

enterprise **M3**
JOINT LEADERS BOARD

Enterprise M3 Joint Leaders Board

Notes of the meeting of the Joint Leaders Board held on 22 February 2023, via Teams.

Attendees:	
Cllr Rob Humby	Chair, Hampshire County Council
Jackie Waldron	Hampshire County Council - Minutes
Cllr Simon Bound	Leader, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Cllr Natalie Bramhall	Cabinet Member for Property & Waste
Cllr Phil North	Leader, Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr Martin Tod	Leader, Winchester City Council
Russell O'Keefe	CEO, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Adam Chalmers	CEO, Elmbridge Borough Council
Tom Horwood	CEO, Guildford & Waverley Borough Councils
Daniel Mouawad	CEO, Spelthorne Borough Council
Laura Taylor	CEO, Winchester City Council
Michael Queen	Chair, Enterprise M3
Stephen Martin	Enterprise M3, Joint Managing Director
Sue Littlemore	Enterprise M3, Joint Managing Director
Michael Coughlin	Surrey County Council
Jennie Pell	Test Valley Borough Council
Lee McQuade	Rushmoor Borough Council
Clare Chester	East Hants District Council
Rachel Raynaud	Runnymede Borough Council
Daniel Hawes	Hart District Council
Apologies:	
Cllr Richard Millard	Leader, East Hants District Council
Cllr Julia McShane	Leader, Guildford Borough Council
Cllr David Neighbour	Leader, Hart District Council
Cllr Tom Gracey	Leader, Runnymede Borough Council
Cllr David Clifford	Leader, Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr Chris Sadler	Leader, Elmbridge Borough Council
Cllr John Boughtflower	Leader, Spelthorne Borough Council
Cllr Anne-Marie Barker	Leader, Woking Borough Council
Cllr Alan McClafferty	Leader, Surrey Heath Borough Council
Cllr Paul Follows	Leader, Waverley Borough Council
Joanna Killian	CEO, Surrey County Council
Damian Roberts	CEO, Surrey Heath Borough Council
Gill Kneller	CEO, East Hants District Council
Carolyn Williamson	CEO, Hampshire County Council
Daryl Phillips	CEO, Hart District Council, Joint
Paul Turrell	CEO, Runnymede Borough Council
Paul Shackley	CEO, Rushmoor Borough Council
Andy Ferrier	CEO, Test Valley Borough Council
Julie Fisher	CEO, Woking Borough Council

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the last JLB meeting and Annual Scrutiny Meeting – 30 November 2022

JLB: No comments were noted, and minutes approved.

Scrutiny: No comments were noted, and minutes to be submitted for approval November 2023 Scrutiny meeting

3. EM3 Update

Michael Queen updated the Board and stated that he had received clarity on core funding from Central Government of £250,000 but was still waiting on the growth hub funding. In his view this was a positive outcome and the delivery plan can be delivered. The LEP is in a strong financial position with reserves and with an ambitious plan for next 12-18 months. Over the last 6-9 months the LEP took the opportunity to restructure and strengthen some of the roles which has made the LEP more effective enabling them to deliver at a higher level. They continue to liaise closely with district, boroughs and two county councils as discussions continue around county deals, the offer of support still remains.

Key items to note, fibre spine is progressing well. The LEP is expanding and building on the career's hub and supporting Surrey Chamber around the Local Skills Improvement Plan. There is a continued high level of activity and delivery. Although the future of the LEP will be according to the white paper the team are very much focussed on delivery.

Regarding the question asked at the Scrutiny Panel regarding the debt loss for the EM3 Funding Escalator, it was reported that FSE has, on behalf of the Funding Escalator, invested £12.63M into 103 innovative local businesses since 2012. This has taken the form of a mix of loans and equity investments. When the contract was set up there was allowance for provisions of up to 10% of total monies lent. Debt provisions as at the end of December were £584k which is a total of 6.1% of total monies lent and significantly lower than the allowance agreed.

Michael Queen has contacted all MPs asking what their concerns are but letting them know that they need to be more outspoken in standing up for Hampshire and Surrey. He feels that we are not getting the vocal support on the benefits we have in these counties. The MPs see a lot of things being done as very relevant. We are fortunate to have a number of Cabinet Ministers in our region. Michael has spent a lot of time with Jeremy Hunt discussing issues in his constituency particularly fibre spine. He will be meeting Michael Gove soon and he will promote the existence of the LEPs. Local issues are coming across but putting the ask in for all of them to speak more vocally about the needs of Hampshire and Surrey. One of the new investment zones is likely to be in the southeast so need to come up with a strong proposition. Whole area of space and satellite touches a lot of areas in our region.

Rob Humby commented that he has been putting questions to the MPs for them to ask in the house and they have started to do this. Act as one voice and then we will become very powerful. Michael Queen commented that he is a great believer that people find it difficult to absorb large documents, so has a one pager that has

everything that they are doing to support Hampshire and Surrey, which he has shared with the MPs.

Michael updated the group on the activities that the LEP is involved in, with questions answered on skills and rural economy.

4. Economy and labour market dashboard

Sue Littlemore gave an update on the economy and labour market dashboard. There is a slight up movement on business activity. Inflation has probably peaked but it is still high but coming down gradually although the Office for Budget Responsibility is forecasting a difficult year ahead. There will be a sharp increase in energy bills from April and a growing trend is being seen where businesses are slimming down their premises to help with energy costs. There are no unemployment issues in this area with self-employment continuing to fall, and people are moving into paid employment. PAYE employment has a strong quarterly growth and a faster growth in November than a year ago. The EM3 area is now falling behind in self-employment rates compared to the national average.

Rob Humby commented that energy rises is a good one to raise with our MPs. He thanked Sue for presentation.

5. EM3 Delivery Plan for 2023/24

Stephen Martin commented that every year a delivery plan is produced and now was a good time to share with JLB. Important to say that the plan is done with a lot of discussion and listening and collaborating with our partners. The delivery plan is ambitious, focussed and built around six areas of focus, each with key deliverables. Strategic economic planning has three key deliverables, gathering economic evidence, rural economy, and local labour market analysis. Support for business has three key deliverables, growth hub, net zero business support, funding escalator. Nurturing high potential sectors and clusters has one deliverable, developing existing sector/cluster initiatives and will add at least one additional sector/cluster in 2023/24. Inward investment and international trade, has 2 key deliverables, new Enterprise Zone implementation plan and working with DBT and developing a multi-partner inward investment service. Public and private sector investment, 3 deliverables, future fund, gigabit EM3 project, venture capital ecosystem. Employer perspective of skills, 2 deliverables, careers hub, employer-led skills provision.

6. JLB meeting schedule for 2023

Rob Humby indicated the need to discuss the frequency of these meetings with the proposal that meetings are held in person once a year in person but to keep the rest of the meetings as Teams. Members of JLB were generally in support of the proposal to hold the June meeting in person, and hold a meeting in November and February.

Proposals for the June meeting would be welcomed.

Future Meetings

June 2023	TBC
November 2023 Scrutiny meeting	MST
February/March 2024	MST