



WORCESTERSHIRE LEP BOARD MEETING

Friday 29th July 2022
15:00 – 16:30

County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP / Virtual via Teams

PRESENT:

Mark Stansfeld	(MS)	Non-Executive Chair
Gary Woodman	(GW)	Chief Executive, Worcestershire LEP
Cllr Simon Geraghty	(SiG)	Leader of WCC and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cllr Marc Bayliss	(MB)	Leader Worcester City Council (Representing Southern DCs)
Jennifer Long	(JL)	Director, Ice Blue Marketing and Design
Julie Snell	(JS)	Non-Executive Director of Hereford & Worcestershire Health & Care Trust
Cllr Karen May	(KM)	Leader of Bromsgrove District Council (Representing Northern DCs)
Stuart Laverick	(SL)	Principal & Chief Executive, Heart of Worcestershire College

IN ATTENDANCE:

Luke Willetts	(LW)	Deputy CEO, Worcestershire LEP
Ian Smith	(IS)	Assistant Director West Midlands and BEIS
Kevin Dicks	(KD)	Redditch BC and Bromsgrove District Council
Steph Simcox	(SS)	Head of Finance, Worcestershire County Council
Roxanne Small	(RS)	Worcestershire County Council
Ian Edwards	(IE)	Malvern Hills DC and Wychavon District Council

APOLOGIES:

Carl Arntzen	(CA)	Managing Director, Worcester Bosch Group
John Dillon	(JD)	Managing Director, GJS Dillon
Jane Britton	(JB)	Director of Communications & Participation University of Worcester
Sue Jordan	(SJ)	Non-Executive Board Member
Zoey West	(ZW)	Worcester City Council
Ostap Paparega	(OP)	North Worcestershire Economic Development & Regeneration

1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	ACTION
1.1	Mark Stansfeld (Chair) welcomed the Board to his last LEP board meeting after rescheduling.	
1.2	Apologies were received and noted from Carl Arntzen, John Dillon, Sue Jordan, Jane Britton, Ostap Paparega and Zoey West.	



2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
2.1	Chair asked the Board if there were any declarations of interest.	
2.2	None were raised.	
3.	<u>Minutes of WLEP Board Meeting on 20th May 2022.</u>	
3.1	The previous meeting minutes were agreed as a correct record.	
4.	<u>Matters Arising and Action List from 20th May 2022 Meeting - Correspondence.</u>	
4.1	Action list	
4.2	Matters Arising	
4.3	GW informed the board that dates are still to be confirmed later on for the board to visit Burcot Lane venue GBF project.	
5.	<u>Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership Chair Recruitment – Gary Woodman.</u>	
5.1	Gary presented the board on updates regarding LEP Chair vacancy.	
5.2	GW outlined proposal to appoint Julie Snell as interim Chair and whilst continuing the recruitment process for the new Chair. The board unanimously supported this proposal. Julie Snell agreed she is very excited to undertake the new role.	
5.3	GW added that vacancies exist from Jeremy Cieslik and Nicola Whiting stepping down from the board. The Chair recruitment process will be utilised to look at these roles as well as the Chair vacancy.	
5.4	Chair thanked Gary on his positive feedback.	
6.	<u>UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Ian Edwards (FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION).</u>	
6.1	Ian Edwards provided an overview on UKSPF, as £2.6bn national pot, over the next 3 years (to 2024/25) with allocations (not competitive) being distributed via District Councils in Worcestershire.	
6.2	Funding is targeted on three areas, Communities & Place, Local Business Support, and People & Skills. However, the skills element does not come on-line until Yr 3.	



6.3	District Councils were in the final stages of developing their Investment Plans, ready to submit to Government by the deadline of 1 August 2022. Government is expected to provide feedback on Investment Plans in October with the first-year grant to be received shortly after to enable Yr 1 delivery to commence i.e. Oct 2022 to March 2023.	
6.4	Chair asked if there is a risk around segmenting the funding to District level and questioned how we will get the combined benefit across the county. SG added this was a bit of a concern but was aware engagement underway to achieve added value.	
6.5	IE added his District Councils were working with local partners on this funding and were looking to utilise existing forums to undertake this engagement. Kevin Dicks added that RBC have broadened out the remit of the Redditch Towns Board to increase business engagement in the process too.	
6.6	GW added LEP and WCC are working with ED leads across the county on this topic. A number of 'county-wide' proposals have been submitted to District Council partners to benefit from economies of scale around delivery e.g. Growth Hub and BetaDen activities.	
6.7	IS added that the Government's Spending Review will come round to consider a potential year four spending period in due course. IS added a light-touch assessment of Investment Plans will be done on allocations to Districts.	
6.8	Chair asked on whether there will be a scoring system done on this. IS clarified UKSPF are allocations and no competitive element involved. District Councils will determine how they intend to utilise the funding.	
6.9	KD added on there is flexibility on this project to some degree, in the sense that up to 30% of funding in-year can be moved to other projects at a local level without need for a formal change request from HMG. IS agreed on this. However, funding allocations cannot carry-forward	
6.10	between years. Funding allocations must be defrayed in-year. Chair thanked the District Council representatives and the executive team for the informative report.	
7.	<u>WLEP/WGH Business Engagement Report – Luke Willetts (FOR INFORMATION).</u>	
7.1	LW provided an overview to the board on LEP/WGH business engagement report.	
7.2	LW outlined proposal was in line with key roles set out and agreed by WLEP Board at last meeting and principle of operating with smaller funding envelope as a result of 25% reduction in 2022/23.	



<p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> <p>7.5</p> <p>7.6</p> <p>7.7</p> <p>7.8</p>	<p>Approach is consistent with budget proposals and a shift away from an annual showpiece conference event to a series of themed business engagement events hosted at locations across the county.</p> <p>Provides opportunities for a more agile approach, extends our network and increased visibility and enabling more granular engagement.</p> <p>LW also provided overview of forthcoming schedule of events so Board is sighted and can support via promotion within their networks and attendance.</p> <p>KD requested further feedback data from previous event held in May and was keen to ensure outputs from these events are shared with DC economic development teams. GW assured that this is being done currently and will continue to be the case.</p> <p>SL flagged concern about the proliferation of business engagement taking place and risk of fatigue. Need to coordinate this to mitigate risk of businesses not engaging. GW added that LEP and WGH are in discussion with local Business Representative Organisations (BROs) e.g. the Chamber of Commerce, NFU, FSB on this topic with a view to coordinating and supporting each other's activity and to reduce duplication</p> <p>SG asked for events dates to be communicated to Board so that a rota could be developed to ensure WLEP Board members are visible at events and can support, sharing the load across the Board.</p>	
<p>8.</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p> <p>8.4</p> <p>8.5</p> <p>8.6</p> <p>8.7</p>	<p><u>DfE Skills Bootcamps Proposal – Gary Woodman (FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION).</u></p> <p>Gary updated the board with his presentation on DfE Skills Bootcamps for the county over a total of 16 weeks.</p> <p>GW added a key criteria for inclusion was high degree of confidence that employment opportunities existed at the end of each bootcamp.</p> <p>GW added it was not done this time as a tender process as asked by JL due to concerns over suitability of one of the providers.</p> <p>SL added on HOW College struggling to receive referrals currently.</p> <p>SG added on requiring main key items to add and project to respective MP's to work on for the county.</p> <p>No further questions were raised, and all are happy which will be bought back to future board meeting.</p> <p>Chair thanked Gary on his informative presentation and feedback.</p>	



<p>9.</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p><u>AOB.</u></p> <p>The date of the September board meeting is to be reviewed at Julie Snell's request, as interim chair.</p> <p>.</p> <p>MS was presented with a leaving gift from the Board and thanked warmly by Board members and Exec Team for his time and commitment to the WLEP during his tenure as Chair.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Dates for 2022 –</u></p> <p>22nd September 2022 09:30 – 11:30 to be rescheduled</p> <p>24th November 2022 09:30 – 11:30</p>	