



### Full Board members & alternates present

1	John Spence	<b>Chair</b>
2	Prof Mike Alder	Federation of Essex Colleges
3	Peter Archer <i>for Brett McLean</i>	East Sussex FSB
4	Cllr Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Council
5	Cllr Andrew Bowles	Swale Borough Council
6	Cllr Paul Carter	Kent County Council
7	Cllr Pam Challis <i>for Cllr Tony Ball</i>	Castle Point Borough Council / South Essex Authorities
8	Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Council
9	Nicholas Cook	Birketts LLP
10	Bill Fearon	K College
11	Murray Foster <i>for Gary Sullivan</i>	South Essex businesses
12	Cllr John Gilbey	Canterbury City Council
13	Derek Godfrey	<b>Vice Chair</b> / Ellis Builders
14	Prof Julia Goodfellow	University of Kent
15	Cllr Neil Gulliver	Chelmsford Borough Council / Heart of Essex Authorities
16	Douglas Horner	Trenport Investments Ltd
17	Melanie Hunt	Sussex Downs College
18	Cllr Peter Jones	East Sussex County Council
19	Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
20	George Kieffer	<b>Vice Chair</b> / Haven Gateway Partnership
21	Cllr John Lamb <i>for Cllr Nigel Holdcroft</i>	Southend Borough Council
22	Graham Marley <i>for Clive Galbraith</i>	Hastings Chamber of Commerce
23	Cllr Peter Martin	Essex County Council
24	Geoff Miles	<b>Vice Chair</b> / Maidstone Studios
25	Denise Rossiter	Essex Chambers of Commerce
26	Cllr Robert Standley	Wealden District Council
27	Bridget Taylor	BT
28	Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne Borough Council
29	Cllr Lesley Wagland	Epping Forest District Council / West Essex Authorities
30	Cllr Paul Watkins	Dover District Council
31	Paul Winter	Wire Belt Co Ltd
32	Cllr Mark Worrall	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

### Other attendees present

1	Matthew Balfour	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
2	Adam Bryan	Essex County Council / secretariat
3	Rupert Clubb	East Sussex County Council / Broadband workstream lead
4	Robin Cooper	Medway Council
5	Ross Gill	Kent County Council
6	Stewart Henderson	Essex County Council / secretariat
7	Tim Ingleton	Dover District Council
8	Cllr Kevin Lynes	Kent County Council
9	Patrick McVeigh	Shared Intelligence
10	Stephanie Mitchener	Essex County Council / GPF accountable body
11	Simon Neilson	Essex County Council / secretariat
12	Bill Newman	Thurrock Council
13	Dr Susan Priest	South East LEP Director (as of 16th April 2012)
14	Stephen Pritchard	BBP Regeneration
15	Cath Shaw	Harlow Council
16	Haydon Yates	New Financial Instruments workstream lead

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 JS invited introductions and commenced the meeting at 11.02. He welcomed the LEP's first director, Dr Susan Priest, who accepted the challenge ahead and remarked on her eagerness to assume office.
- 1.2 The secretariat announced apologies given – Cllr James Page, Keith Brown, Tom Sanderson, Clive Galbraith, Graham Brown, Cpt Steve Gobbi and Jon Regan.
- 1.3 DH declared interests in Sandwich and abstained from the discussion; he declared an interest in the aviation item; although it was agreed that he should participate in discussion given its broad nature.
- 1.4 PJ thanked the LEP for its backing of the Bexhill-Hastings Link Road, which has recently been boosted by Government funding.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting of the Full Board, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011, were agreed.
- 2.2 In reviewing the actions, the following points were noted:
  - Harlow Enterprise Zone is due for an announcement on land ownership in April; and technology campus to be launched in May. **ACTION:** An Executive Summary of the business plan to be brought to the Executive Group in May.
  - JS reported that he issued a letter to Government on empty property rates in Enterprise Zones.
  - The transport workstream is now engaging with businesses.
  - The LEP wrote to the Highways Agency and await their response, although meeting set up on 25<sup>th</sup> April in lieu of this. **ACTION FOR BOARD:** To provide the secretariat with further examples of blockages to schemes which would, if unlocked, promote enterprise and growth.
  - Terms of Reference were revised for each workstream in late 2011.
  - JS is now part of Thames Gateway Strategic Group, reflecting the December action. Key issues discussed at the recent TGSG meeting included M25 J30/31 and the Lower Thames Crossing. For the LEP, JS indicated that he would take up the issue of accelerating free flow tolling at Dartford. It was also reported that the Greater London Authority posited a good paper on the future management of aviation growth which could be a useful input into the LEP's work. **ACTION: PC to circulate**
  - The LEP was represented at the recent meeting of the East of England ERDF Local Management Committee and presented a full update on progress to date.
  - Insight East have been put in touch with the growth workstream.
  - **ACTION:** Secretariat to follow up with council leaders on establishing their business backgrounds.

## 3. Growth and Enterprise

### *Workstream*

- 3.1 It was confirmed that Susan Priest will take the lead on the growth workstream and that it will retain its focus on growth businesses rather than sectors. The Vice Chairs were asked to nominate businesses for the planned working suppers which will be supported by a research paper on barriers to growth. Secretariat and Senior Officer Group to scope and resource the research.

**ACTION: Secretariat and SOG to progress the research and Vice Chairs to advise secretariat on businesses to attend the working suppers as soon as possible.**

*The role of universities*

- 3.2 The Board considered JG's summary of the paper which Colin Riordan had previously taken to the Executive Group. It became clear that the LEP can have an impact in affecting a more dynamic relationship between businesses, colleges and universities and there is an on-going need to ensure that college and university leavers are fit for employment. **ACTION: Colin Riordan to return to the Executive Group in May with a proposition on the role of universities in working with businesses and local authorities in maximising our economic advantage.**

*Growing Places Fund*

- 3.3 The Board received a full progress update from the consultants who advised that from an initial response of 30 projects, 12 projects, worth c£40m in total, are suitable to go to the final stage of appraisal. Together, these projects are predicted to contribute up to 26,000 jobs (direct and indirect) and 17,000 homes.
- 3.4 The Board agreed the 12 projects should go to the final stage of appraisal. Final decisions post appraisal delegated to the Executive Group.
- 3.5 On interest payments, the Board were pointed to the proposal in the paper, which recommended an annual interest rate of 0.5% below the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) rate, ensuring that capital is preserved against inflation and that as much leverage as possible is extracted from the investments.
- 3.6 It was agreed that, in principle, interest will be charged on GPF allocations to allow it to perpetuate. Upon taking a vote, a majority (22) voted in favour of charging interest in situations where either required by State Aid or where paying interest will not jeopardise the progress of the scheme.
- 3.7 A judgement will need to be made and an agreement reached between the project proposer and the Executive Group. ECC, as the Accountable Body, will make recommendations based on the project appraisal work undertaken locally, but all decision making will reside with the Executive Group.
- 3.8 It was agreed that, where interest is charged, a rate of 0.5% below the prevailing PWLB rate would be offered.
- 3.9 It was agreed that any further decisions on approval of schemes required by the final appraisal process, are delegated to the Executive Group.
- 3.10 **ACTION: Accountable Body (ECC) to provide note for approval by the Executive Group on 18<sup>th</sup> May, detailing plans for the on-going governance of GPF.**
- 3.11 It was agreed that the new money available to the LEP (£16m) will be allocated following a second call for proposals, which will report to the Board, the Executive Group's view having been sought in advance. **ACTION: Accountable Body (ECC) to prepare call for proposals on the LEP's behalf as soon as is practicable.**

## 4. Transport and Infrastructure

### *Prioritisation and Modelling*

- 4.1 An interim update on the prioritisation work was provided; and **ACTION FOR WORKSTREAM** - a Full Report will be made available ahead of the Executive Group for discussion at that meeting, it having been signed off by the transport workstream and the LEP's Senior Officer Group. A meeting of transport leads and the LEP's Senior Officer Group to be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- 4.2 It was agreed that, given its broad reach and relevance across the transport spectrum, the prioritisation report should be discussed at the next meetings of both the Executive Group and the Full Board.

### *Localisation of transport funding*

- 4.3 The Board considered its response to the Government's consultation on the localisation of transport funding. It agreed that the transport authorities should be prominent in the local transport bodies as the key accountable and delivery organisations. In addition, it discussed the following broad principles:
- That business should also be at the table as remote involvement of businesses will not work
  - That the LEP should provide the coordination role, but not necessarily have a vote
  - That the geographic area of the local transport body should be coterminous with the LEP
  - That we should argue for funding on a per capita basis, requesting more on the basis of our transport network serving a national purpose
  - That we should use the consultation to question what 'supervision and oversight' means, ensuring that the LEP does not duplicate work already undertaken by local authorities.
  - That the LEP should explore ways of getting more business involvement in groupings such as the local transport bodies.
  - That the LEP should seek to identify provisions for further devolution of funding to the area given the disbenefit of funding being directed elsewhere.

- 4.4 **ACTION: Transport lead (Thurrock Council) to finalise and submit the response by the 2<sup>nd</sup> April deadline, with final approval delegated to the Chair and Vice Chairs.**

### *Airport study*

- 4.5 The Board considered a progress report presentation from the consultants developing the airport capacity study for the LEP. The report considers current capacity but does explore the case for a new hub airport in its current draft. In its final draft, the report will indicate whether or not a new hub airport is viable. Its focus will be on what can be achieved within the next 10-12 years. The report will consider like for like conditions on the continent, including the impact of airport tax in the UK amongst other factors. It will *not* comment on the status of Heathrow given that clear decisions have not yet been taken by Government on this issue.
- 4.6 The view was offered that the report should provide a hard evidence base around aviation issues and that it should deal reasonably fully with the need for – and potential location of – a new hub.
- 4.7 **ACTION: Consultants to finalise the report and present it to the May Executive Group. The LEP will consider its stance thereafter and finalise its view at the June Full Board meeting.**

## **5. Workstream & Enterprise Zone Updates**

- 5.1 *Broadband* – Good progress in local delivery plans reported and general agreement that engaging the industry correctly in procurement is the important next step.
- 5.2 *Skills* – Group has recently met and limited the action plan to a sector focus on construction and creative industries. Two main objectives around higher and advanced skills are linked to this sector focus. Recommendations in the paper endorsed by the Board.
- 5.3 *New Financial Instruments* – Working group now constituted and will report in May at the Executive Group.
- 5.4 *Enterprise Zones* – Both provided positive progress but were collectively underwhelmed by the recent announcement around empty properties in EZs as, whilst a positive gesture, it is not sufficient enough to make a significant difference.

## **6. Any other business**

- 6.1 GK reported on the UK governance of the European Regional Development Fund and the planned changing of its management structure. GK has campaigned for it to be aligned to LEP geographies.
- 6.2 Susan Priest to review the LEP's position vis-à-vis Enterprise Zones and to test the general appetite for creating more Enterprise Zones in the LEP area.
- 6.3 JS reported that Jon Regan is keen to establish a Rural Growth Network for the LEP and will report on this at the upcoming Executive Group.

## **7. Close**

- 7.1 JS closed the meeting at 13.12