

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING

7 DECEMBER 2010

08:00 - 10:00 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

Apologies

Neil Corner  
Chris Baron  
Mark Tinsley  
Michael Self

Attendees

Ursula Lidbetter – Chairman  
David Dexter - Deputy Chairman  
Doreen Stephenson  
Andy Baxendale  
Herman Kok  
Eddy Poll  
Richard Wills  
Andrew Atherton (for Mary Stuart)  
Tony Hill

Secretariat

Andrew Thurston  
Carolyn Tuscher

Observers

Simon Beardsley  
Andrew Stevenson

Cllr Eddy Poll opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanking them for their interest in taking the LEP forward.

**Item 1: Election of Chairman**

Following an election Ursula Lidbetter was duly elected as Chairman of the Board and David Dexter as Deputy Chairman.

**Item 2 Agreement to Terms of Reference**

As the guidance from BIS is not clear it seems sensible at this stage to set the LEP Board up as an Advisory Body/Partnership rather than a legal entity, however, this may change in the future as things progress. As there were four original partners involved in the formation of the LEP, then it seems appropriate for those four bodies to act as signatories for the Terms of Reference on behalf of the entire Board. This is similar to the set up of the Lincolnshire and Rutland Employment and Skills Board which has functioned very well under similar Terms of Reference. As there is no funding at the moment, Lincolnshire County Council has agreed to support the Secretariat for the LEP at present, and the University of Lincoln has agreed to provide the Postal Address and host this meeting. To ensure the independence of the secretariat they are answerable to Richard Wills, a Board Member.

The Chairman of the Board proposed a vote of thanks to both the County Council and the University for the Support shown to the formation of the LEP Board.

The Chairman asked that Declarations of Interest are a standard Agenda Item for all future Board Meetings.

It was agreed that there is no personal liability on any individual on the Board and that any legal responsibility lies with the Accountable Body.

It was further agreed that the Shared Priorities in Schedule 1 were negative and needed to be rewritten to have a more positive approach, to be more outward looking with permeable boundaries

It was agreed that a small Board panel comprising the Chair, Deputy Chair and Cllr Doreen Stephenson would review the detailed wording then recommend to the partners that they sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Item 3 Formal Recognition of the LEP**

The Board agreed to send a formal letter to BIS/CLG confirming that it is in place and that it wishes to be recognised as the Greater Lincolnshire LEP. Andrew Thurston was asked to draft the letter for signature by the Chairman.

**Item 4 Agreement of Initial Priorities**

It was agreed that the priorities initially should be focussed around the areas highlighted in the Initial bid and follow the three priorities that were outlined as:

- Sustainable Rural Communities
- Greater Lincolnshire Resource Strategy
- Sub-Regional Economic Driver

There needs to be a mechanism for businesses to influence the priorities going forward and interface with other partners

The LEP priorities need to take a sufficiently broad view, indicating how to develop business support, the visitor economy and to promote resilience rather than flood risk, in terms of the wider agenda of transport housing and planning.

LCC will brief the LEP members on the current transport policy, however there is no guidance or funding from central government at the moment. There needs to be an influence over planning authorities to regenerate redundant buildings and land. There is no call at the present time to apply for statutory powers

Updated priorities will be input after individual discussions between the individual Board Members and the Secretariat.

**Item 5 Regional Growth Fund**

This is a challenge fund of £1.4billion over three years and unlike the RDA funding it replaces, there is no allocation as such to individual areas. Bids will be assessed against other competing proposals and approved on merit.

Bids need to have the support of the Private Sector and stimulate private sector job creation to offset the reduction in public sector support.

The deadline is mid January 2011, the LEP therefore has 4-6 weeks to work up the applications.

There will be an Expression of Interest stage for round two which follows in spring 2011 which will allow more innovative and programme based bids rather than the project based bids required to meet the conditions imposed in Round 1.

Two projects have come forward which are currently sufficiently developed to be able to apply in time for the first deadline.

**Teal Park**

Herman Kok declared an Interest in this project as Financial Director for the Lindum Group, which is a potential bidder for any construction project.

It was agreed that Lincolnshire County Council would draw up the application form for the Bid but that it would be led by the LEP Board with support from the private sector. This would be accompanied by a letter of support from the Chairman of the Board.

**National Centre for Agronomy and Crop Science**

This centre would be the first in the Country and provide technical resources for the farming industry.

The University of Lincoln will lead on developing this bid.

The Chair, Deputy Chair and Councillor Doreen Stephenson would meet to review progress and endorse the bids on the LEP's behalf.

**Current Proposals for future funding Bids**

1. Centre of Excellence on the Coast
2. Food for Life – Lincolnshire Theme Park
3. Business Support Agenda
4. Tourism Heritage and Drainage
5. Digital Connectivity

**Item 6 Date of Next Meeting**

The aim is to have the next meeting in February and then to hold meetings quarterly after that. Carolyn Tuscher will contact Board Members to agree a date. In the meantime the Secretariat will arrange to meet with Board Members individually for an induction meeting.