

Meeting title		GFirst LEP Board	
Date/time/venue		28/9/2021 – 8:30am to 10.30am Room 8A/8B, GFirst LEP Offices & MS Teams – Oxstalls Campus	
Attendees		<p><u>Members:</u> Ruth Dooley (RD) <i>Chair</i>, Tyler Attwood (TA), Nicola Bird (NB), Matt Charman (MC), Cllr Doina Cornell (DC), Jim Grant (JG), Russell Marchant (RM), Ian Mean (IM), Deborah Potts (DP), Jenny Raymond (JRa), Neill Ricketts (NR) and Joe Roberts (JRo)</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u> David Owen (DO), Pete Carr (PC), Dev Chakraborty (DCh), Richard Cook (RC), Carl Creswell (CC), Sarah Danson (SD), Neil Hopwood (NH), Anwen Jones (AJ) and Karen Campbell (minutes)</p>	
Apologies		Emma Hanby (EH), Mark Hawthorne (MH), Steve Mawson (SM) and Emily Manser (EM)	
No.	Item	By	Who
1)	Welcome & introduction		
2)	<p>Minutes of: Minutes of the last LEP Board meeting on 25th August 2021 - were approved as a true and accurate record. Members were reminded to check their profiles on the GFirst LEP website and send any amends to DCh by 8th October. New photos would be taken after the meeting.</p>	8 th Oct	ALL
3)	<p>Declarations of interest available on the GFirst LEP website – https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/the-board/register-of-members-interests/ Please declare any pecuniary or personal interests relating to specific matters on the agenda.</p>		
4)	<p>GFirst LEP Strategic Update – LEP Review – verbal update from DO Government announced review in March 2021. Looking at Form, Function and Purpose of LEPs, very much ‘evolution not extinction’. Government have taken a collaborative approach with the LEP Network to progress the review – sponsored by BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) and LUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). Initial expectation was that the review would be finalised by summer recess. Now expecting announcement to be part of the Comprehensive Spending Review due at the end of October. We are in the process of galvanising support. RD, DO and DCh met with the county’s MPs last week and they are very supportive of the work of the LEP and have sent a letter of support to senior ministers. All ten of our Business Groups</p>		

	<p>have also submitted letters of support to our local MPs as have several board members, individual businesses and other Gloucestershire partners.</p> <p>RD – Key message is to get the MPs to understand what good value the LEP is. It's about the amount of money we can leverage into the county.</p> <p>DO – The recent Cabinet reshuffle will have an impact on the LEP Review. We will await the outcome of any announcement on the 27th October before deciding if we need to convene an extra LEP Board meeting to discuss.</p>		
5)	<p>Growth Hub Strategic Development Plan update – papers issued.</p> <p>A discussion ensued on the detail of the paper. Key discussion points and items to consider were:</p> <p>IM - could individual Growth Hubs have specialisms without the potential danger of losing broader engagement with the businesses by specialising</p> <p>IM - work needs to be done on attracting younger business people to the Growth Hub Network.</p> <p>DCh - could Board Members visit all the Growth Hubs over the next few months to familiarise themselves with what's on offer at each site.</p> <p>DP – would be good to see overarching KPIs for the Growth Hub network. Strategic Framework, Industrial Strategy</p> <p>RD – more work needs to be done to highlight the access to Growth Hubs via the county's libraries.</p> <p>NR – could we look at having a different Board member championing each of the six Growth Hubs</p> <p>TA – could there be a consultation to ask young people about the use of Growth Hubs</p> <p>SD agreed to consider the above points as the Growth Hub offer develops</p>		SD
6)	<p>Projects Update – Getting Building Fund (GBF) and Growth Deal (GD) – papers issued.</p> <p>NH highlighted progress to date on both GBF and GD funded projects.</p> <p>RD commented that maintaining a live project pipeline has been one of the key strengths of the LEP.</p>		
7)	<p>Education and Skills Team update – verbal update.</p> <p>PC mentioned that an Employment and Skills update has been sent out. The Skills Hub was launched on the 21st September. Logic being to declutter the employment and skills environment working in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>Skills Strategy to be published in January 2022. Focus groups set up already along with meetings with Local Authorities.</p> <p>Employment Charter – will create more opportunities for links between Education establishments and businesses.</p>		

8)	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>IM – Furlough ends at the end of this week. Concerned at age range of people coming out of furlough unemployed. We need to look at retraining.</p> <p>RC – Furlough is a great concern. How are we going to find opportunities to retrain all those being made unemployed?</p> <p>PC – The skills portal is an excellent resource and the new employment and skills hub will coordinate support.</p> <p>DP – a Volunteering portal is about to be launched which may offer opportunities for retraining.</p> <p>PC – will contact DP to ensure that the new portal is part of the overall employment and skills offer.</p>	31 st Oct	PC
----	--	----------------------	----

Future Board meeting date for 2021:

- Tuesday 7th December 2021 - Timing to be confirmed