

**Enterprise M3 Board Meeting**  
**Thursday 8 June 2023**  
**Annual Report & Conference – Item 10**

The Board is asked to:

- **NOTE** the key theme for the Annual Conference and Report
- **NOTE** the design/tone of the initial pages produced for the Annual Report and the involvement of Board members in its development
- **NOTE** proposals for the Annual Conference

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. In any year the publication of our Annual Report and our Annual Conference are among the most important events of the LEP's calendar. They represent an important opportunity to highlight the year's achievements, and to celebrate the breadth and depth of our successes to Government, partners, stakeholders and our own team.
- 1.2. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have confirmed that they continue to expect LEPs to produce an Annual Report on last year's activity. They do not provide a detailed steer in terms of content.
- 1.3. This year's report and conference has particular significance as we wait for further news on the future of LEP Government funding and arrangements for the future of economic development services beyond March 2024.

**2. Annual Report and Conference - Key Messages**

- 2.1. The theme of this year's report and conference is promoting EM3 as an 'Innovation Region'. We want to highlight the research, innovation capabilities and potential of the region; mark the achievements of our high growth businesses; and celebrate our partners and stakeholders who have a powerful role in a diverse and strong ecosystem that is "EM3, the Innovation Region".
- 2.2. The theme of the Annual Report will be evidenced with statistics, case studies and testimonials:
  - **A strong and highly skilled economy** – highlighting the highly skilled and knowledge intensive nature of the EM3 economy.
  - **Driving innovation in our high potential sectors** – including Jet Zero, space/satellite, gaming and animal health.
  - **Supporting business growth** – showcasing the impact of the Growth Hub
  - **Promoting green innovation** – highlighting examples of green innovation that has happened as a result of EM3 Escalator Fund.
  - **Growing talent and skills** – sharing the excellent work of our Careers Hub, Apprenticeship Hub, Skills Advisory Panel and the green skills SDF, project with our FE Colleges.
  - **Growing places** – highlighting the EZ3 Enterprise Zone, our work on the rural economy and site launches, e.g. Base Innovation Centre.

### **3. Arrangements for Approval of the Annual Report**

- 3.1. In previous years, Board members agreed Linda Cheung and Deborah Allen would provide Board level oversight of the production of the Annual Report. With sincere thanks to Linda and Deborah who agreed to an encore this year. Both have already provided valuable feedback on a first draft of annual report pages, as designed by our external marketing agency, Carswell Gould. Recommended changes have been implemented and their feedback provides us with a useful steer for producing the whole report.
- 3.2. As our Senior Communications Lead, Katherine Garrett has the day-to-day editorial responsibility for the tone, design and detail of the content.
- 3.3. Joint Managing Director, Sue Littlemore, is responsible for final approval of the 22/23 Annual Report, and ensuring it is in line with the Board's overview.

### **4. Annual Business Conference**

- 4.1. The title for this year's EM3 Annual Business Conference is "Celebrating our Innovation Region". The event is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 3 October 2023 at Village Hotel, Farnborough. A 'save the date' message has been shared with stakeholders and we will begin the formal invitation and registration process in the next few weeks with the aim of attracting 150 attendees.
- 4.2. In line with our theme, the Conference agenda includes a panel made up of business leaders from our key and high potential/emerging sectors:
  - Chair: Ross McNally, Executive Chair of Hampshire Chamber of Commerce & EM3 Board Member
  - Ayantikra Mitra, Business Strategy Director, TISICS Metal Composites
  - Simon Robinson, Founder and owner, Hattingley Valley Wines
  - Kam Pooni, CEO, Glyconics Ltd
  - Zoe Bowden, Head of Procurement, Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd
- 4.3. The confirmed guest speaker is Bernard Donoghue OBE, Director of the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) who will talk about why a region's offer in terms of culture, heritage and the arts is critical to its strengths in innovation, entrepreneurialism and economic growth.
- 4.4. Our Annual Conference has always played an important role in the LEP's accountability to the public. As in previous years, our audience will have the opportunity to put questions about the LEP's work to a panel of Board members. I am delighted that Barney Ely has agreed to chair this section of our event.
- 4.5. In advance, I would like to express my thanks to Barney Ely, Ross McNally and all Board members for the time they set aside and the support they give to make our Annual Conference a great success.

Sue Littlemore  
Joint Managing Director  
30 May 2023