PT)	Runnymede Borough Council
Gill Kneller (GK)	East Hants District Council
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Cllr Rob Humby (Cllr Humby)	Hampshire County Council ( <i>Chair</i> )
Stuart Jarvis (SJ)	Hampshire County Council
Paul Shackley (PS)	Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr David Clifford (DC)	Rushmoor Borough Council
James Whiteman (JWh)	Guildford Borough Council
Daniel Mouawed (DM)	Spelthorne Borough Council
Julie Fisher (JF)	Woking Borough Council
Daryl Phillips (DP)	Hart District Council
Richard Millard (RM)	East Hants District Council
Cllr Julie Butler (JB)	East Hants District Council
Rob Moran (RMO)	Elmbridge Borough Council

### **1. Apologies and Introductions, and Minutes of the last JLB meeting (20 July) –**

Cllr Bigmore welcomed the board and explained he was chairing on behalf of Cllr Humby who had to give apologies for this session. Cllr Bigmore highlighted that this meeting was the first JLB with Michael Queen as Chair of the LEP. Apologies were announced, and the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 July 2021 were approved.

### **2. Nominations to EM3 Board Hants and Surrey representatives**

LT explained since the last JLB there had been a nomination from Cllr North for the Hampshire District representative position, and a nomination from Cllr Prescott for the Surrey District representative position. The Board agreed to these two nominations and therefore it is now for the EM3 Board to approve at their next meeting date. JLB also noted the nomination of Cllr Oliver as the Surrey County Council representative to the EM3 Board, again for their sign off.

### **3. EM3 LEP Scrutiny meeting – Election of Chair & Items**

3.1 Cllr Bigmore explained a new Chair needs nominating for the November Scrutiny meeting - Cllr North has chaired for the two previous years but as the LEP Hampshire District rep now a new Chair needs to be elected. LT highlighted that the last scrutiny meeting focused on the impact of the pandemic, digital connectivity, green energy, and in its conclusion asked the LEP to continue to support businesses with Covid-recovery and the EU exit.

3.3 Cllr Bigmore advised that KS and LT are happy to liaise with the Chair ahead of the meeting to discuss in more detail and answer any queries. Also noted the chairing role is agreed for each scrutiny year, so does not go beyond one year unless agreed. Cllr Neighbour confirmed he was happy to do, and the board was in agreement. The board discussed having recovery, the green economy, EU exit support, and support to businesses helping those most in need in our areas on the scrutiny agenda.

### **4. EM3 Update:**

#### **Update on the Future role of LEPs and Levelling Up**

4.1 MQ explained he had been travelling round the LEP area having conversations and introductions to key stakeholders to build relationships and understand their views. MQ had found the common theme of these meetings were the potential in our two counties, as well as the EM3 having a nationally recognised reputation as a strong and high performing LEP, with strong leadership.

4.2 Noted clarity on the LEP review not expected until after the Comprehensive Spending Review on 27<sup>th</sup> October, and that this uncertainty creates risk. The LEP has engaged relevant Ministers where possible and stakeholders to explain the LEP's role, and the future potential and impact, particularly in terms of levelling up, net zero and economic growth. Some conversations speculated absorbing LEPs into counties direct whereas others have considered future role of LEPs to deliver more strategically and drive forward local growth plans.

4.3 Noted the recent Cabinet reshuffle gives prominent position to the Rt Hon Michael Gove as the new SoS for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (as well as Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng who remains the SoS for BEIS). Messaging to them from the EM3 is about the LEP's role in key government agendas: collaboration, making things happen, and attracting inward investment.

4.5 KS confirmed the uncertainty does create concern with funding and for staff. Fortunately, EM3 have reserves and are well prepared, particularly in comparison with some other LEPs. Cllr Bigmore spoke on the board members all having a role to support the LEP as it awaits further clarity. KS confirmed they are working closely with Hampshire and Surrey's other LEPs to make sure alignment and that the LEP's areas of focus are intelligence, innovation, business support, working with LAs and universities, sector work, trade, and inward investment.

4.6 KS confirmed EM3, as well as C2C and Solent, are keen to work in partnership on County Deals as it should be the way the LEP secures resources and focus into this area. The LEP have pulled together key areas they feel the county deal should focus on:

- Making the areas of Hampshire and Surrey an outstanding destination for high-growth business focused on innovation and creating high-value jobs
- Being a trail blazer on the journey to being Net Zero - developing low carbon innovations that will benefit the UK and the world.

4.7 As part making area an outstanding destination KS clarified they would want county deals to build on work of the Fibre Spine between Guildford and Basingstoke, and the opportunity this digital connectivity brings to the area. The LEP also want to work in partnership on developing a comprehensive and competitive inward investment sector type offer, as well as work around property and commercial buildings, and being innovative with our town centres. Lastly, the LEP feels there is an opportunity to bring together something for a venture fund.

4.8 KS discussed LEP ideas to focus on net zero and targeting low-carbon businesses (10% of the companies working in this sector are within the LEP area) and focusing on their innovation and research. Regarding green skills the LEP are pushing these, and it plays into the levelling up agenda by reaching out to those communities and workforce, and the large scale creation of jobs in this area. Highlighted that we also need to look at how we decarbonise mobility with a multi-agency strategy.

4.9 PF highlighted strength that the LEP is seen as apolitical; it is effective and fair, with their own independence. PN noted county deals are key part of government's levelling up agenda and as such his council have been engaging - though flagged concerns on timings, governance, and unintended consequences (such as independence on decisions and powers, not to mention the effect on LEPs). PN asked what the JLB members can do to help make case for LEPs to co-exist alongside county deals.

4.10 KS confirmed supportive and think county deals important but doesn't mean everything needs to be subsumed by one organisation or local authority – partnership and linking up are important, and the work doesn't need to sit in another organisation. KS updated on current comms programme highlighting their work, particularly to local MPs and Ministers, and if the JLB members could aid this by utilising any connections they have, particularly with Gove and Kwasi Kwarteng, to promote their work.

**ACTION: KS to circulate some of this key comms material and info to the JLB to help promote their work.**

4.11 KS mentioned work around capital programme and looking at income generation (particularly if the government decide to reduce funding) and how to use future funding – the LEP has some of the growth fund coming back in loans and they would like to match funding against vision going forward and aim at funding gaps and not replicate activity happening elsewhere.

### **Business & Performance Update**

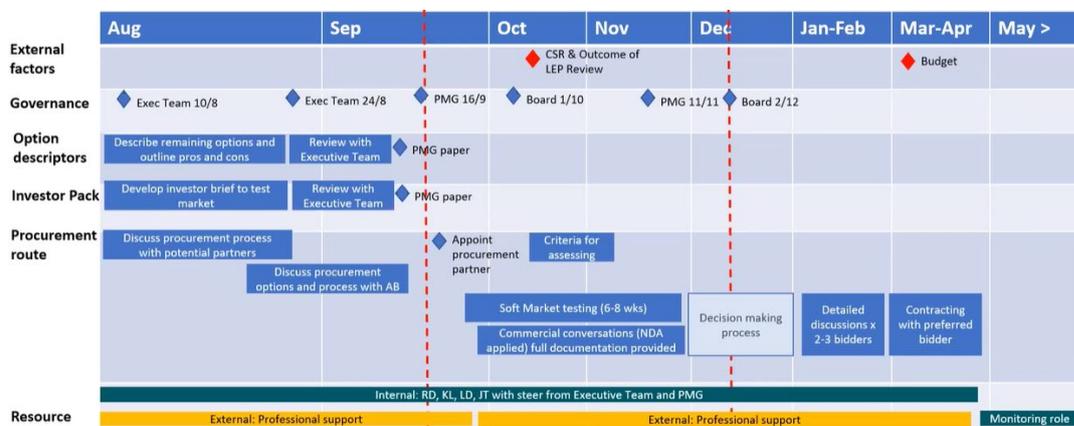
4.12 Starting with Growth Hub (which was brought in-house from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021) RD updated on the positive impact of this and highlighted aim to give up to 220 businesses intensive support (currently up to 85/86). Have received almost 5500 live business contacts on CRM as well, which means good coverage and strengthening of the brand – though 90,000 businesses in EM3 so more to reach. RD highlighted Super Connect planned in March which is a tech-focused networking event for SMEs and start-ups, and the LEP hosting in partnership with Basingstoke and Deane.

4.13 The net zero support service launched this year, and this has been popular with over 50 businesses actively engaged. RD flagged a female business leaders development programme's popularity, and the hub are therefore planning another one due to high engagement and interest. The Space Cluster continues to grow in strength, and they are currently awaiting response to a £80k bid to the UK Space Agency for further development funding – response in next couple weeks and expecting at least part of this money.

4.14 RD also discussed the High Potential Opportunity for Animal Health launched on 15<sup>th</sup> September which promotes the region and what we have to offer the international community - covering cluster network and specialisms, labour and skills supply, business support and transport connectivity etc. This

was posted to 177 countries and added to DIT Asset Library for them to access so looking forward to new investment enquiries from this piece.

4.15 Noted Guildford Games Festival 2021 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> December and updates can be followed via @GUGamesFest. One of the sponsors is local company Media Molecule which demonstrates public sector injecting money to create momentum that then brings in investment from the private sector. Looking forward to this cluster becoming self-sustaining over the next 12 months. RD also highlighted timescales for Fibre Spine as below and aim to have completed procurement process by March 2022 and to have contracted with preferred bidder by that time.



## 5 Future meetings

This was discussed and Cllr Bigmore and the board agreed to predominantly virtual meetings, with perhaps an annual face to face meeting. To keep the November and January meetings virtual and then review in the new year. Cllr Bigmore closed the meeting and thanked the attendees for their time.

### Dates of future meetings:

18-Nov-21	virtual
20-Jan-22	virtual
24-March-22	TBC