

**Enterprise M3 Board Meeting**

**4 August 2022**

**Managing Directors' Report – Item 5**

**1. LEP News**

- 1.1. The team received very positive feedback from CLGU to say thank you for all the work put into the monthly business intelligence reports. The report is summarised in a report to ministers each month, and others in the government team use the intelligence for other commissions. The feedback highlighted the EM3 report as “consistently one of the most informative out of all the LEP intelligence received.”
- 1.2. We are delighted to announce we have successfully appointed a new member of our senior team, a Head of Enterprise and Innovation, who will take forward development of our multi-site enterprise zone and leadership of our innovation, specialist sectors and inward investment activities. This role will play a major part in the delivery of our Low Carbon High Growth vision. We expect our new colleague will join in the Autumn and will be introduced to the Board at the earliest opportunity.

**2. Growth Hub Activity**

- 2.1. There is a lot of activity currently being undertaken by the Growth Hub team:
  - Working with the Manufacturing Growth Service to design and deliver 2 manufacturing peer learning groups to be launched in the autumn;
  - Being hosted by a leading Guildford law firm to pilot our first 3-hour programme on digital marketing to explore the one-to-many model;
  - Delivering a lunch and learn event in Bordon for businesses based at BASE Bordon in partnership with Finance South East;
  - Engaging expert marketing capacity to engage high potential, knowledge intensive businesses as Growth Hub clients; and,
  - One of our Champions attended the EM3 partnership visit to Surrey Heartlands Health Tech Accelerator which showcased 2 case studies from Growth Hub clients.
- 2.2. EM3 facilitate and manage the South Central Cluster of Growth Hubs including Coast to Capital, Berkshire and Solent Growth Hubs. A key focus is working with the cluster to identify areas for potential collaborative activity including telemarketing/lead generation, developing and sharing marketing collateral and content, and cluster wide sharing of database and information platforms. A workshop to discuss the next steps is currently being organised.
- 2.3. We continue to support the Help 2 Grow programme through cluster activity. The Business Schools delivering in the cluster area have been invited to the next monthly Help to Grow working group to discuss business engagement and take up of the programme.
- 2.4. BEIS has revised the Growth Hub monitoring and evaluation framework which now includes the collection of protected characteristic data from clients. This includes ethnicity, age, gender and disability.

**3. Trade and Investment**

- 3.1. EM3 LEP was recently the only LEP invited to a roundtable at the Australian High Commission to discuss the UK/Australia Space Bridge, an international collaboration of respective space/satellite industries. EM3 has been asked to host a skills for space forum in the Autumn as a follow up.

**4. Skills**

- 4.1. £55k funding has been confirmed for the final year of the Department for Education's Skills Advisory Panel programme. This funding will be used to 1) produce and publish an analysis of skills needs and the LEP's local labour market and 2) work collaboratively with partners in the development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) for the EM3 + East Surrey area (once designated).

- 4.2. £2.7m funding has been confirmed from the Department for Education's Strategic Development Fund, enabling FE providers to meet the needs of employers. This funding will mean that individuals and businesses across EM3 + East Surrey will benefit through supporting growth in decarbonisation (making the best use of natural resources/assets); products and services will succeed through trained sales professionals and the economy will enjoy high growth through adoption of new, innovative technologies. EM3 will be project managing.
- 4.3. Catalyst South LEPs have been invited to help create the first regional Digital Skills Partnership, building on the work of South East LEP. With funding from Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport, this Partnership will help tackle digital skills challenges and build thriving and inclusive regional economies with access to and input from large corporates such as Amazon, Google and Microsoft. This links to one of the big ambitions from the LEP's Skills Action Plan.

## **5. Careers and Enterprise**

- 5.1. We have just signed our grant funding agreement with the Careers and Enterprise Company for the 2022/23 academic year. This confirms that we will be launching a Careers Hub in the autumn, which will provide additional resources to enable us to take our Careers and Enterprise service to the next level.

## **6. Latest evidence on the economy and labour market**

- 6.1. The latest economy and labour market dashboard, which is circulated along with other papers for the Board meeting, demonstrates that inflation continues to increase at 9.1% for May 2022, while economic growth slows. The Enterprise M3 labour market continues to demonstrate positive outcomes in the face of these wider economic factors, with low unemployment (2.1% in May 2022) and employee numbers increasing and employers continue to seek new recruits in what is a very tight labour market. Analysis of the economic impact of the pandemic period has indicated the resilience of the EM3 area compared to other LEPs in the South Central geography. Recently published data highlights that the EM3 area remains strong as the third most productive economy in England as expressed in terms of GVA for 2020.

## **7. European Funds**

- 7.1. We hosted a successful ESIF Practitioner Forum on 21 July with presentations from all ESF/ERDF projects, sharing their progress to date and the participation of EDOs from our area sharing their initial draft plans for UKSPF. They have already submitted draft plans but are all seeking to retain flexibility in the implementation. Big gaps that we can see already are in large-scale business support projects and knowledge-based co-operations. District councils are looking at using their average £1m UKSPF allocation in town centre regeneration, some sector support, community led initiatives, arts and culture or the well-being agenda. The skills agenda will be shaped further down the line in year 3.

## **8. Enterprise Zones**

### ***Basing View***

- 8.1. A number of changes to building ownership and occupation have taken place in recent months; Deskldodge at Belvedere House is closing. The space currently operated on the ground floor will be subsumed back into BizSpace operations. The LEP will retain its office on the ground floor, but the flexible meeting and hot desk areas on the ground floor will no longer be available in its current form. The Viewpoint building (Plot U of the Basing View Enterprise Zone area) has been bought by developers Packaged Living and Buccleuch Property who wish to redevelop it as a Build to Rent scheme. It will be interesting to see how the scheme progresses as this plot is within the EZ area and subject to an Article 4 planning policy which prioritises employment use on the site.

### ***Longcross Park***

- 8.2. No updates for the site.

### ***Whitehill and Bordon***

- 8.3. The sale of the Tech Forest site at Whitehill and Bordon has been completed with the new owners Chancerygate. This is a national commercial developer with a focus on light industrial and logistics use. Details of a proposed scheme for the site have yet to come forward.

## **9. Communications & Stakeholder Engagement**

- 9.1. Communications activities are focusing on key events such as the Farnborough International Airshow; delivery of the EM3 Low Carbon; High Growth Vision; and demonstrating the impact of the LEP in the run up to submitting a business case to Government in late November. We have stepped up our social media campaign to promote our Growth Hub services.
- 9.2. We have carried out website “housekeeping and hygiene” repairing broken links and updating pages.

## **10. Infrastructure, Transport and Place**

- 10.1. The final Future Workspace Pilot Programme Evaluation Report has been received by the LEP and a copy circulated to all Board Members. It has also been shared with local authority economic development officers and a range of other stakeholders. The key conclusion was that the pilot projects showed that the LEP has an important role as an enabler and catalyst for action. Apart from providing funding, the LEP can also use its convening power to “nudge” investment by others. At a simple level we can nurture projects by providing ongoing support to the pilot projects and similar centres in the LEP area by using them. The market for co-working space is growing and we can also use our experience to share best practice and offer advice about opportunities. We can also use the pilot projects as stepping stones to further success in each location and develop additional co-working projects, innovation centres and facilitate further networking between businesses. We are considering further projects as part of our Future Funding programme, focusing on innovation and where we can add value to commercial funding as well as lever in additional investment from the private sector.
- 10.2. The LEP has been invited to sit on the Network Rail Stakeholder Challenge Panel for Control Period 7. The Panel provides independent challenge to Network Rail Southern region for their Strategic Business Plan which will determine operations, maintenance, and renewals funding from 2024 to 2029. We will ensure that Network Rail understands our priorities and ensure their Plan is aligned to the needs of business.

## **11. Organisational Issues/ Staffing Changes**

- 11.1. Kathy Slack has now retired as Enterprise M3 Chief Executive with the Joint Managing Director positions now becoming embedded in the structure.
- 11.2. Tracey Tatam, Senior Enterprise Coordinator and Anstey Brierley, Enterprise Coordinator in the Careers Enterprise team are leaving Enterprise M3 LEP at the end of the summer, both have contributed a huge amount during their time at EM3. Where we currently have vacant Enterprise Coordinator posts and are planning to recruit to these as quickly as possible. The management role to take forward the Careers Hub will be confirmed as part of the organisational review, however in the short-term it is the intention to appoint someone internally on a temporary basis.
- 11.3. Ryan Sutton, Communications and Engagement Manager, will be leaving the LEP in early September. Ryan has been a great asset to the team and will be missed. The position going forward will be confirmed as part of the organisational review.

Stephen Martin/Sue Littlemore  
EM3 Joint Managing Directors  
27 July 2022